

Workers' Dreadnought

THE RIGHT TO CONSUME.

Vol. XI. No. 13

June 14th 1924

WEEKLY



The unofficial Strike.

The unofficial strike is a triumph for the rank and file—however it may end. It shows that the rank and file is acting for itself, and acting with effect. This strike is the biggest rank and file effort since the Armistice.

The Labour officialdom has condemned the strike; condemned it, and opposed it, as strongly as the employers themselves.

The "Labour Press Service" gave the cue to the capitalist press by denouncing the strike as "fomented by an unofficial committee dominated by communists," as though the workers had no real cause of discontent, and as though to be unofficial and to be communist were altogether evil.

Of course, the capitalist press was delighted to follow the lead of the "Labour Press Service."

The "Labour Press Service" is an official Labour Party publication, designed to lead and inform the various local Labour newspapers. It more closely represents the views of the Labour Party Executive than the **Daily Herald** itself. The **Herald**, having an eye to circulation amongst all sections of the proletarian movement, speaks often with a dual voice.

More serious than the utterance of the Labour News Service, however, was that of Mr. Tom Shaw, the Minister of Labour. Mr. Shaw on behalf of the Government, stated that:

1. The Labour Government would give protection to men desiring to work during the strike.

2. In the event of public utilities, such as food, lighting, water and power being threatened, "the Government will maintain those public utilities."

3. The Government will not take the railways out of the hands of the companies and operate them.

The Labour Government therefore promised to act like any other Government.

Mr. Shaw further averred that it would do what it could to end the dispute, but would not recognise the strike committee. He said:

"It is impossible for any Government to attempt to recognise a body which neither the trade unions nor the railway companies will recognise."

Thus when Parliament adjourned for its holidays, the Labour Government spokesman endeavoured to crush the strike and annihilate with contempt the strike committee whilst capitalism gloated with satisfaction.

The strike, however, continued and by the beginning of the week Mr. Shaw's department was becoming, in appearance at least, somewhat more reasonable and was willing, at least ostensibly, to lend itself to the task of bringing the N.U.R. and the strikers together.

The strike committee's attempt to negotiate with the N.U.R. revealed, nevertheless, a weakness in the strike committee. The rank and file must learn to become solely responsible for its own actions, and to hold its own apart from the Trade Unions before it can be a really powerful force.

The bitter, insulting, reply to those attempted negotiations, issued to the Press by Mr. Cramp, N.U.R. Secretary—once believed to be something of a Red—lies before us as we write.

This statement declares that the unrest of the rank and file, which is manifesting itself in every union, is a "foul disease," and that "decent workmen are being led away by persons chiefly interested in obtaining prominence, or money, or both."

Apparently the Trade Union leaders ignore the hardship that has befallen the masses through the great reductions in wages, brought about in rapid succession during recent years, and by the vast unemployment, which has cast its burden upon innumerable households, even where some members of the family have remained at work.

Apparently, too, Mr. Cramp and his colleagues are unaware, of the great hopes and desires for emancipation for the workers, which at one time they themselves helped to raise; hopes and desires which have been encouraged, as flames are fanned by the wind, both by the great upheavals through which the whole world has passed in war and in revolution, and by the recent advent to office of a Labour Government in this country.

In spite of Mr. Cramp's denunciation it is obvious that if the strike holds firm, the N.U.R. will shortly become but too anxious to negotiate with the strike committee, lest the N.U.R. hold on the workers become seriously weakened.

One of the regrettable features of the strike was the repudiation by the strike committee of the charge that it is influenced by communist ideas. We shall not have moved very far until the answer to such a charge as that will be: "Guilty, and proud of it."

Another backward feature was the protest that the strikers are loyal members of the N.U.R. Presently the cry will be: "**We are the workshop councils and more competent to act than any other organisation.**"

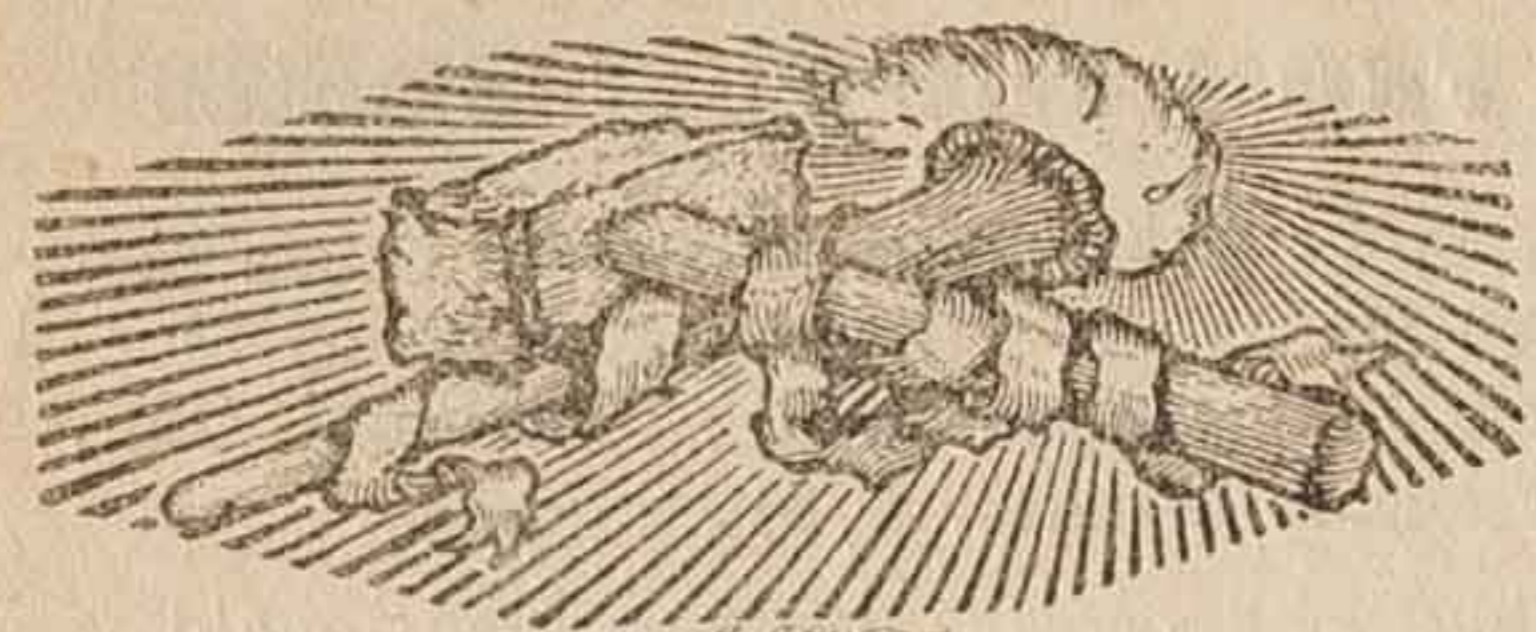
The great propaganda for this strike, as for all strikes should be: **An advance of wages may secure a temporary improvement, but what is required is the permanent to the system of production for profit.**

COAL PRICES.

Pit Head price per statute ton raised—			
	1913	1923	
Britain	8/7	16/3	
Germany (Ruhr)	8/10	7/3 (1922)	
France	13/4	—	
Belgium	14/1	27/9 (1922)	
U.S.A.			
Anthracite	14/5	25/4 (1922)	
Bituminous Coal	5/5	15/3 (1922)	
Average 'Spot' prices of Bituminous Coal	5/8	13/6	

DREADNOUGHT BANNEL IN INDIA.

Government officials state that there is no censorship of British newspapers sent to India, but our Indian correspondents constantly inform us that the Workers' Dreadnought is prevented from reaching them.



Workers' Dreadnought

Founded 1914.

Editor: Sylvia Pankhurst.

All Matter for Publication— To The Editor.

Business Communications— To The Manager.

WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT, 152, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. Post free.

Three months (13 weeks) rs. 7 1/2d. Six months (26 weeks) 3s. 3d. One year (52 weeks) 6s. 6d.

Vol. XI. No. 13, Saturday, June 14th 1924

Our View.

A TORY BRINGING THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT back to its Socialist principles in respect of housing is a curious spectacle. Yet the other day a Conservative member, Sir Kingsley Wood, introduced a Bill to prevent the sale by the first Commissioner of Works (Mr. F. W. Jowett, of Bradford Municipality fame), of more than half the working class houses on the Well Hall and other Estates. The Well Hall houses are being offered for sale at from £500 to £700. Obviously prohibitive prices for the ordinary workman to pay. Yet there is said to be a waiting list of 3,000 people desiring to rent these houses. One wonders, indeed, why the Government should thus gratuitously play into the hands of its opponents since Mr. MacDonald at York expressly stated that whilst the last Government had got some houses built for sale this government, the Labour Government, is facing the problem of producing houses to let.

We are waiting for a social organisation which will provide houses primarily to live in; and all the evidences prove daily and more strongly that this will never be until the private property system is abolished.

QUITE AMAZING was Mr. MacDonald's statement to the House of Commons on June 4th that the Irish question has been placed outside the ambit of party controversy so far as this country is concerned, and that the Treaty embodies a final settlement of Anglo-Irish relations made once for all.

The Prime Minister and Ireland. He added: "The task of the present government is greatly facilitated by the fact that it has merely to give effect to the policy of our predecessors with which we are in perfect agreement"

That puts Mr. MacDonald's position very clearly. It is unmistakable to all who understand plain English; and the position applies with equal force to Indian, Egyptian and African, as well as to Irish Nationalisation. Mr. MacDonald, without the least shadow of doubt or deception is an Imperialist. He promises the conquered people within the British Empire to advocate for them no more than a limited degree of home rule in local affairs under the shadow of British arms.

He offers, in short, conciliation under the dominant Capitalist-Imperialism. His programme for the subject class, the workers, is essentially the same as for the subject peoples. The workers are to accept conciliation Boards and Trade Boards under their capitalist employers. Yet Mr. MacDonald often speaks and writes of Nationalisation. Does he intend that the first Labour Government which obtains a Parliamentary majority shall tackle the subject of nationalisation, or does he propose that this generation shall content itself with conciliation Boards?

More important, however, is the question what is meant by nationalisation. If nationalisation is to mean that the existing owners of private concerns are to continue drawing their profits when the concerns have been placed under Government control, the position of the worker will be little changed and he will have no more than the conciliation Board provided for him afterwards.

RED TAPE is being meticulously observed by the Labour Government in its dealings with India. It is proceeding as cautiously as any Liberal or Tory Government. There is indeed nothing inspiring in the appointment of an official expert committee to inquire into the working of the present Act consisting of three members of the Governor General's Council, and the three secretaries of the Government of India.

THE DECISION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS to start, though not at present, a Co-operative daily paper will, in our opinion, make for progress, if, and when, the proposed daily appears. It will increase the number of people who will read a paper which is not precisely a capitalist paper. It will probably force the Daily Herald to move further to the Left, as the co-operative paper cannot possibly be further to the Right than is the Daily Herald. If it were it would be indistinguishable from the capitalist papers.

THE COMING New Daily. The existence of another working class daily will break down the mistaken idea that because the Daily Herald is the only workers daily, all things must be excused in it.

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LORD DANESFORT'S BILL to prevent the teaching of "blasphemous and seditious" doctrines to children, which has been read a first time in the House of Lords, must be carefully watched. This is an effort to check the spread of enlightenment in matters of religion and economics.

THE ASSAULT AT ROTHERHITHE TOWN HALL committed upon numbers of people by a body calling itself the British Fascisti should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. The British Fascisti is a tiny burlesque little organisation, yet here we find it permitted by the authorities to scale the roof of the Town Hall and drill there and then to come down and beat people with sticks. Mr. Henderson says the police knew nothing of the affair until after it was over; yet it is strange there were no police in and around the Town Hall when a public meeting was being held. Was that because it was a Conservative meeting? This is a matter into which Mr. Henderson should inquire particularly if he wishes to preserve the impartiality of the police force for which he is at present supposed to be responsible.

CIVILISATION has apparently shortened the life of the race. Statistic, believed to be the last pure-bred survivor of the South African Bushmen, is said to be 130 years old. These unfortunate people were killed off like wild animals by the early European settlers. Now the last of them is forbidden by a paternal government to cross the sea to Wembley, lest a South African curiosity should perish overseas.

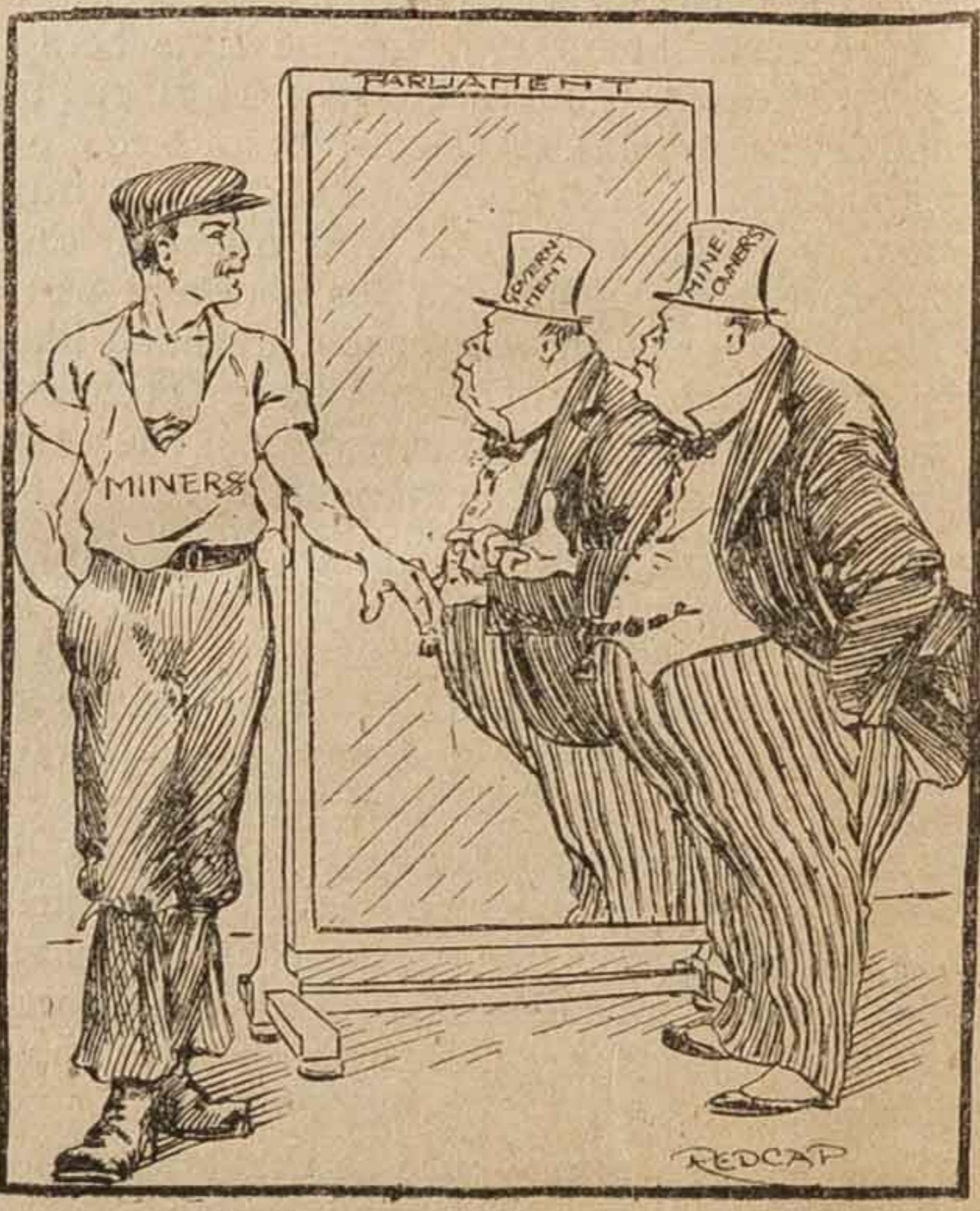
MILLERAND has retired in the wake of Poincare. They cling to office as long as they could, but France is moving Leftward and they have had to go.

FRANCE Moving. Nevertheless there is very far to travel yet before we can say that France is on the eve of actual changes. Herriot is but a Liberal and not an advanced one. He supports the Ruhr invasion and possesses a completely capitalist outlook in all respects. The French proletarian movement is not advanced; it has not a strong anti-Parliamentary workshop movement. Though the Parliamentarians are there, as everywhere, much less important than they fancy themselves, they nevertheless, still hold by far the greater part of the horizon of the awakening workers.

SMALL HOLDINGS. The number of statutory small holdings in England and Wales has grown from 504 in 1908 to 31,835 in 1923.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL. Mr. Clynes, on the Government's behalf, refused the request of Mr. Morel for a day to discuss the following motion:

PROTECTION FOR GOVERNMENT TENANTS. Sir Kingsley Wood (Cons.) obtained leave to bring in a Bill to give Government tenants the same protection against eviction as other tenants. He was accused of doing this, not to help the persons concerned, but to embarrass the Labour Government. Be that as it may, the Government tenants are sorely placed as they do not benefit like other tenants from the Rent Restrictions Acts at present.



Parliament as we see it.

Our Parliamentary Reports and Comments are based on the official Verbatim Reports.

Unemployment in India.

The Under secretary denied the existence of unemployment in India. No Statistics are published.

Austrian Armaments.

Mr. Morel again asserted that Austria has increased her manufacture and export of armaments.

The Daily Herald and the Committee of Privileges.

Mr. MacDonald replied to questions that when Mr. Hamilton Fyfe was called before the House of Commons Committee of Privileges he was told that the proceedings were to remain private.

Kenya Land for Lord Delamere. Complaints were made that 60,000 acres of land in the Loldia Hills, West Kenya is passing over to Lord Delamere and the natives are being deprived of it.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

Animals slaughtered or authorised to be slaughtered, and percentage in Britain—Cattle, 104,076—1.48 per cent.; Sheep, 43,681—0.2 per cent.; Pigs, 48,005—1.7 per cent.; Goats, 128.

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LABOUR PARTY £8 Cottage Scheme. Sir Kingsley Wood (Cons.) said Mr. Wheatley was giving too much for the houses on the basis of the price of last January.

MR. WHEATLEY'S HOUSING BILL. Mr. Wheatley's Housing Bill is to provide for the erection of more houses of the type and size provided for by the Coalition Government in the Act of 1923.

"The first principle of Socialism was the abolition of profit and interest. Every Socialist ought to subscribe to that, or get outside the Socialist movement. The only method by which they could establish Socialism was to provide the own capital free of interest."

In and Out of Office.

Those were Mr. Wheatley's views out of office; in office he finds himself in the midst of a complicated system with inter-communicating machinery. If he makes any radical change in the principles governing one part of the machinery he dislocates something else.

Contract versus Direct Labour.

Mr. Raynes (Lab.) advocated dispensing with contractors and hiring direct labour. He spoke of his experience as a member of the Derby Corporation. The lowest contract price for a building had been £46,750. By direct labour the Corporation had secured it for £28,341 17s. 4d.

THE REVIEW OF THE FLEET. H.M.S. Enchantress, at a cost of £1,100 is to be prepared for the use during 10 days, of the Board of Admiralty, and some official guest for the naval review, organised in connection with Wembley.

25/- FOR A DINNER. Lyons are charging at one of their Wembley restaurants 2/6 for a cocktail, 7/6 for tea, 25/- for dinner.

THE WEMBLEY SWEATING. Asks what the waiters and waitresses are paid at Wembley and what hours they work.

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THE TURKISH TREATY. There was a wrangle over the Lausanne Treaty. Mr. Lloyd George attacked the late Tory Government and complained that

(Continued on page 8.)

The Unstable Basis of the Agricultural Industry.

Sir T. Davies (Con.) opposed the Bill. He said "you cannot pay wages on a losing business or you will become bankrupt."

He urged the big co-operative societies which have got customers for everything they produce in their innumerable shops, and often only pay the usual wages of the district, cannot make agriculture pay.

Out of 174 societies farming upwards of 10 acres, only 28 made a combined profit of £3,235. The others made a combined loss of £348,284. The co-operative societies buy their farms and only charge 2½ per cent. as rent.

The Belfast Co-operative farms 188 acres, and made a loss of £831 in one year.

Of 30 farms in the Midlands every one made a loss. Long Eaton, Derby, made a loss of £7,996. Ashton-under-Lyne made a loss of £12,000.

A co-operative farm six miles from where Sir T. Davies lived lost last year £44,865 on 3,005 acres. The wages paid were the current wages of the district, 25/- a week for ordinary day men, and 30/- to 37/- for shepherds, with house included.

All this shows the terribly unsatisfactory system on which production is based.

WHAT WE STAND FOR.

The abolition of the capitalist or private property system.

Common ownership of the land, the means of production and distribution. The earth, the seas and their riches, the industrial plant, the railways and ships, aircraft, and so on, shall belong to the whole people.

Production for use, not for profit. Under modern conditions more can be produced than can be consumed of all necessities if production is not artificially checked. The community must set itself to provide all the requirements of its members in order that their wants may be met without stint and according to their own measure and desire. The people will notify their requirements, and the district and country, the world must co-operate to supply them.

Production for use means that there will be neither barter nor sale, and consequently no money. An immense amount of labour in buying, selling and advertising will therefore be saved.

Plenty for all. Thus there will be no insurance, no poor and no poor law, no State or private charity of any kind. Humiliation, officialdom and useless toil, which means putting parasites on the backs of the producers, will be obviated thereby.

No class distinctions, because there will be no economic distinctions. Everyone will be a worker, everyone will be of the educated classes, for education will be free to all, and since the hours of labour at relatively monotonous tasks will be short, everyone will be able to make use of educational facilities, not merely in early youth, but throughout life.

No patents, no "trade secrets," scientific knowledge will be widely diffused. Since no class war will be no more, the newspapers will be largely filled with scientific information, art, literature and historical research.

Society will be organised to supply its own needs. To-day the essential needs of the people are supplied by private enterprise. Ostensibly we are under a democratic Government, but the most outstanding fact in the average man's life is that he is largely at the disposal of his employer. The government of the workshop where he spends the greater part of his time and energy is despotic.

Under Communism industry will be managed by those at work in it. The workshop will contain not employees, subject to the dic-

tation of the employers and their managers, but groups of co-workers.

We stand for the workshop councils in industry, agriculture and all the services of the community. We stand for the autonomous organisation of the workshops and their ordered co-ordination, in order that the needs of all may be supplied.

Parliament and the local governing bodies will disappear. Parliament and the monarch, the Privy Council, the Cabinet, the Houses of Lords and Commons, provided no true democracy. "Self-government is better than good government" is to be found in a society in which free individuals willingly associate themselves in a common effort for the common good. On the basis of co-workers in the workshop co-operating with co-workers in other workshops, efficiency of production and distribution, which means plenty for all, can go hand in hand with personal freedom.

Elected on a territorial basis, Parliament could not manage efficiently the industries and services of the community. The services at present controlled by it are managed by salaried permanent officials. The condition of the worker employed in such services is the same as in privately owned industry.

A centralised Government cannot give freedom to the individual: it stultifies initiative and progress. In the struggle to abolish capitalism the workshop councils are essential.

The trade unions are not based on the workshop, and are bureaucratically governed. Therefore they are not able efficiently to manage the industries. They are ineffective implements in the effort to take industry from the management of the employers and vest it in the workers at the point of production. Therefore we stand for—

The abolition of the private property system.

Production for use, not profit.

The free supply of the people's needs.

The organisation of production and distribution on a workshop basis.

Our Bookshop.

ANATOLE FRANCE:	
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EMIL ZOLA:	
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Plays Pleasant	7/6

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FOR
WEEK END OUTINGS AND TEAS.

PARTIES CATERED FOR.

Buses 96: 10a, 40a, 34.

PARLIAMENT continued from page 5

the Dominion Governments had had no share in the making of the Treaty. He attacked the provisions committing Britain and her allies to intervene if the neutral zones are invaded and the abolition of the capitalists which put foreigners in Turkish territory above the Turkish law. He said there is no justice in Turkish Courts. He predicted that Turkey would always be a source of war and that Russia and Italy would attack her.

Altogether it was a highly bellicose speech. The Labour Prime Minister answered it with contemptuous reserve, but incidentally revealed that he is on very friendly terms with Conservative foreign policy.

The debate ended in smoke.

OUT-DOOR MEETINGS.

Plymouth.

Saturday, June 14th, 7.30 p.m., Catherine Street, Devonport, Sylvia Pankhurst, J. Drayton.

Sunday, June 15th, 11 a.m., North Quay, Plymouth, Sylvia Pankhurst.

Sunday, June 15th, 6.30 p.m., Behind the market, Plymouth, Sylvia Pankhurst, J. Drayton.

Hyde Park.

Sunday afternoons at 3.30, Norah Smyth and others.

Sunday, 7.30 p.m., Obelisk, Blackfriars Road, N. Smyth and others.

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Published by E. Sylvia Pankhurst, at 152, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4, and printed by the Agency Press, Ltd. (T.U.), at 1, Pemberton Row, Gough Square, London, E.C.4.