



THE

Syndicalist

FOR WORKERS' CONTROL

Vol. 1 No. 2

Twopence

Are the Unions Finished?

AT a time when the British trade unions are wealthy and powerful pillars of the State, it will seem absurd to many that a question like the above can even be asked.

And yet it is precisely because they are pillars of the State that we ask it, for there is a tremendous division in society between the rulers and the ruled, between the State and the workers, and no person, no organisation can serve the cause of both.

But the trade unions are supposed to serve the interests of the workers. They have been built up, over a century and a half of the most bitter struggles, from the days before the Tolpuddle martyrs, as organisations to defend the industrial workers against those who would exploit them.

Few workers, however, would deny that something has gone seriously wrong. During the recent Labour régime, the aim of the trade unions—nationalisation—was achieved in the essential industries, and the process which had begun during the war was accelerated.

Organs for Discipline.

During the war, the unions were quite frankly organs for maintaining discipline among the workers. They were the equivalent in this country of Dr. Ley's "Labour Front" in Nazi Germany—the means by which the workers were kept in order. One of the architects of modern monster unionism, Ernest Bevin, creator of the Transport & General Workers Union—an unwieldy conglomeration of unconnected trades—Bevin himself was Minister of Labour.

Why? Because the Government knew that the workers would take from "one of us" what they would never stand from "one of them". And it worked. Labour control in this country went to totalitarian lengths—the direction of women, for example. It became a punishable offence to be absent or even late for work—and then Bevin introduced the infamous Order 1AA—making it illegal to strike—while, under his "Bevin Boys" scheme, directing youngsters down the coalmines.

And since the war? You can count the number of official strikes on the fingers of one hand. The number of unofficial stoppages must be thousands. The unions accepted Cripps' wage-freeze—only being pushed off it by pressure from below, and they have accepted as if to the manner born, all the glib arguments about "we must export or die" and all the necessities of the recurring dollar crises—in a word, the capitalist way of life.

From 1945 to last October, we must remember, "our own chaps" were in power. Our "own" Labour Party was rationing us, conscripting us, austeritying us, urging us on to work harder and produce more. So what could

PROTESTS AGAINST FRANCO

MEETINGS of protest have been held in Paris, London and New York, in Mexico and in Germany, against Franco's persecution of the syndicalists.

A series of mass trials have been held and more are said to be coming up, against workers whose only crimes are the desire to associate, and opposition to Franco's régime. Five syndicalists were executed in March, and many others have been sentenced to savage prison sentences—20 and 30 years being quite common.

Workers should protest in every possible way against these political trials, especially as "our" Government is wooing Franco because he is going to be useful in the defence of "democracy". Those who fought for six years "against Fascism", please note.

the unions do but support them? What, indeed!

Now, is it so different? Within a week of the election, the T.U.C. had announced its willingness to "work amicably" with any Government. When the railwaymen of York and the miners of South Wales wanted to use

direct action to oppose the Conservatives' attack on our standards of life, the union leaders' first thought was for the Government, and how undemocratic it would be to try to use industrial action for political ends.

Will Lawther, Arthur Deakin on the union side, and Herbert Morrison on the political side, (more recently backed up by Aneurin Bevan) hastened to persuade the workers to do nothing, while the Tories sat back and laughed. And now the T.U.C. is accepting a wage-freeze from Butler, too.

This, however, is nothing new. It is all of a piece with, and a logical development from, the days of 1926, when the trade union leaders betrayed the miners—and all those workers who rallied in sympathy with them in the General Strike—in one of the most shameful sell-outs of all time.

The Workers' Task

The Syndicalists have always recognised the essentially reactionary character of the trade union and Labour movements. And if we now make the attempt to rally those militants who are looking for an alternative to bourgeois reformists and phoney "revolutionaries" alike, it is because we believe we can see signs that the workers are beginning to wake up to the fact that the unions, as fighting organisations, are finished.

The task facing the working-class is once again to build up organisations—but this time on a different principle altogether. Without paid leaders, without a political wing—organisations under the direct control of the workers on the job, created with the conscious aim of taking over industry and running it under Workers' Control.

That is the long-term aim. But it is just as essential to have such organisations to defend our standards of living—here and now. There are tough times ahead, and the unions won't help us. It is up to us to help ourselves.



FREEZING? I DON'T NOTICE IT!

The Miners • • • • • Miners Will Need Solidarity

RADSTOCK.

MINERS in the South Yorkshire coalfield, who have been objecting to the employment of Italian labour in local pits, have recently forced the National Coal Board, in that area, to give up any idea of absorbing the 450 Italian miners now training at Maltby, South Yorkshire. This is a further development of the anti-Italian movement which started several weeks ago at the Bullcroft Colliery, one of Yorkshire's largest pits, when haulage hands struck against the use of Italian labour.

For weeks now, the National Coal Board has been obliged to pay Italian trainees their full wages while the ban was on and in the face of persistent refusal by the local miners to lift the ban, the Coal Board has reluctantly given the idle Italians the option of either switching to another industry or being repatriated.

By this action these British miners have sullied their once-proud record of international working-class solidarity. In returning to the narrow parochial attitude of using the anti-foreign weapon to attempt to ward off the effects of growing unemployment in other industries, the Yorkshire pitmen are trying to put back the clock to the days when the British Trades Union movement endeavoured to export its unemployment.

Instead of striking directly at the basic causes of world unemployment, the corrupt State-protected system of exploitation, with an ironic perversion of militancy, such miners blindly hit at fellow-workers from poverty-stricken Italy.

However, British miners will have cause to regret these ill-considered acts for even with the complete removal of every non-British worker from the country, sooner or later, unemployment in other industries will have the effect of depressing "real" wages and working conditions. Already the writing is on the wall. For the first time since 1942, there are no vacancies in the pits of the Somerset coalfield—the main reason being the sizeable pocket of local unemployment has forced ex-miners and other non-employed workers to turn to the pits for work. Unemployment alone under capitalism can fully man the pits of this country.

In the short time that the Italian miners have been with us, they have shown their ability to defend their rights and in the inevitable struggles that lie ahead for all workers in this country, the Italian workers could prove to be worthy allies in the battle which must be fought against the forces of capitalism which make for unemployment and war.

JOHNNIE MINER.

WE set out with the idea of an anarchist society in which there is no need for government; where there is no ruling class or party; where the world's produce is freely available to all who need. But as we are not content with only thinking about it, we set about it by the syndicalist approach. Anarchists first became attracted to the idea of syndicalism simply because it was a means by which the free society could be reached. They did not consider it could be reached by building up a parliament of lawyers, or a super-

Workers' Control

State of party bureaucrats, but only by the workers gradually taking matters into their own hands.

There is only one way the workers will ever manage to run their own lives, and that is to run the places where they work. The only way they can do this is by organisation at the place where they produce; by building up their strength in industry in common, today in a

struggle against the boss, but with the ultimate aim of taking over the industry themselves.

To-day, after all, they do in fact run the places where they work; the board-room boys do not. If they were conscious of their strength they would lock out the people who do not really control what is produced, but only the way it is divided out. Thus the object of syndicalism—whether it is based on the industrial union, the workers' council or the workshop committee (as has been variously the case in different countries according to circumstance)—is to organise, industry by industry, on the basis of a class struggle, with the ultimate aim of achieving workers' control.

By workers' control we obviously do not mean that the workers control the bosses instead of *vice versa*! What we mean is that the workers control the manner in which they work: the "government of men to give place to the management of things".

We therefore aim at organisation in each workshop, mine, factory, field, farm, every place of work, which industry by industry shall federate over the whole community so that workers' control may in time of crisis be operated, and become the means of introducing the free society.

Locally we uphold the organs of struggle amalgamating to form one live organisation which in times of capitalism or State control might find no greater expression than a union hall or community centre, but which for us would be the embryo of the *free commune*, wherein, in a free society, the local needs would be expressed by the local people in co-operation with those who would do the job, instead of a ukase from Whitehall and labour put on the job willy-nilly.

If anyone is afraid of a free society it is because, in spite of all they say, they do not trust the workers. All parties insist on political control and the measure in which they insist on a State is the measure of how much they distrust the people they claim to admire. Politicians always believe that they alone can be trusted; we, however, trust *them* no more than *they* trust workers without capitalists, a society without police or prisons. A.M.



Talking Points
The Right to Strike

AT one time when the workers in this country had no political representatives, the right to strike was at least recognised up to a point. It was the effort to secure legalisation of strikes that first led to the parliamentary representation of labour. However, it is a singular fact about politicians that the last people they worry about are those on whom they can most rely. Imagine a Labour politician worrying about the effect of what he says on—say—the South Wales miners, who return Socialist candidates solidly! Oh, no. He worries about the effect of his speeches on the "middle-class voter", "the floating vote". In the old days parties did at least outdo each other in *promises* for working-class support. Now they do not even make promises, all they do is to ask for "greater efforts" and harder work. We must all be "responsible" nowadays!

But we seem to recall that the right-wing politicians talk of "private enterprise"—"looking after your own interests". What else does the unofficial striker do? Why should he be more altruistic than his employer? Why should it be noble to make profits, but ignoble to strike for higher wages? And the left-wing politicians all echo that "we have always been in favour of strikes, but . . ." Those days are over now. For them. They are in the nationalised industries as directors; they are sitting on joint production committees, and industrial tribunals. For *us* those days are still on, and always will be until the workers take control of their own industries. INDUSTRIALIST.

Aims and Principles

THE history of capitalism is a history of bloodshed and exploitation. The competitive struggle for markets which it entails has divided peoples all over the world, and the technical advances of the past hundred years have been turned into means of destruction instead of being used to bring abundance and well-being and friendly communication to the peoples of the earth.

Some people, however, do very nicely out of capitalism. Those who own or control the means of life and from their privileged position can compel others to labour for them, have no interest in changing a system that apparently offers them so much. If we want to abolish capitalism, therefore, it is sensible to go to those who suffer most from it. These are the workers, who by the application of their labour power to the raw materials of the earth, produce all the material wealth, but cannot benefit from it, because they are not allowed free access to it.

The aim of the Syndicalists, therefore, is the creation of a free society which is not divided into a ruling class and a working class, but where production and distribution are carried out through the free association of the productive and distributive workers, to satisfy the needs of society as a whole, instead of providing profits for the few or power for the State.

This will entail the expropriation of the means of life, and the establishment of a system of workers' control. To achieve this, the Syndicalists, through their years of participation in the working-class struggle, have developed a set of principles through which they believe a social revolution can be accomplished, capitalism destroyed, and a free classless society established.

AIMS & PRINCIPLES

SYNDICALISM is the expression, in terms of industrial organisation, of the anti-authoritarian ideas of anarchism.

AIM

Syndicalism is the means by which the working-class can achieve its economic emancipation. It aims at a free society, in which capitalism, with all its aspects such as money and wages system, and the State, with all its

Reading.....

Syndicalism is International!

We are proud to announce that
SYNDICALISM—THE WORKERS' NEXT STEP
By PHILIP SANSOM

is being translated into Japanese and is appearing in the Japanese anarchist paper Jiyukyosan Shimbun, published by workers in Kyushu.

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repressive institutions such as the legal and prison systems, police, armed forces and civil service, have been abolished.

Instead, free associations of workers will control all functions on behalf of society, on the basis of "From each according to his ability; to each according to his need."

PRINCIPLES

Industrial Organisation, not Craft

The existing unions, based on *craft*, divide workers more than they unite them. Workers should organise by *industry*—one syndicate for one industry—to practise solidarity to the full effect.

No Political Action

Parliamentary action dissipates the workers' strength in futile constitutional argument. Organisation at the point of production concentrates our strength where it is most effective.

Direct Action

The weapons of the working-class are those of the strike, boycott, go-slow, work-to-rule, etc. *Direct* action under the *direct* control of the workers concerned.

Experience with these weapons prepares the workers for the Social General Strike, when they lock out the boss class and take over industry themselves.

Control from Below

Organisation through works committees of *delegates*, not representatives, carrying out the wishes of the rank and file and subject to immediate recall.

No Permanent Paid Officials

No delegates elected for more than a fixed, short term, and paid no more than the average earnings in their workshop.

Local Autonomy

No central authority dominating the whole organisation. *Decentralisation* gives to the smallest unit freedom to act in any circumstances. Solidarity readily given to all areas, but no control exerted from outside.

Federation

Workshop and factory committees to federate in regional committees, then in national committee, then to maintain international contact, throughout each industry. All industries to federate on same levels in *confederation* of all workers.

Anti-Militarism, Anti-War

National wars are never fought in the interests of the workers. International solidarity is best shown by refusing to kill fellow workers in other countries. The workers have the strength to prevent war if they wish.

Only the Class-War

The only struggle the workers should support is the class struggle—the struggle against the ruling classes of the world no matter what label they give themselves.

Triple Function

1. To defend and improve conditions *now*.
2. To make the social revolution.
3. To organise production and distribution in the free society.

Workers' Control

Not Boss control; not State control:
WORKERS' CONTROL.

All the ideas which have been but briefly dealt with here, will be discussed more fully in subsequent issues of *The Syndicalist*.

P.S.

Attacks on the Dockers

THE growth of unemployment in the docks is giving the employers the chance they are looking for to get their own back for the militancy the dockers have shown since the war.

Two incidents in London (Brown & Eagles' and Free Trade Wharf) have shown which way the wind is blowing. Individuals have been picked upon, and only direct action by their mates has kept them in their jobs.

In Birkenhead last month, over 3,000 dockers walked out when one man, Sam Broad, was dismissed from the Scheme on a trumped-up charge of "evading employment". In fact he had dared to move whilst in the control, but it was enough for the Deputy Manager to lay a complaint with the Port Manager, who, as Judge and Jury, tried, convicted and sentenced Sammy Broad in record time.

But his fellow workers were not standing for it. Broad appealed against his dismissal, but was turned down, but the N.D.L.B., finding a large-sized strike on their hands, hurriedly reinstated him as a new docker. This is interpreted by the Merseyside Portworkers' Committee as a partial defeat. After the strike they issued the following statement, which we have had to reduce slightly:—

What Have We Gained?

(1) Due to the vigorous reaction of the men, Sammy Broad is still within our ranks. Only for the direct action taken by the two hundred men who refused to enter the Control, and so struck the spark for another strike, Sammy Broad might now be seeking another job.

(2) We have demonstrated against the high-handed action taken against our Brother and exposed the phoney set-up of the N.D.L.B.

Why Phoney?

According to our Branch Secretary, the Appeals Tribunal cannot squash a sentence in cases of this nature. It must uphold the Port Manager's action.

If this be true then obviously there was no point in Sam Broad appearing before that body.

If this is not true, then a significant fact emerges; namely, that one or both of the Union officials, who comprise 50% of the Appeals Tribunal, must have voted against Sam Broad.

What Have We Lost?

Our losses vary, some men have suffered more than others (excluding the scabs, of course) but on the average two days wages have gone with the wind. This is a most serious matter for all of our brothers, but it is only by sacrifice that justice and common decency has ever been won or ever will be won by us dockers.

We feel, however, that there have been far more serious losses sustained in this issue:—

(1) We have lost our right to justice under this scheme, for we contend that Sammy Broad could have been Sammy Blank, or in other words, any one of us.

(2) We have lost the chance to throw further light on the obvious shortcomings of those union officials who piously suggest that they represent our interests on the N.D.L.B. If our Branch Secretary and our District Secretary say, as they have said, that Broad should not have been sacked for this trivial offence,

how then can our District Secretary who is also Chairman of the Board uphold the decision to dismiss him from the Scheme? To say a man should not be dismissed and then be party to dismissal is most illogical and completely indefensible.

(3) And this, brothers, is our most serious loss, for it would seem that we have lost the will to fight with all our determination against injustice. By accepting Sammy Broad back into the Scheme on the N.D.L.B. terms, we are condoning the Board's action and surrendering to them the right to perpetrate similar injustices again in the future.

Indecision and wavering of the substantial minority has led to this latest rebuff. How far and for how long can these retreats continue without bringing about a drastic worsening of our conditions?

These retreats will come home to roost unless we organise and unite.

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DOCKERS! Read
THE PORTWORKERS' CLARION
 Organ of the Merseyside Portworkers' Committee.
 Price 2d. Monthly
 From: Bill Murphy, 25 Harding Avenue, Bidston, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

Who Should Control Road Haulage?

LONDON.
TRANSPORT workers should take note of the great road haulage controversy, even though it does not seem to have much to do with them—for in the Tory versus Labour argument as to whether the industry should be governed by chartered accountants or civil servants, nobody seems to think that the people who actually do the job might have anything to say in the matter.

In every haulage undertaking, as soon as it gets large enough to become a major concern, control passes completely to the board-room, composed largely of accountants, business-men, financiers and others who cannot even drive their own cars without a chauffeur, let alone steer a five-tonner. So far as control is concerned, the making of the old haulage bosses into civil servants has not made any difference: all the change-over means is swapping the *Financial Times* for the *Board of Trade Journal* in order to impress the lackeys who come in the office.

A Political Argument

The struggle as to nationalisation or de-nationalisation is basically only a political one. Both Tories and Socialists agree that the industry should be a monopoly; they do not even seem to disagree as to the people to control the monopoly; all they disagree on is whether those people should draw their handsome salaries from a private company or the State.

If the men actually working in the industry had built up an organisation to fight for their interests, it would be at the present time vigorously opposed to both civil servants and chartered accountants. It would recognise that the road transport workers had still to fight for better wages, conditions and status, whoever controlled it. Because, however, they are in a union controlled by political socialists, they are expected to take sides in this struggle for power, although most of them under the

new Executive must often have wondered how much the change really meant.

The Third Alternative

However, we want to stay this to them most forcibly: there is a third alternative, workers' control, and road transport happens to be one where nobody dare deny it is possible. When all is said and done, the road haulage business primarily consists of a man in a truck driving things from one place to another. If he happens to fall asleep at the wheel and knock over a lamp-post, the Rt. Hon. Sir Percy Etcetera-Etcetera, chairman of the Board of Directors or Executive Regional Commissioner, whatever it might be, does not stand the racket. It might be possible to kid a worker on a conveyor-belt that he does not control the factory, and that nobody would turn a screw the right way if Mr. Chatsby-Berkeley, A.M.I.C.E., F.R.Z.S., were not sitting in his City board-room "controlling". But, when it comes to road haulage, the position is plain enough; even an economist could see it. All the office work in the world would mean nothing to transport if it were not for the plain, essential, fundamental pivot of the whole plan, viz., one man sitting behind one wheel and seeing that the load gets to its destination.

Could that man control his own job? Here, again, nobody dare say otherwise! It is admitted both by the apostles of Free Enterprise (who always quote the Small Man as one way of defending the monopoly which crushes him) and by the protagonists of State Control (who

concede that the whole industry cannot be nationalised) that thousands of men have been able to buy a lorry, work up a connection and run a small business themselves, as owner-drivers, similar to one section of the taxi-men, and it is undisputed that in such a case control does not have to be exercised elsewhere. But if this can be admitted as regards individual cases, who can say workers' control is impossible throughout the whole industry?

It Depends on the Men

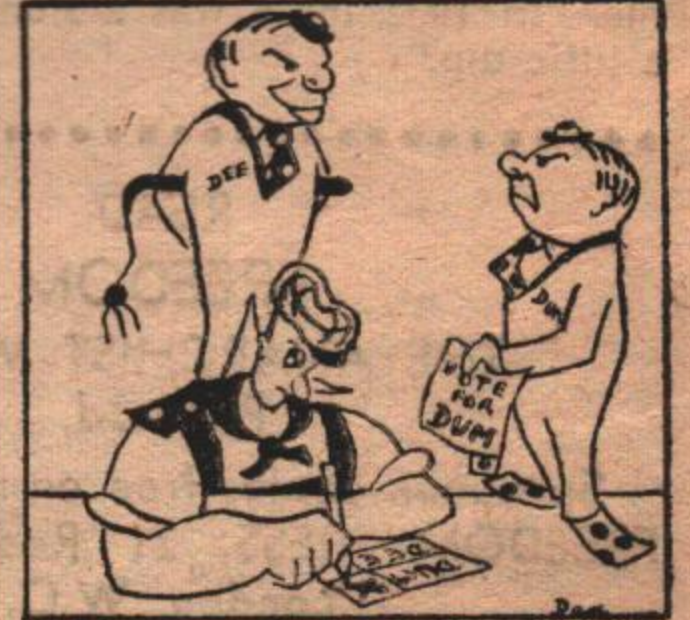
It therefore should be clear that the logical conclusion—that the workers could run industry—ought to be the drivers' next step. Instead of shilly-shallying with defunct trade unionism, let's take the positive step forward, and say that we are not going to be the pawns of the politicians. What road haulage depends on is not primarily the lorries and the buildings, still less the "executives", but the men who do the work, and it is they who should determine how to run it. They could then place workers' control as an opposing claim to both State control and Capitalist control.

In the present situation they might manage to achieve a limited degree of control even now if they pressed hard enough but, nevertheless, keeping as the basic aim complete control of the industry (which can only come with the end of capitalism and the State). The rank-and-file organisations they build at garage, depot and warehouse can meanwhile be the one way of resisting every attempt at lowering standards.

BERT.

SCISSOR BILL

The Political Circus



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IF YOU LIKE
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Get Rid of the Rats!

EDINBURGH.

THAT the miners do show on occasion a great degree of solidarity should not blind us to the fact that it is mainly defensive in character. This was brought out by the recent strike at the Michael Colliery, East Wemyss, where rats caused the death of two men. It is, of course, understandable that the men went on strike; what amazes most non-miners is why men have to die before any action is taken and the haste with which the officials acted to get the miners back to work proves that production is their first concern and the life of a miner is of secondary importance.

When we consider that the powers that be think nothing of sending thousands to their deaths in Malaya, Korea, or wherever they feel their interests are being threatened, it is difficult to imagine that they lose much sleep over a few dead miners.

Such being the case, the remedy lies in the hands of the miners themselves. To take action before they are completely crushed by the capitalist system is the main task.

Competition from Poland will be the next weapon with which the living standards of the miners will be attacked and not unless they are prepared not only to resist, but to go on to the offensive themselves with the demand for workers' control, will the miners survive these attacks.

Printing

A Half-hearted Boycott

THE action taken by the trade unions in the D. C. Thompson dispute is hardly likely to convince many workers that the trade unions are the last word in organisation. Here can be seen the might of the T.U. movement—a

Textiles

The Inevitable Decline

BRADFORD.

AS textile merchants and manufacturers who are still in business are searching the world for markets rather anxiously, a bankrupt wool merchant, whose son I know quite well, calmly prophesies recovery in the textile trade before the end of June. I hate to disagree with a merchant, even a bankrupt one, about his own trade, but I still think that complete recovery, at any rate, will not come for some time, because the public who eventually use the textiles will not buy until it is urgently necessary.

I'm no saint of the working-class. I bought a suit I didn't urgently need in April, 1951, because I thought the price of suits would go up, and I am not buying the coat I could do with in May, 1952, because I think the price of coats will go down. My neighbours, themselves worsted operatives, are not buying worsted goods either, for the same good reason. Neither are the Americans or the Africans or even the Army buyers. And neither, if you are careful of your money, are you.

Meanwhile, our comrades in the textile trade suffer, but they can't honestly blame us. The abolition of the whole system of money, property and wages would solve the problem, but the employers and merchants will do anything to avoid solving it that way, and we can't honestly blame them. The position is serious.

Serious, but not sad. People are talking of the slump, but not standing about in groups with long faces. Easter traffic to the seaside was as heavy as ever. A textile designer told me, "In 1932 there was a slump. This is just a little dip."

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few blood and thunder speeches, a half-hearted boycott and a fervent prayer by the leaders that Monckton will save them from being completely exposed by the rank and file. The only real answer to D. C. Thomson, or anyone else for that matter, is the General Strike. Why have the leaders hesitated to use it?

The reason becomes clear when we realise the consequences. A successful General Strike at this stage would lead to its continued use by the workers as their main weapon, then goodbye "restraint", rearmament, capitalism and its trade union defenders. Desirable as this may be from a worker's point of view, it is hard to believe the T.U. bureaucrats have any intention of bringing it about and this points to the necessity for a movement which has as its conscious aim the ending of capitalism and wage slavery.

We have a long way to go but we will be moving in the proper direction when the future D. C. Thomson's discover that to paralyse the workers, not five court injunctions are all that are required, but fifteen million!

Cleansing

An Injury to One is an Injury to All

OF the many workers recently paid off by "the Mill" (North British Rubber Co.) in Edinburgh, how many see any connection between this and the fact that the cleansing workers in Edinburgh were defeated last year in their strike for better conditions?

Few, if any, yet those former rubber workers who are now working for the cleansing department may ponder over the connection when they receive their next pay packet. What was

Bradford students' "Rag Day" on April 24th was conducted with all the usual gusto, and the rag magazine, the *Wag*, commented on the absence of rich saloon cars from the neighbourhood of the Wool Exchange—"it is pitiful to see the sombre rows of Austin sheerlines and 2½-litre Jaguars. . . ."

But there is one aspect of the textile trade as a whole which is often overlooked. The wool slump of 1928 and the cotton slump of 1932 were confined to Yorkshire and Lancashire, but the present slump is world-wide. Manufacturers who couldn't sell fabrics abroad during the 1930s were glad if they could sell plant, and much more textile machinery was exported during the war. Now there is scarcely a country which has not its own nuclear textile industry.

In 1928, a certain legendary Bradford millionaire tried to corner all the wool in Bradford, which was to say all the wool in the world. Anyone who cornered all Bradford's wool now would corner much less. Bradford Technical College Textile Department, which used to consist mostly of young Bradfordians learning to carry on their fathers' mills, now consists mostly of young foreigners gathering knowledge to take home.

In cotton, not long ago the monopoly of Lancashire, not only are other countries running their own mills, but some, notably Japan, are effectively competing with Lancashire in the export trade.

British textiles, once almost the only textiles in the world, must decline in quantity as the textile industry spreads. There has to be unemployment or short time, or both.

Not that this in itself matters; lack of work never killed anybody. But in this society most people's incomes depend on the amount of work they can sell, and lack of income is very serious indeed.

The solution to this problem can never be found by employers or governments, or "international agreements" between rulers. Only the workers themselves, by rejecting the wages system altogether, can solve it.

no concern of theirs last year becomes very much their concern now and should, if it does nothing else, at least impress upon them the truth that an injury to one is an injury to all.

The short-sighted policy of the workers which allows the bosses to smash them one at a time cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely. Sooner or later, the clash will occur which will decide the fate of the British workers and it is not a pleasant prospect when we study the "fighting" organisations which we have in this country at present.

What we need more than anything else is a militant workers' movement built on syndicalist lines. With such a movement we would not need to wait on the bosses' challenge but start to throw out our challenge—Workers' Control.
T.O.M.

Letters

REFUSED TO SLAVE DRIVE

DEAR COMRADES,
I am a labourer, minimum rate. Demoted shortly after promotion for objecting to the orthodox slave driving expected from those promoted. At cross purposes with all management and T.U. officials on the question of honesty. Over 30 years T. & G.W.U., 20 years I.L.P. Disillusioned. Now object to giving financial support to measures I morally oppose. No standing order, just a principle of Workers' Control on the job.

Greatest obstacle is (with T.U. agreement) the Boss Menace—the sack for those who support us. Even Nye Bevan put nothing in the Place of Fear.

I will do all I can to make *The Syndicalist* a success.
Huddersfield. A.L.

THE ONLY WAY?

DEAR COMRADES,
"Our" M.P. for Cleveland, said in a speech at South Bank recently that the only way the workers have of showing their opposition to the present régime is to vote Labour. Apparently Mr. O. G. Willey has never heard of direct action—or, more likely, he doesn't want the workers to hear about it?
Middlesbrough. D.C.W.

ASCW SUES "DAILY EXPRESS"

DEAR COMRADES,
You may be interested to know that the ASCW has taken out a writ against the *Daily Express* for a front page article on 19/3/52 headed "Boycott on Arms Headed by Reds" on a conference motion giving "the fullest support to those members who feel, as a matter of principle, that they cannot undertake work of a nature designed to assist in the mass extermination of civilian populations". The *Express* article stated, "Government officials believe that the object is to hinder direction of scientists into war work during an emergency." There is a large and determined minority in the ASCW anti-war, including (for their own purposes) that 5-10% who are C.P. sympathisers.

I will certainly distribute *The Syndicalist* where I can.
Prestwich, Manchester. V.M.

The Syndicalist

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D.R.