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TODAY

# Socialist Outlook

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3d.

## OUR AIMS

"To secure for the producers by hand and by brain the full fruits of their industry, and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production and distribution . . ."  
Labour Party Constitution.

## BIG SUPPORT FOR AUSTINS

As we go to press the Court of Enquiry set up by the Ministry of Labour meets to examine the Austin Strike. Our industrial correspondent is attending the Court to give "Outlook" readers his first hand impressions and opinions.

Meanwhile, the widespread sympathy and support for the Austin strikers is shown by the growing body of working class organisations carrying resolutions, and what is more important, sending cash to the strike fund.

A new and encouraging feature in the movement is the number of Labour Party organisations showing support. This unity in action is a wonderful answer to all those enemies of the working class who have been gleefully speculating about the possibility of splits between the Party and the Unions.

The Surrey Federation of Labour Parties, meeting on Saturday, April 11, carried a resolution of "sympathy with the locked out members of the N.U.V.B." and sent £1 1s. to the fund.

Surrey Federation of Leagues of Youth at its last monthly meeting sent a resolution of greetings and a donation of £1 1s. and also took a collection among the delegates present.

Bebington Constituency Labour Party has resolved to "place on record its admiration of the tenacity with which the Vehicle Builders at Austin's Longbridge Factory have defended one of their members victimised by an arrogant management. The Party feels that in deciding upon strike action the N.U.V.B. has undertaken a struggle to safeguard the rights of trade union organisation and so donates £2 to the strike fund as a token of its support."

Birkenhead Trades Council and Labour Party endorsed a resolution expressing full support of the strike action. The Trades Council donated £2 to the strike fund and asked all its affiliated organisations to make additional subscriptions.

Port Sunlight Branch of U.S.D.A.W. sought to put an emergency resolution of support at the U.S.D.A.W. Conference at Easter. The resolution could not be taken on technical grounds, but conference agreed to take a collection in aid of the strikers.

Liverpool District Committee of the Engineering Confederation has sent financial aid.

London busmen, members of 1/1401 T. & G.W.U., put a collecting box in the garage for the Austin strikers. It has realised £3 19s. up to now.

A quarterly meeting of A.E.U. Shop Stewards in Leeds has urged the T.U.C. to support the strike, and the Leeds District Committee has sent £10 to the strikers.

The "Socialist Outlook" has already shown its support. We would urge all our readers to translate moral into concrete support by seeing that money is sent and sent quickly to the Strike Fund Treasurer, F. Wilkins, 142 Wolverton Road, Rednal, Birmingham.

A worker's home destroyed in the floods—now look at the other picture on this page.



# Floods are Gone — But The Victims Still Suffer!

## "We Are The Forgotten People"

EASTER MONDAY at four in the afternoon.

Grey rain clouds overhead and biting cold. Small weary groups of men and women trudging along the streets with bundles of personal belongings on their backs. This is not a scene from a war zone. It is Bathside, Harwich nine weeks after the great floods!

Bathside was a small working class district with a population of about 900. It is now deserted except for the police who surround and guard it.

Nothing much has been heard about Bathside in the press which is too busy with news of the

Coronation to worry about the troubles of the ordinary folk who work on the docks and the railways. They don't see any news value in the fact that nine weeks after the great floods no repairs have been started in Bathside.

### FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

The plight of the flood victims is in some ways worse than refugees of war who at least had mobile building squads to do repairs on the spot. "Where is the 'national emergency' today?" asks George Cowley, who used to live in Canning Street, Bathside. "We've been in a Transit Camp for nine weeks and, as far as the Government is concerned, we are forgotten people."

Bathside is semi-slum property. The houses are old and should long ago have been pulled down. Now the place is a ruin. Great holes opened by the rush of flood water pierce the gable ends (see picture on this page). Structures are swollen and in danger of collapse. But the Tory policy is to 'botch it up' and this can be very serious.

### DANGER OF DISEASE

All the plaster which was under water must be torn down because of bacteria infection and it will be next September before the plaster is replaced. Meanwhile, the people must live upstairs when they return. But what of the children who will inevitably play among the rubble and ruins when the warm weather comes? Already the place smells.

In a few weeks' time it will be positively dangerous to health—especially to the children.

Of course, there is an alternative. All those houses for sale in

● Continued page 4, Col. 4



The Transit Camp—a typical temporary 'home' for the Bathside Flood victims.

## Now spend Sunday with ME!

Says London Housewife Mrs. Ray Hunter

"If you spent Sunday with the Queen" is the title of yet another article on the Royal Family in "Reynolds News".

One would expect from the "Reynolds" mast-head—"Government of the people, by the people, for the people"—and the fact that it is a Co-operative paper, that articles on this subject (by no means the first—we have just had a glorious series on the Duke and Duchess of Windsor) would have been written to show the wasteful and undemocratic nature of Royalty.

By no means. According to "Reynolds", the Queen is just like every other working mother on Sunday. To prove this astounding statement, we are told that after a 'lie-in' in the morning, undisturbed, apparently, by the early wakening of Charles and Ann (mothers of small children please note!) we hear that:

"On Sunday afternoon the Queen and her husband indulge in a good old English custom, as widely observed as the morning lie-in—the Sunday afternoon snooze."

At this point you will probably ask: 'How is this possible, what is the secret?' Having yourself worked hard all week, tried in vain for a lie-in, finally got up to

do all the house-work, cooked the dinner, washed up, you at last sit down exhausted. Now for the well-earned snooze? Vain hope! Little Johnny has jumped on you, you're a horse and he's a cowboy, or "Read to me, Mummy".

What then is the secret that every busy working Mother should know. Here it is:—

"Whilst noisy Prince Charles and vivacious Princess Ann are taken to play in the care of Miss Lightbody or their other nurse, the Queen reads and dozes . . . dozes and reads . . . her husband does the same."

So simple after all. All you have to do is get yourself a couple of nannies!

When tea arrives the servants usually find the floor littered with Sunday newspapers and magazines. We, of course, also have the floor littered, but there the likeness ends.

Such articles as these in "Reynolds News" are an insult to working mothers especially at a time when a Tory Government is continuing to close down and restrict nurseries. A lot of nurseries could be opened on the vast sums given to maintain Royalty.

It's about time "Reynolds News" fought for the working people and stopped this Royal ballyhoo.

## "Outlook" Editor To Fight Churchill

JOHN LAWRENCE, 37-year-old Editor of the "Socialist Outlook", has been chosen, subject to the approval of the N.E.C., as prospective Labour Candidate to oppose Churchill at Woodford, Essex.

Comrade Lawrence is a member of the E.C. of the Holborn and St. Pancras South Labour Party and was the Party's delegate to the Morecambe Conference. He has been editor of the "Socialist Outlook" since its first issue in

December, 1948, and is a member of the National Union of Journalists.

Prior to taking on the job of editing our paper, Comrade Lawrence has been an engineer, miner, railway porter and builder's labourer. He has always been an active member of his appropriate Trade Union.

In Woodford, the Labour candidate has to overcome a majority of some 17,000 votes. Comrade Lawrence is quite confident that this can be done—with hard work and a good socialist policy.

C.V.G.

# Tories Plan Big Attack on The People's Health

Says Dr. Stark Murray

President of the Socialist Medical Association

HEALTH is something without which neither nation nor individual can succeed. It is both the basis and the objective of the Socialist state. Britain's National Health Service is socialism in action and for that reason the Tories hate it.

Anything they say or do about the health services must be judged against their past opposition to the idea, the fight they put up against it in 1946 and the damage they have already done. But the Tories are very conscious that practically 100 per cent. of the people of Britain use the health service and so any attack must be by indirect methods. If they can lower the standard of medical care (especially in the hospitals where the greatest advances have been made) to the point where people say that if that is a social-

ist service they don't want it, the Tories will count that as a victory. So Labour must be roused to protect the health service and to get ready, not only to restore but to expand and develop the services as soon as the Tories are forced out

Health, in the broadest sense, must be in the forefront of Labour's battle. It is something every citizen understands; it is something every worker knows is essential to any scheme for increased productivity. Labour made mistakes in the original Act and has since added to these, especially in introducing legislation which made charges possible. These mistakes must be freely admitted and the way made clear for the next advance.

Meantime the latest Tory idea is the old trick of an "independent" committee of inquiry—a committee more blatantly for the purpose of cutting the health services than such committees usually are.

This one is actually told in

advance what it has to report! The terms of reference include the request "to advise how a rising charge" for the health services can be avoided. It cannot, if the services are to stay at their present level. If there is to be any development, any normal advance, there must be further spending, especially if buildings are to be maintained and new hospitals built.

At present, all we spend on new buildings, adaptations and new equipment is five shillings per head a year. Ordinary building maintenance, painting of buildings inside and outside, replacement of certain types of equipment comes out of a fund that amounts to about three shillings a head per year.

We are actually spending on the health services less today than we spent in 1938. Since 1949 every increase in prices and every rise in wages—nearly £7 million last year—has had to come out of a sum that has never been increased.

THE TRUTH ABOUT KENYA

Editorial on Page 2

## The Real Issues in Kenya

# A White Terror versus African Nationalism

"The magistrate sat on the raised school dais and at his side was a Sten gunner."—News Chronicle reporter at Kenyatta's trial.

After the trial the magistrate was "smuggled out of Kenya like a conspirator."—(Observer.)

THE trial and conviction of Jomo Kenyatta the acknowledged leader of three million Kikuyu people has nothing to do with justice or even with the maintenance of 'law and order'. The small minority of white settlers are determined to wipe out every form of independent political organisation of the African people.

Kenyatta was, and is, the leading political figure among Africans today. His sentence of seven years imprisonment and possible deportation for life to the deserts of Northern Kenya will make him a symbol of African resistance.

What took place at Kapenguria must be seen for what it really was—an incident in the war now raging between 25,000 whites, supported by 29,000 British troops and armed police, and the three million almost unarmed and completely disenfranchised Kikuyu.

### AFRICA AWAKES

The revolt of the Kikuyu—for that is what it is—can only be understood as part of the great

### WORKERS PROTEST

The Birmingham Trades Council has called on the T.U.C. to "protest in strong terms to the Government over their actions in Kenya and that they meet the just demands of the people of Kenya."

movement for national liberation which has swept from Asia, through the Middle East into all parts of Africa. The first impact was felt in the Gold Coast where in 1949, a highly developed and well organised nationalist movement succeeded—although not without bitter struggle in which most of the leaders were jailed—in securing a large measure of self government and the possibility of achieving complete national independence in the near future.

'Gold Coastism', as it is called by the alarmed white populations, has set up a chain reaction throughout all of Africa—especially in the areas south of the equator. White and Black react in their own ways. African nationalism begins to reach maturity and white colonialism degenerates into the naked rule of the gun and the club.

Malan's answer was to intensify his campaign for 'apartheid'—the complete political, economic and social subjugation of the black people who, of course, constitute the vast majority of the total population. His declared aim is to defend "white civilisation" against African nationalism.

In Southern Rhodesia the whites looked to Malan for leadership. Central African Federation for them became a means of achieving permanent white domination over the bordering, and predominantly black areas of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

(There are, of course, solid economic reasons for Federation from the point of view of British capitalism, but it is with the political aspect that we are here chiefly concerned.)

### THE MASK OFF

In Kenya the impact of 'Gold Coastism' caused the tiny white population to abandon its previously semi-indulgent attitude towards Kenya African nationalism.

Suddenly and without warning a scare campaign was launched against Mau Mau (an organisation which was quite unheard of up to last October). The body of a murdered Kikuyu chief was discovered. Mau Mau was accused of the crime and from then on the

situation began rapidly to deteriorate into the state of civil war which exists in Kenya today.

First the entire independent press of the Kikuyu people was closed down forcibly. Then, in October 1952, an attack was made on the Kikuyu schools which had been set up at great sacrifice by the Kikuyu people themselves. Denounced as "hotbeds of nationalism", everyone of them was shut down.

Protests from the Kenya African Union—the largest political organisation of the Kikuyu people—were met with wholesale arrests of leaders like Kenyatta who were jailed "on suspicion of organising Mau Mau." A battalion of British troops was flown out and a British cruiser anchored in Mombassa harbour. Emergency laws were introduced and . . . civil war began in earnest.

### THE TEACHERS 'CRIME'

The closing of the Kikuyu schools is of great significance for establishing the truth about Kenya. It is generally admitted that the Kikuyu are the most advanced and educated tribe in Central Africa—which explains, of course, their solid adherence to the cause of African independence. Their leaders are not witch doctors but people like Kenyatta, agricultural scientists educated in white universities and conversant with and sympathetic to . . . socialism! (Kenyatta, for example, was once a member of the British I.L.P.)

The Kikuyu long ago abandoned the old tribal forms of organisation. The so-called chiefs have been appointed and are paid by the British Government. They are in fact hirelings of the enemies of the Kikuyu people—informers!

The closing of the schools because of their nationalist propaganda completely exposes the alleged purpose of British rule in Kenya which is supposed to be solely for the purpose of "educating the natives up to the point of self-government". "Self-government" is meaningless without national independence—and national independence is the primary object of African nationalism.

The school teachers were therefore guilty of putting into practice what we are alleged to have been encouraging them to do ever since the British went (uninvited) to Kenya!

### WHAT IS MAU MAU?

With their leaders arrested, their press and schools closed down, and the country under martial law it became clear to all the Kikuyu that the white minority had shut the democratic, peaceful road to national independence. The majority had either passively to submit to permanent political, economic and social discrimination—or resist with the only means available, by force.

They decided—as all oppressed peoples faced with the same choice have always decided—to resist. The young men fled to the hills and the forests and prepared, with their knives against British Sten guns, to continue the fight until justice was won. And from their forest camps the leaders of the so-called Mau Mau (which is, in reality the revolutionary wing of Kenya African Nationalism) issued this manifesto whose publication was forbidden in Kenya.

"You must feel very happy at the outward success of your cruel operation. Thousands of Africans leading a normal life have been stopped, searched, beaten, humiliated and arrested.

"You destroyed our press by arresting our Editors and suppressing our newspapers. But you cannot suppress the voice of the people. The brutality and suppression, the show of force and the rule of the gun will not stop us from our goal . . ."

" . . . We have been forced underground. If we are known you will murder us. We are not afraid . . . We are six million and power is in our numbers. We shall retaliate in the method you have employed. We shall not forget the bad treatment we are suffering. When our time comes we shall not show mercy, because you do not know what

mercy is. We will kill you like you are murdering us today. This is no threat. It is how we are feeling. Africans Unite!"

No socialist can fail to be moved by this brave declaration issued by an unarmed people forced to flee before the guns and dogs of an alien power. It follows the pattern set by the Indians, the Americans and the Irish under similar circumstances.

The American colonists waged a three year war against British troops before finally gaining their independence. The Indian people suffered a century of persecution during which time the jails were

## Editorial

filled with Indian 'Kenyattas' and massacres like Amritsar fanned the flames of nationalism. As for Ireland, British terror was notorious. Sixteen men were summarily executed in 1916 and 101 were shot or hanged between 1921 and 1923—quite apart from the thousands of Irish patriots killed in battle. But all this display of force did not succeed in Ireland, in India or in America—and it will not, in the long run, succeed in Kenya.

### WHITE TERROR STALKS KENYA

There are now 29,000 British troops and armed police in Kenya in action against the Kikuyu people. Executions are now an everyday occurrence. Cattle has

been confiscated in an effort to starve the people into submission. Homes have been burned down and thousands of innocent people have been arrested and confined in rudely constructed concentration camps where the gallows stand threateningly in the centre of the compound. Malan has lent police dogs to assist in the hunt. But "democrats" like Labour M.P. Paget are not satisfied. Loudly they call for Templer to be transferred from Malaya to Kenya!

It is Ireland all over again! Even the 'Black and Tans' are there—hooligan white settlers armed to the teeth and ready (and authorised!) to shoot any Kikuyu on sight. The 'Observer' (12/4/53) describes these 'black and tans'—this so-called police reserve—in the following terms: "In the police reserve there were young men of whom 'undisciplined sadists' would not be an unfair description . . . boasting of the way they had beaten prisoners . . ." The terror has been accurately described by the correspondent of the "Economist" on March 21st.

"It is quite probable that ugly things are now happening in Kenya. The number of Kikuyu shot 'trying to escape', for refusing to halt', or 'attempting to wrest a sten gun from a guard whilst under arrest', has suddenly risen. Yet the Kikuyu are said by the whites to be inherently cowardly people. It is either a brave or a very desperate man who will try with his bare hands to wrest a sten gun from his guard."

The press of this country, all

the Government speakers and—be it admitted—most of Labour's main spokesmen paint Mau Mau as some kind of "relapse into barbarism", a sort of "wild blood lust" which has unaccountably swept over a normally peaceful people.

**Never was such a lie so assiduously propagated against a brave and oppressed people.**

First of all, Mau Mau has the support of almost the entire Kikuyu population. The same correspondent quoted above, who is by no means sympathetic to Mau Mau, writes:

"The Kikuyu who take no active part in Mau Mau attacks, but who give the Mau Mau gangs at least passive support, for example, by concealing their whereabouts and supplying them with food, are not just terrorised into doing so. The Mau Mau gets a degree of sympathy which is not entirely born of fear (although Mau Mau reprisals against informers are swift and terrible). There can be little doubt that probably the majority of the Kikuyu believe the whites stole their land . . ." (our emphasis).

### WHO ARE THE 'LOYAL KIKUYU'?

The leaders of African nationalism have never disguised their hatred of informers—the appointed chiefs paid by the whites, the "loyal Kikuyu". They have never denied killing these traitors to the cause of African independence. But ruthless destruction of informers has accompanied every

genuine popular revolution. It happened in Ireland, in India and it happened in the former American colonies.

But the Mau Mau also kills innocent women and children. Do they? We have only got the word of the Kenya Government for that, the word of a Government which represents the most brutal bunch of white killers in the whole British Commonwealth. The Kikuyu cannot refute these charges because the Kikuyu have no press and all meetings are banned. The whites can put about any story they like without any fear of contradiction. **Let us not be too ready to believe them.**

Why should revolutionary Africans want to murder their own people. Informers—yes, but not innocent women and children. But what is true is that these alleged massacres are of the greatest possible assistance to the whites! Fresh contingents of British troops are marched to the scene of the massacres, obviously to ensure that these conscripted boys from Kent and Lancashire do not feel any sympathy for the poor people whom they are ordered to hunt and shoot down like dogs.

It is therefore entirely possible that the massacres were the work of government agents—not revolutionaries.

### THE LAWS OF REVOLUTION

Mau Mau is not some kind of reversion to barbarism. Certainly a few witch doctors will be found in the camp of the Kikuyu but it is not the witch doctors who determine the nature of the movement—it is the passionate desire to be free of the white man's racial discrimination which upholds his "right" to all the best land stolen from the Kikuyu.

Those who want a revolution made in accordance with rules framed at Transport House will want in vain. The Kikuyu have no other method but force to secure their freedom. It is not their choice—it has been imposed upon them by the brutal policy of 'apartheid' which is supported by whites throughout Africa.

And not only the Kikuyu are involved. All the tribes are awaiting the outcome of the struggle. The arrest of Odede who is not a Kikuyu and was a Government nominated member of the Kenya Legislative Council is proof of that. The battle for African independence has been joined and, sooner or later, the whole of Africa will become involved. Terror will only spread the fire and guarantee a gigantic blood letting. That is the policy of Lyttleton.

### LABOUR'S DUTY

We believe that every socialist must place himself on the side of the Kikuyu who are fighting in the forest and the mountains—the people who are led by the so-called Mau Mau. Walter Sisulu secretary of the South African National Congress, is reported by the 'Observer' as saying—"The entire African people are bitter against the British Government. We regard Mau Mau as a legitimate organisation of the Kenya Africans." With that we agree.

The embattled people of Kenya have no press to speak for them, their case is not put before the British people. We must do it for them. It is the very least we can do if we are to maintain the honour of British Labour.

## Sling Chiang Out Of

# Burma!

BURMA has now been

forced to protest about

the activities of Chiang

Kai Shek's troops on her

borders.

Strategically, politically and economically, Burma is of great importance in South East Asia. Her rice production is vital. Burma too is rich in oil, timber and valuable minerals. Prior to World War I, Burma was the chief source of Wolfram, and right up to the days of the Japanese occupation the Mawchi Mine in upper Burma was the largest wolfram producing mine in the world, turning out each month an average of 400 tons of tin-tungsten concentrates.

With India and the People's Republic of China the ties are close, and for some years now the presence of Chinese Nationalist troops on her borders has been a source of embarrassment. The Burmese delegate appealed to the United Nations General Assembly at Paris more than a year ago to help remove this threat to Burma.

Now the Government has decided to dispense with American aid in order to free herself from any ties so that she can place her case unhampered at U.N.O.

Aung San created the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League which became the most powerful force in Burma. He negotiated with Britain for independence and the Union of Burma was established on January 4, 1948. Aung San did not live to see the new state; he was assassinated before it was born. He had worked hard to reconcile the various tribes and races in Burma and one of his chief problems was to try and satisfy the Karens and at the same time meet the threats of the Red Flag and the White Flag Communists.

Until last year the Government was not master in its own house but gradually the situation has improved and Burma has progressed to greater unification. Certain reactionary elements wish to keep alive the internal differences. Despite all this the last Economic Report for Asia and the Far East shows that conditions are improv-



ing in Burma. There has been a drop in the cost of living and a greater production of goods.

The "Times of India" commenting on Burma's complaint to the U.N. about the Chinese Nationalist troops on her border said: "So far Burma has clearly been unwilling to embarrass those who, she knew, were aiding the Kuomintang; by deciding to forgo U.S. aid she has rid herself of this inhibition. This action itself underlines the desperation to which the continued operation of Kuomintang

by Harold  
Davies, M.P.

troops in the vast area along the China border has driven her . . . The irrationalities of the cold war, however, know no bounds, and in view of the extremes to which the U.S. Government has gone in supporting Formosa, often to the dismay of its European Allies, it would not be surprising if it had indeed connived at maintaining the Kuomintang forces in Burma."

Thakin Nu, the Prime Minister, made a joint tour of the Border

States with Nehru and they estimated that there were 12,000 Chiang Kai Shek troops in Burma.

Nehru addressed a news conference on the Burmese side of the Indian Border this month, in which he said that indirectly many things could happen without the knowledge of the U.S. Government. The U.S.A. was a large supplier of arms, and supplies had been given to the Formosan administration. Nehru added: "How they get distributed I do not know, but there are plenty of adventurers around the place."

He disclosed that the Indian Government had protested to America and Britain about these troops.

These forces are under the command of General Li Mi, and the "Voice of Free China" in a broadcast on April 2 showed what Chiang Kai Shek and his backers think. They described Burma's protest as "an ugly felony directed by its Kremlin masters", and wanted Burma to be arraigned before the U.N. Assembly for supplying petrol, rubber and other strategic materials to Communist China.

The fact is that on March 4 the Burmese Chamber of Deputies had a Debate on relations with China and the Minister for Industry U. Kyaw Myint was careful to point out that Burma, like India, desired not to be thrown into any particular bloc in the Far East. He said that while Burma had many times supported in the U.N. the recognition of Communist China, she wanted to be friendly with all countries.

Thakin Nu complained last month that 40 Chinese Nationalists, together with some 200 Karens insurgents, were jointly attacking three towns about 30 miles north of the Mawchi Mines. Wolfram is being transferred from these mines to Formosa.

General Li Mi makes no bones about his troops; they are there to provide a base for an attack on Mao Tse Tung when the time comes. The question is: will the United Nations really deal with this problem and help Thakin Nu to get rid of the menace on his frontiers?

## Book This Date NOW!

Your "Socialist Outlook" is owned by the shareholders who comprise the Labour Publishing Society Ltd. There are about 200 such shareholders—all of them members of the Labour Party.

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held on SATURDAY, MAY 23

Make every effort to attend if you are a shareholder or a reader and friend of the paper. We shall present the balance sheet and outline plans for the future.

Watch out for further announcements—and keep this date free.

## Socialist Outlook

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HOP 4554

Editor: John Lawrence

# 'Ted Hill has certainly started something'!

Says  
**NORMAN DINNING**  
(A.E.U. Member)



THE recent clash between the T.U.C. Production Sub-Committee and Ted Hill of the Boilermakers must make every serious trade union member pause and think. For a question is raised that must be answered—Who is to gain from increased productivity?

After all, Ted Hill only said that "if we think the workers will produce more and get nothing out of it, we're a lot of bloody fools." And how right he is. But for this he is loudly and publicly denounced by other "responsible" (?) trade union leaders, even though every man, woman, and lad on the shop floor will utter a fervent Hear! Hear!

It's not so long ago, that these same "responsible" leaders were telling us not to go ahead with wage claims until we had produced more. When we had increased productivity, they said, we would be entitled to more wages.

In December, 1951, I drew attention in these columns to the trap hidden in this policy. Now, though the policy remains, and is in fact being advocated if anything with more vigour, the objective of wage increases has been discarded. To increase productivity is now defined as the only way to retain existing wages. And Bro. Hill is described as "near communist" for suggesting that workers will expect a share in any benefits from increased production.

As an A.E.U. member I have searched the columns of the press every day since the publication of the Ted Hill "denunciation" for some indication of the attitude of the A.E.U. members on the T.U.C. General Council. Our President, Bro. Jack Tanner, is I believe, a member of the Production Sub-Committee. He was Chairman of it in 1952. Am I to take his silence as agreement with the criticism of Ted Hill?

In 1951 Jack Tanner was using very strong language on this issue. For example, when presenting our wage claim, he stated "We assert most emphatically that the workers have a right to increased wages as and when productivity increases, and we can never agree that the whole of the proceeds from increased production should go to capital... The whole assumption on which appeals to the workers for increased production have been made, and to which they have responded so well, is that it would result in increased wages and that this was a certain way for them to obtain a higher standard of living."

If that was true in 1951, it is just as true today. But so long as Bro. Tanner remains silent, we can only draw the conclusion that he no longer agrees with his previous arguments.

Unfortunately, there is other

## Attack on Health (from page 1)

set up its own committee (and there are plenty of socialist experts who could man it), not to advise how to cut the cost but to inquire as to how much should be spent and what changes would add to the efficiency of the service.

Not money, but human lives are at stake and Labour should show the way and prepare itself for the great task the Tory Party will set it when they have further damaged the existing structure.

No socialist will deny that there are many aspects of the health service that could do with fresh examination. The whole financial structure needs looking at. Treasury control is far too detailed and must be removed once the estimates have been passed. Powers to plan over at least a five year period, coupled with a guaranteed sum for capital expenditure and power to carry over from year to year any savings made, are among the points that need discussion.

Why, for example, does a London teaching hospital cost £45 a week for a patient while a regional board hospital costs only £18 (for comparable services)? Why should a part-time consultant be paid at what works out as a much higher rate than the whole-time specialist, and how

evidence which shows that this may be a correct conclusion. Speaking at the 1952 T.U.C. Bro. Tanner told us that... "it still remains as true now as ever it was, that trade unions are, or should be, concerned with the efficiency and the competitive ability of their particular industry. Not only our standard of living, but our security of employment depends on the efficiency and the ability of the industry."

These references to "competitive ability" and "security of employment" may easily cover the same conception that is held by the employers, namely that wages must fall in order to allow British employers to compete on the world market with employers in other countries.

Yet the "Objects" of the A.E.U. include "The extension of co-operative production to assist in altering the competitive system of

society for a co-operative system." It is time that all the Unions took such objects very seriously.

For it is through these objects that the Unions can clear a way out of the present situation. There is no way forward so long as we are prepared to accept that production shall be carried out for the profit of privately owned corporations. Accept that, and you must then accept that the workers must produce more and more, for less and less. That is exactly what our present leaders are doing.

The alternative is to carry Bro. Hill's position to its logical conclusion. Which means to say to the employers—we will not allow any reduction in the standard of living of our members. We will fight to see that every speed up, and every increase in prices is accompanied by a corresponding rise in our members' wages.

And if this means that we must nationalise the industries to safeguard our members—then we shall nationalise them and run them for the benefit of the people as a whole.

But will our present leaders adopt such an attitude? On past and current form the answer is, no. So we have no alternative but to start right now in preparing to replace the leadership of the Trade Unions with conscious socialists, who will adopt such an attitude.

A good start can be made by seeing that the rank and file delegations are mandated to vote for socialist nominees for the T.U.C. General Council and the Labour Party N.E.C.

# A Committee Resigns

WHEN the Tyne District Committee of the A.E.U. supported the men at the Dunston and Carville power stations in their decision to place a ban on overtime, they incurred the wrath of the Executive Council, which refuses to admit that a section of the membership have a grievance arising from the recently signed Wages Grading Agreement, covering the British Electricity Authority.

The E.C. instructed the full-time officials to convene a specially summoned meeting, and to record the speeches and actions of the D.C. representatives. The D.C. members, fearing the Executive intended to suspend them (which means losing rights for up

much waste is there in the private beds of small hospitals? The questions are legion.

The answers can be given only by those who believe in the national health service, and the present Minister of Health, Mr. Iain Macleod, certainly does not. He has repeatedly made it clear that he believes in charges in the health service; he has declared that he and the Tory Party believe that there must be "deterrents" in such a service.

Labour believes in neither. The socialist principle of a health service that is freely available at all times to all citizens as of right is the only basis upon which medicine can both be free and efficient. So much remains to be done; to prevent disease and to promote health, to institute a full occupational health service, to look after the aged and chronic sick properly, to educate the public in health and to assist all to reach their full physical stature so that they may be better citizens of a better world.

Those ideals are great enough to justify a call to the whole nation to back every protest that is made against every Tory move, open or concealed, to harm the health of the people of Britain.

## Jack Johnson Explains Why

to five years), anticipated the Executive and resigned.

This decision to resign puts almost 30,000 A.E.U. members in a position of not having a District Committee to keep an eye on their local conditions, and cuts their connections with the rest of the Union's membership throughout the country.

The case the men had, briefly, is this:

The new agreement, signed by Bro. Forsyth (who has been invited into the area to explain to the men why he signed it), was to cover all A.E.U. members in the power stations throughout the country. Under this agreement, fitter-drivers (men who are time-served and must in addition have a Board of Trade Certificate), received less than the leading stokers (semi-skilled). The fitter-driver has the responsibility of seeing that the great turbo generators run smoothly and safely, and before the war had a differential of 2d. per hour in his favour.

Under certain rotas, the semi-skilled man has 1½d. per hour more than him, and even under the most favourable conditions the differential is only ¾d. per hour. This, along with other anomalies, brought a ban on overtime from the fitters at Dunston and Carville, and they have now been followed by men on the river Tees.

The membership generally throughout the North East thought that when the 1950 "Award" was signed (which gave rise to a wave of bans on overtime and piece-work up and down the country) the protests would have served as a reminder that we who pay the

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# Clerical Workers Go Left

A MOTION deploring an editorial attack on Nye Bevan which appeared in the December issue of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union journal was carried overwhelmingly at the Easter Conference of this Union—despite forceful opposition from the platform.

The general tone of this comparatively small union's annual conference was militant and to the left. For example, other motions which were carried included a demand that the Unity Theatre be struck off the list of proscribed organisations. This had been hotly opposed by the Executive at the previous year's conference.

A call for a reduction in conscription was carried and an Executive amendment calling for a "re-assessment of the requirements of national service" was heavily defeated. Conference also carried a resolution which urged the N.E.C. of the Labour Party "to give a lead to the workers by drawing up a militant socialist programme for the next election."

Other motions—against decentralisation of the railways, a five day week for colliery clerks, wage increases for all clerical workers—were clear indications of the general trend to the left.

Important motions on Kenya, Korea and German Re-armament were referred to the Executive because of lack of time to debate them. As a delegate I had the im-

pression that the Executive were not, in any case, over-anxious to debate them or they would surely have timed the Agenda better. Other delegates must have had the same impression because on the last day, after a twenty minute tea break, a steady stamping of feet and the slow hand clap were used to recall the platform to the business in hand.

It was a satisfactory Conference—but the membership must see that future conferences discuss ALL the motions. Time can be saved easily enough by cutting out the votes of thanks and funny stories.

Policy must be decided by the Annual Conference and not referred back to a dozen or so Executive Council members for decision.

A Delegate

presser would like to have a little say in the selection of the tune. However, as if to prove an old adage, the Executive have taken a dictatorial line on this: "We signed it... you work to it... or else". Whereas a more sensible approach would have been for Bro. Forsyth to have accepted the invitation to speak to the men in the power stations, and learning from them, make an immediate application for the restoration of the 2d. (at least) differential.

On the question of overtime, it has been thought that engineers have been in the position of working overtime at their convenience. This decision of the E.C. puts us all in the position of having to admit that we no longer have that privilege.

In other words, this is official recognition of the death of the 44 hour week.

We in the shops have known for a long time that a man on 44 hours is not getting a living wage. He is actually working a short week. Just how many hours have we now to work before we can say no one can refuse us going home?

We in the top right hand corner of the map of England want a bit of a hand on this. You other engineers can assist us by raising this on your District Committee and asking for an explanation of the resignation. Find out from your mates who work in power stations what they think of the new agreement. Insist that the Executive take more heed of the members wishes. Don't let the tail wag the dog. Send resolutions of support to the men at Dunston, Carville and the Tees.

SINCE the railways were nationalised in 1948, they have shown a profit of more than £85 millions. In the two years prior to nationalisation they showed a loss of nearly £71 millions. There is clearly no case at all for de-nationalisation.

# Help wanted for Rival Lamp girls

THE need for the T.U.C. to take action in the Rival Lamps strike—now entering its second year—was brought sharply home last Tuesday in the small, crowded courtroom at Chertsey, Surrey.

Before the court were summonses brought by two women strikers alleging assault on them by the police, and cross summonses by the police against five strikers, alleging obstruction of the police in the execution of their duty and for obstruction of the highway. And these were to be followed by another summons against an A.E.U. member, alleging obstruction of police and highway.

All these summonses arose out of incidents on February 28 and March 13, when on both occasions pickets tried to persuade a driver of a Carter Paterson van not to enter the Rival Lamps factory.

Both Counsel stated they were concerned to prevent inflaming feeling between the police and pickets.

Counsel for the women strikers asked for permission to withdraw their summonses against the police, and counsel for the police asked to be allowed to withdraw their summonses alleging obstruction of the police. Court allowed these summonses to be withdrawn,

and the five women pleaded guilty to obstructing the highway and were fined 20s. each with 30s. costs.

The summons against the A.E.U. member, Mr. A. Norburn, was not withdrawn. He was alleged by the police to have placed himself in front of the lorry, refused to move away when instructed by a police sergeant. The Sergeant had then told the driver to drive on, which he did, pushing Mr. Norburn for several yards in front of the lorry.

Witnesses called by the defence all refuted the evidence given by the police sergeant. They maintained that the Police Sergeant did not speak to Mr. Norburn.

Mr. Pain (Counsel for Norburn) addressing the bench said that if the evidence of the Police Sergeant was accepted Mr. Norburn would be guilty of obstructing the police. But he and his witnesses had all denied the police story. He also thought it of significance that the police had not called as a witness the driver of the lorry, even though the driver was in the precincts of the court and could have been called.

So far as any obstruction of the highway was concerned, Mr. Payne quoted extracts from the 1906 Trade Union Act, and claimed that Mr. Norburn had acted within his rights as a strike picket.

The bench found Mr. Norburn guilty of obstructing the highway, and dismissed the charge of obstructing the police. However, as far as the A.E.U. is concerned, this case may not yet be finished.

Incidents such as these need not have happened if the real power of the Trade Union movement was brought to bear against the firm of Rival Lamps. If the T.U.C. were to advise every Union to "black" all work of Rival Lamps, the pickets would not be placed in the position of having to try and stop a lorry of a nationalised concern from going in.

In fact, this long drawn out strike, which has so clearly shown the devoted solidarity of freshly organised women to their Union, could be settled in very short time with some real leadership from Transport House.

# No Blacklegs at Austins says T.&G.W.U. Officials

ALL sorts of people are trying to break the Austin strike" said Bro. McHugh, the shop steward whose victimisation by the Austin management provoked the strike which is now in its ninth week.

Attempts had been made to get him to say he was being used by the Union or the 'communists'. He had even been threatened with 'hell-fire' by emissaries of Moral-Rearmament, who said his 'vile actions' had caused untold suffering to men, women and children. But the blame for the dispute, and for its continuing, declared Bro. McHugh, was with Mr. Lord and Austins who had flagrantly broken a solemn agreement.

He was speaking in London on Saturday last to a meeting of London Trade Unionists which called for a conference of all London Engineering Shop Stewards to

consider measures of support for the Austin strikers.

Alderman Hamilton, a member of the N.U.V.B. Executive Council, underlined the responsibility of the employers for the strike. The Union had, he stated, been through every single step in the agreed "procedure for avoiding disputes" but to no avail.

There had been, he said, a great deal of talk. What was wanted now, he concluded amid cheers, was less talk but lots of money.

The N.U.V.B. had always been, and still were, ready to settle the dispute by negotiation, declared Bro. Roberts, another Executive member. But he was not sure the same applied to Austins.

Answering questions about alleged "blacklegging" Bro. Roberts stated that a "top level official of the T. & G.W.U." had given an assurance that he would unhesitatingly stop any "blacklegging" by T. & G.W.U. men, if concrete examples were brought to his notice.

The Morecambe Conference decided on this policy in a resolution which was carried unanimously demanding that future compensation be paid on a basis which is "fair to both the producer and the consumer".

The next Labour Government—

# Railwaymen's Leader on Compensation

One of the aspects of the Transport Act of 1947, which this Union has severely criticised is the fact that holders of British Transport Stock are guaranteed a standard dividend of 3 per cent. per annum, which, by far the heaviest burden of what are known as Central Charges, required in 1951 no less a sum than £42 millions."

These sums of compensation to the ex-shareholders amounted over four years to the huge figure of £143½ millions and thus turned a nett profit into a deficit of £57 millions.

The next Labour Government—

if it is to improve the conditions of railway workers and increase the technical efficiency of the railways—must not only re-nationalise Transport (and all the "key and major industries") but must amend the Transport Act so that the burden of compensation is reduced and the financial strain on the railways is accordingly lightened.

The Morecambe Conference decided on this policy in a resolution which was carried unanimously demanding that future compensation be paid on a basis which is "fair to both the producer and the consumer".

## The Nine Doctors and Anti-Semitism

I would have sent a small donation to your Sustaining Fund if it hadn't been for your attitude to the Prague Trials in which you equalled the capitalist press in raising the cry of anti-semitism. I cannot enthusiastically support a paper that makes false charges against a people and their Government.

Vancouver (Canada). A. Stratton.

*Our readers write*

home and made the guns and the other implements necessary to prosecute the war. Why then should we not continue to do so and let our less skilled comrades continue to do the fighting and the dying?"

May I suggest our young "militant engineers" study carefully the letter from M. Evans under the caption "Oppose Conscription", and which commences with "All socialists should oppose conscription".

Cleethorpes. S. R. Pearson.

★

**Praise for Youth**

As an ex-president of Southport's Labour League of Youth (and now life Vice-president), with over half a century's political perspective, I wish to make the strongest possible protest that so much work and enthusiasm by young men and women of the League of Youth, including several who have won degrees, B.A., M.A., etc., is being discounted as of no account by short-sighted, self-seeking anti-socialists in both the top and bottom floors of Transport House and their stooges, the so-called Regional Organisers!

The Southport Labour Party's Monthly Magazine "Prospect", was founded by enthusiastic young men and women, 100 per cent. socialist, and the writer was a contributor. Upon reaching a monthly circulation of 1,000, the Party took it over as the local forum.

After several rebukes from Transport House on account of its socialistic outlook, we received notice that in future all articles had to be vetted by Transport House, and so the magazine has not been issued since, as the writers (including myself), were not prepared to sacrifice our freedom of expression.

Is it to be wondered that so many Leagues of Youth have lost membership?

Southport. Herbert Feilden.

★

**Interest Charges**

I am rather puzzled by the article on rents on page two of the issue of April 3, 1953. Three per cent. of £1,785 is (approx.) £52 10s. interest, and 4½ per cent. of £1,785 is approx. £75 19s., an increase of £23 9s. per year. What accounts for the extra £22 11s. 4d. to make the deficit rise to £46 0s. 8d.?

London, N.7. C. O'Hara.

"Socialist Councillor" replies:

Your correspondent appears to be under the impression that when local authorities borrow money they repay the principle at simple interest. Actually, interest is compounded and the principle and interest is paid back over a period, sometimes 40 years but more often 60 years. The total sum is levelled out so that the same amount is paid every year for the period in question.

### Yugoslavia Again

What a self-contradictory muddle is C. Van Gelderen's article on Yugoslavia! On the one hand it is claimed that nothing has altered the fact that Yugoslavia has a socialist economy. On the other hand it is admitted that Tito is being led into 'unprincipled alliances with imperialism', that 'there are breaches in the state monopoly of foreign trade', that 'the whole principle of economic planning is endangered', and 'a new stratum of rich peasants is growing', etc.

What is the conclusion? Not that we should sympathise with the struggle of the genuine Communists in Yugoslavia against Tito and look forward to a 'second revolution', as the admirers of Trotsky once urged in relation to Stalin. Oh, no! That we should recognise 'the fundamental socialist nature of the Yugoslav economy' (for how much longer, at this rate of 'de-socialising'?), and our 'duty to defend the socialist achievements of the Yugoslav working class'.

But what does all this mean in practice? That we should stop 'irresponsible slander of Yugoslavia', and refrain from calling Tito a 'fascist'. These are the only actual proposals in the article.

Edinburgh. O. Robb.

★

**C. Van Gelderen replies:**

It is really friend Robb who is confused. He cannot understand that it is one thing to defend a workers' state (however weak and deformed it is) and quite another to defend the bureaucratic leadership of that state. In much the same way, socialists differentiate between the Trade Unions, which are working class organisations, and leaders of the type of Deakin and Sir Lincoln Evans, whose removal by the union rank-and-file is greatly desired.

I hold no brief for Tito. Socialists must certainly condemn much of his foreign and home policy but we judge a state by the basic economy that state defends. In Yugoslavia, as in Russia, the state defends, in its own bureaucratic way, the system of society which emerged from a social revolution.

Defence of the Soviet Union, or any other workers' state, does not require of us blind adulation of its leaders or unthinking agreement with all they do. In due course, the working people of Yugoslavia will settle accounts with Tito and renounce and democratise the workers' state. The Russian workers will surely take similar action to consolidate and extend the gains of the October Revolution.

When that day comes, socialists must be on the side of the working class and against the bureaucracies which at present dominate the workers' states.

### COMPENSATION

Perhaps the most damning indictment of Tory callousness is on the question of compensation. Out of the Lord Mayor's Fund which was subscribed by the public, local authorities are allocating £150 to each family. This pitifully inadequate sum is supposed to replace the furniture and personal belongings destroyed in the floods. Just how inadequate can be realised when you see the piles of furniture utterly ruined, prams, bed linen, etc. which litter these streets. But many people who are buying their furniture on hire purchase are called upon to keep up the payments!

Immediately after the floods the

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# In Memory of . . . JAMES CONNOLLY

★ Shot by British Imperialism—May 16, 1916 ★

DUBLIN, on Easter, 1916, was the scene of one of the bloodiest episodes in the history of British Imperialism. Sixty thousand imperial troops were sent into battle against some thirteen hundred men of the Irish Volunteers who were fighting to free Ireland from British rule.

The rising was drowned in blood after a week of heroic but hopeless resistance. It was doomed from the start, mainly because of the isolation of the rebellion to Dublin, due to confusion and timidity on the part of a section of the leadership.

Though defeated, the Easter Rebellion has become a landmark in Irish history and, indeed, a landmark in the long history of struggle against national oppression.

Outstanding leader of the rising was James Connolly—the "guiding brain of our resistance", as Padric Pearse referred to him. A Socialist, Connolly realised the importance of the national struggle for freedom, but he also knew that that struggle could finally succeed only under the leadership of the Irish working class.

"The Irish working class", he wrote in 1914, "... can only hope to rise with Ireland. Equally true is it that Ireland cannot rise to freedom except upon the shoulders of a working class knowing its rights and daring to take them."

From the moment of his return to Ireland from Scotland in 1896, the 26-year-old Connolly set about the task of organising the Irish workers and leading them along the road to socialism. His

### One Per Cent Interest!

"Publishers have just about flogged the Coronation to death." So say some of the wholesalers, and judging by the disinterest shown by the retail trade in any form of letter, circular, folder or broadsheet on this subject, so think many newspapers.

One wholesaler in the South of England told me his latest despairing effort to find the requirements for certain Coronation numbers produced a one per cent. return! W. H. Smith's Trade Circular, 21/2/53.

goal was not just an Irish Republic but an Irish Workers' Republic.

With Jim Larkin, he led the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union and gave it a conscious, socialist programme.

### GENERAL STRIKE

In 1913, the union conducted the great Dublin General Strike, which lasted eight months and won the support of the Labour Movement throughout the world by its militancy. The strike was ferociously opposed by the Irish capitalists in alliance with the Imperial British Government. It was largely as a result of this strike that the

### Lenin on the Easter Rebellion

"To imagine that social revolution is conceivable without revolts by small nations in the colonies and in Europe, without the revolutionary outbursts of a section of the petty-bourgeoisie with all its prejudices, without the movement of non-class conscious proletarian and semi-proletarian masses against the oppression of the landlords, the church, the monarchy, the foreign nations, etc. — to imagine this means repudiating social revolution. Only those who imagine that in one place an army will line up and say 'we are for socialism' and in another place another army will say, 'we are for imperialism' and that this will be the social revolution, only those who hold such a ridiculously pedantic opinion could vilify the Irish rebellion by calling it a 'putsch'.

"Whoever expects a 'pure' social revolution will never live to see it. Such a person pays lip service to revolution without understanding what revolution is . . . .

"The misfortune of the Irish is that they rose prematurely, when the European revolt of the proletariat had not yet matured. Capitalism is not so harmoniously built that the various springs of rebellion can immediately merge of their own accord, without reverses and defeats." (LENIN—Collected Works, Vol. XIX, English edition, p.299 ff.)

Irish working class came to play such an important role later, when the national struggle reached its height.

The famous Citizen Army, which was the spearhead of the Easter Rebellion, was born during the strike as the "Union Defence Corps."

During the first world war, James Connolly sharply opposed those "socialists" who ranged themselves on the side of their respective governments in the prosecution of the war. "Neither King nor Kaiser", was his slogan, and he advocated the complete independence of the working class movement. He declared that it was the duty of the socialist movement to organise the oppressed against the native and foreign capitalist forces who dominated Ireland.

When the nationalist forces began to prepare for the Easter Rising, Connolly at once saw that his duty, and the duty of the Irish working class, was to participate in the national liberation struggle. He was quite clear, however, that it was only a temporary alliance, that eventually the workers would have to strike out on a path of their own—toward a Workers' Republic.

### NATIONAL LIBERATION AND SOCIALISM

"... we join in this fight with our comrades of the Irish Volunteers", he stated in a message to the Citizen Army. "But hold your arms. If we succeed, those who are our comrades today we may be compelled to fight tomorrow."

How well Connolly foresaw the future role of the De Valeras, who were his comrades-in-arms during that Easter Week. In power, they became the oppressors of the Irish working class, but the final reckoning is yet to come.

Connolly was seriously wounded in the Easter fighting.

Condemned by a secret court-martial, he was taken to Kilmainham Jail by ambulance, on a stretcher. In the prison yard, he was propped up in a chair and shot.

Today, the Irish ruling class would like to forget James Connolly and what he stood for. But his memory lives on and the Irish working class will fight on till his aim—a Workers' Republic—is achieved.

## The Great Flood Scandal (From page one)

the Main Road and Franks Road, could be requisitioned while Bathside is being rebuilt. But the Tory 'men of property' won't agree to that. Private property comes before the health of working class children.

medical officers ordered all effects to be placed in heaps outside the houses; much of this stuff is now just heaps of unrecognisable decay. Yet Government assessors will only allow claims when the actual goods destroyed have been produced—despite the fact that much of it was—washed out to sea!

All the claims are bared down to a minimum by the assessors. Three shillings a yard is allowed for linoleum! In some cases they have suggested that suites of furniture are a luxury. In one instance they allowed £42 for a three-piece suite, lino, mats, repairs to a sewing machine, wireles and replacement of tables and chairs.

Worst of all, however, the local authority is claiming the right to retain one-fifth of the £150 until the bills for the other four-fifths prove the money has been 'wisely spent'! This is a real scandal.

"If people have lost their homes," said Labour Councillor Mrs. Brennan, "they are fully entitled to the compensation and it is their own business how they spend it".

This point was emphasised by Mr. and Mrs. Mealing, of 17 Coke Street, by Mrs. Thompson, of 6 Marie Street, and by everyone we interviewed in the Transit Camp. The money was voluntarily subscribed and should be handed over to the victims.

In any case, £150 is quite insuffi-

cient and should be supplemented from Government funds to the point where EVERYTHING destroyed has been properly replaced.

As is usual in such disasters, voluntary and part-time workers are doing a wonderful job of work—but they can't possibly meet the real needs of the situation. The Transit Camp which houses the refugees is absolutely unsuitable.

For nine weeks husbands and wives have been separated in different huts. The children are unable to sleep because of the inevitable noise in the camp. There is no possibility of families leading anything approaching a normal life and the whole experience is a tremendous strain. Some of the stories told are heart-breaking.

Mrs. Gardiner's home at 3 MacDonough Cottages is a ruin. She is a mother of two children and only recently recovered from a serious illness. She has now received a letter from her landlady claiming rent for the whole period during which she has been flooded out! (The letter was published in last week's "Outlook".)

Mr. Mellors, of Vansittart Street told me that he has been offered £25 out of the allocated £150 to fix up temporary accommodation, which will last only until September. He is expected to work at weekends (when the trade rate is double time!) for nothing to make his temporary

accommodation habitable. In this way the authorities hope to extract cheap labour out of the suffering. And don't forget, when this man finally returns to his home his £150 will have dwindled by £25.

Mr. and Mrs. Penticost who have six children and used to live at 15 Kings Head Street, summed up for the occupants of this Transit Camp in these bitter words: "We are forgotten people."

### LABOUR MUST ACT

The plight of these flood victims is a national scandal and an indictment of Toryism. The local Tory M.P. is a gentleman named Sir Stanley Holmes who is a director of 18 companies including Beechams Pills. He keeps his mouth tightly shut in Parliament.

The people hardest hit in Bathside are all Labour supporters and the Labour Movement must not fail them. We must not allow the Tories to forget their promises made at the time when the full glare of publicity was on these victims of sea defence neglect. Mr. Churchill would like everyone to forget it. We must disappoint him!

Demand a public inquiry by the T.U.C. and the Labour Party. Demand that all available property in the flood areas be requisitioned. Grant full compensation payments. Pull down the slums of Bathside and build decent homes for working people.

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