



THE

Syndicalist

Vol. I No. 1

Twopence

A CYNICAL POLITICAL HOAX

Tell Us the Old Old Tory

FOR all the six years when the Labour Party was organising austerity on our behalf, the Tory slogan was "Set the People Free". The old war-horse himself was depicted as a sort of St. George coming to the rescue of the British people bound by the chains of socialism.

One of the chains that were going to be struck off was the economic control which the Labour Government had put upon free enterprise. Bulk buying in foreign markets was particularly repulsive to the British way of life. It was therefore amusing to see that one of the first measures the Tories introduced—within ten days of being returned to power—was to disallow the import of goods from abroad except under

MAY DAY

IT is appropriate that this paper, with its aim of workers' control, should appear on the 1st of May, the day which symbolises the solidarity of workers everywhere.

The first day of May was originally the day on which workers all over the world downed tools as an expression of their independence and solidarity, but it has long since lost its early revolutionary fervour. At one time, the celebrations were held on the first day of May whether it fell on a working day or not, and it is to their shame that the workers allowed themselves to be persuaded to celebrate May Day on the first Sunday in May, so as not to interfere with the boss's working day.

Part of the guilt for this lies at the door of the trade union leaders, because whatever their claims to sincerity and honesty may have been in the past, they have been completely lost in the dirty battle for power. The late E. Bevin, one-time leader of the General Strike, is an example of how working-class revolutionaries become corrupted when given positions of privilege. This great champion of working-class freedom was a member of a Labour Government which introduced conscription in peace-time, and who said that the Trade Union movement should not challenge the Government to the extent of imperilling the economic stability of the State. A far cry from 1926. This is just one example of the corruption of leadership, and shows that working-class leaders once they are in a position of power are as bad as the traditional despot of the ruling-class. History has recorded the change of front of the British labour leaders as they climbed the political ladder, and must convince us, if our own experience cannot, that the delegation of our power, and the use of political action instead of industrial action has drained the revolutionary workers' movement of most of its strength.

The urgency of the plight that faces the whole world cannot be stressed too much, but mere protest is not enough. In the course of a lifetime most of us have experienced two world wars, and are now on the brink of a third, the force of which will destroy what we know of civilization. What a mockery this makes of our internationalism. How can we speak of traditions of May Day and international solidarity when we are preparing to slaughter our fellow workers in other countries? It is only by refusing to take part in any war preparations that we can remain untarnished. Let us join with our fellow workers throughout the world in a united front against fear and want, towards a goal of peace and happiness, then perhaps the symbol that is May Day will have some reality. R.M.

Government licence. When the Labour Party had done this it was simply because of their "doctrinaire socialism". When the Tories do it, it is being realistic.

GIVING THE GAME AWAY

Justified scorn was poured upon the paltry rations which Mr. Strachey and Mr. Webb had allowed us. Lord Woolton must have spent a good proportion of the Conservative's £1,000,000 Fighting Fund promising the people "More Red Meat". What a cynical stunt that has turned out to be! And even the meagre Christmas "bonuses" the Labourites had managed to allow us, were not forthcoming from the Tories.

The grandiose schemes for "300,000 houses" were nipped in the bud from the very first by the raising of the bank rate, and before he had been in office a couple of months, Mr. Macmillan, Churchill's minister responsible for housing, had to admit to the House of Commons that he had no idea when the housing target would actually be reached.

As for Mr. Butler's Budget—that has really given the game away. It is not necessary for us here to discuss all the details. All that we wish to point out is that it is following on where the Labour Government left off in the organisation of this country on a war basis.



Please turn to Back Page.

When the Anarchists came out at election time last October, and pointed out that it was not going to make the slightest difference whether a Labour or Tory government was returned, their arguments were based on the fact that on the issue that was the really important one—rearmament—both the major parties were in complete agreement.

The task of the British Government to-day is to prepare this country for war. The rearmament drive will, like all such drives in the past, lead to war, and in order to do its job, the Government has to institute in this country the same policy that the Nazis introduced in Germany. In Goering's infamous words: Guns before Butter. And anybody who has seen the ruins in Germany, has seen where that policy leads.

BUT WHOSE FAULT?

The Tories, by pretending otherwise, by pretending they could give us more food, more housing, more of the things we need, have put across one of the most cynical and hypocritical political hoaxes this country has ever seen—and that's saying something. But whose fault is it if they get away with it? Whose fault is it if the workers suffer for the actions of the Government? It is easy to blame the Government, but isn't it really the fault of the workers themselves?

The workers should realise that it is they who have the real power; it is they who are the real strength in society, by virtue of the fact that they produce all the real wealth of society. We can do without bosses, trade union leaders, priests and politicians; we cannot do without miners and dockers, railmen and engineers, farm workers and textile workers, builders, teachers, doctors and road sweepers. These, and millions of others in all the useful occupations, are the people who matter and who are necessary in any society.

But if they allow themselves to be used by the useless; if they allow themselves to be used in the production of guns before butter; when they would prefer butter before guns, they have no-one to blame but themselves.

Workers! Realise your strength. Organise to take over the means of production and distribution, to use them for the benefit of society instead of for the profit of the few and the destruction of the many. You do the work. Why not control it, too?

The Embarrassing Communists

ANY worker who is militant, against war, and favours working-class resistance to capitalism, is liable, to-day, to be labelled "Communist". Which is very nice for the Communists, who are pleased to be credited with a monopoly of working-class militancy, but for genuine militants, it is a considerable embarrassment.

In fact, the Communists are doing the working-class a great dis-service by their "militant" line, for it is now too easy for the Government or union leaders to denounce workers' action as "communist inspired" for it to be completely discredited—both among the general public and among the workers themselves.

We want to make it clear from the very beginning that we have absolutely nothing whatever to do with the Communist Party or any of its "front" organisations. The C.P. differs from other power-seeking groups only in that it owes its allegiance to another govern-

ment, and that it is, on the whole, more ruthless and cynical than other political groups, with the possible exception of the Fascists.

Because at the moment, the Party Line happens to coincide in some details with what syndicalists have always maintained, that does not mean there is any connection between us and the C.P., any more than the fact that we denounce Stalin's system as a State-capitalist dictatorship makes us either Trotskyist or Conservative.

THE SYNDICALIST fights for the working-class against all forms of authority, political or industrial, of the Left or the Right, or of the Church. We will consistently resist Boss control, State control and Party control. And we urge all workers, in forming their fighting organisations, to make very sure that they do not fall into the hands of any bunch of power-seekers, no matter how "working-class" they pretend to be.

Ideas The Meaning of Anarcho-Syndicalism

IT is because so many are asking themselves what possible alternative there is to the various movements masquerading as those of the working-class, that we have published this paper. We know that the majority of our readers are on the subject and it is hard to know where it differs fundamentally from the Tories. And this gradual assimilation with the Conservatives they can see proceed steadily, as slick lawyers, careerist politicians, capitalist journalists, "public relations" officers and other promising M.P. material ascend in the Labour Movement, while the workers are "represented", in the organizations they built up for themselves, by trade union leaders who are also prepared to take on the rôle of bosses in the nationalized boardrooms. Because one opposes capitalism and therefore also its staunchest supporter, the Labour Party, must one join the fifth column of a rival imperialism? That is all the Communist Party has become, and if the balance of power shifted and the rulers of Soviet Russia once more demanded of its henchmen abroad that they waved the Union Jack, they would be no less ready to switch their allegiance than they were in 1941. And who can tell that any other new party would not be equally as bad as those already existing? It is not a sign of apathy, it is fundamental common sense to recognise that ALL politicians are swindlers, that ALL parties seek personal power, that ALL governments are alike.

Does this mean one should give up the struggle? Not at all. It only means that we should recognise just what the struggle is against. We have not only to fight all capitalists, but all governments, and therefore we cannot make common cause with those who support particular capitalists or particular governments, who want to become capitalists themselves or want to enter government themselves under whatever pretext, whether they fool others (or even themselves) that they want to run a factory "to find work for others" or run a government "in the interests of the people".

If we look back on the history of the working-class movement we see there IS an alternative. The first time it organized was in the First International, which split irrevocably, the issue being *Could the workers use the State?* The Marxists said they could. The Anarchists denied it. This was far from being a trivial difference. The result can be seen in our time. On the one hand, Marxism and its offshoots (which undoubtedly have prospered far more than the Anarchists). From these origins, however little some of them have to do with the teachings of Marx himself, we get the centralised idea of social-democracy and bureaucracy, deeply ingrained in the old German labour movement, for instance (which was why Hitler could destroy it so easily—all he had to do was to raid the central office), and the idea of *political socialism* which characterises most Western labour movements, and which is why you get such movements as the Labour Party, and trade unionism on the industrial field, which seeks always to make a place for the workers within the capitalist society, and leaves all political questions to the so-called

Reading

SYNDICALISM—THE WORKERS' NEXT STEP

By PHILIP SANSON

"Comrade Sanson is to be congratulated on producing at so opportune a moment, not only a notable pamphlet but, equally, a valuable instrument in the concrete class-struggles of our time. Perhaps future historians of the class-struggle will rank his work along with its famous predecessor, *The Miners' Next Step*. In an era which everything indicates will be one of mounting class-struggle, the question of syndicalism again promises to become of major importance."—F. A. RIDLEY in FREEDOM.

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workers' representatives—that is, the trade unionists inside the Parliamentary party. As an offshoot you get Leninism, the dictatorship of the party. What is the fundamental link between all these different movements? The only link the workers can use is the "workers' State" which according to the Anarchists is as logical as the belief in a white blackbird or a giant dwarf.

For Anarchism is the belief that there should be no government, no political leadership, that the working-class is sufficient to achieve its own emancipation. This movement has produced federalist movements, like the Spanish, which even when suppressed by the most bloody repression (equivalent in every way to Hitler's) could not be possibly wiped out by its opponents, because it was not based on a centralised leadership, and always relied for its strength on the workers' own initiative. In countries where the workers showed no initiative, there was no Anarchist movement; it was not something that could be fostered by Fabian Societies. But where they did decide to take action themselves, to build up movements free of political control, it created what is known as SYNDICALISM.

Syndicalism is primarily the doctrine that

QUITE RIGHT, MR. FOWLER

Mr. G. Fowler, of Bristol, in his presidential address to the conference of the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen at Edinburgh, said:

"Britain is still in all essentials a capitalist nation, and to think, let alone talk, of workers' control in present circumstances is a mockery of reality.

Quite right. Workers control is only possible when capitalism, and all that goes with it, has been done away with.

The Mines 'Bull' at Bullcroft

THE problem of the amicable acceptance of foreign labour, in any industry, under the existing economic system is one bristling with difficulties. It is not sufficient to merely expect workers in the mines, fields or factories, after the age-long conditioning of the policy of divide and rule, of artificially stimulated nationalism, to automatically act in all sweet reasonableness when confronted with the introduction of, say, Italian workers in the mines of Britain or European D.P.s in British brick-yards, and so on.

Well-meaning people sadly deplore incidents which at times occur between British workers and imported labour . . . acts of hostility over petty differences magnified out of all proportion. The element of group hatred that anti-authoritarians rightly condemn in the Nazi-Fascist outlook is a basic human failing (perhaps animal in origin) and one which rational exhortation alone will not wipe out.

In the specific case of the refusal of miners at the Bullcroft Colliery in Yorkshire to work with Italian miners, it is symptomatic of underlying general discontent and frustration of this acquisitive society, which has seized on the age-old dislike of the unlike to manifest an outward hostile expression. All the arguments in the book are against the Bullcroft miners. But prejudice prevails and intolerance is enthroned. It would appear that these Yorkshire colliery lads have no quarrel with the injustices imposed by the wage structure of the mining industry which pays a man's wage only when the age of 23 years is reached. All this and more they have accepted but to expect haulage lads of under 23 years of age to receive less than an Italian of over that age is asking too much. A classical example of straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. But it was ever thus!

Here, in the small Somerset coalfield, the *bête-noir* is the Welshman. With a higher percentage of foreign labour (Poles and Italians) than any other coalfield, local spleen is reserved for the Welsh who are not a recent

innovation but have been with "us" for close on 300 years, and unlike the "Yorkies", we don't easily forget old scores to fight new foes. Condemnation alone of such irrational attitudes, without an appreciation of some causes, can soon degenerate into pure wishful thinking. The creation of real working-class solidarity must begin at a local level, amongst small numbers at first, from thence embracing an ever-growing number. No-one in his right mind, will deny that the mining community has developed such solidarity to a considerable degree.

Miners, the world over, have long been famed for their willingness to fight for fellow miners, but such solidarity still has its limitations. It sometimes is observed to stop at frontiers, to halt at creeds and colours, even to falter at county boundaries. How much better it would be if the miners of Bullcroft were only half as determined as in barring the Italians, to refuse coal for the armament drive; to initiate a move to stop the drain of wealth from the industry in the payment of compensation to the ex-owners of the pits, and all the hundred and one other things that must needs be done if sanity and reason is to reign in the not too distant future?

Radstock, Som. JOHNNIE MINER.

ARTHUR HORNER

IT is interesting to speculate on why Arthur Horner was not put up for re-election (if election is the right word) for the Executive of the Communist Party. As Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, he was one of the key men in the C.P.'s attempt to control the unions. A fellow worker has sent us the following limerick, which may have it in a nutshell:

Arthur Horner
Found a nice corner,
In the Trade Union pie.
He put in his thumb
And pulled out a plum
And closed his political eye.

The Docks Divi

"DIVIDE and RUL" of the boss, for him to maintain workers. Whenever signs of uniting interests, the boss ways to divide the

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THE aim of Syndicalist is in this country of It is not our aim workers in syndical the workers them done by anybody The task The itself is to present view on topical aims, principles an ism, and to expose by leaders, well-who tend to des fidence in themself For whether the name of Free Ent Christ or Joe Stal the workers are remain the same.

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Dividing the Dockers

How They Work

LONDON.

"DIVIDE and Rule" is the old maxim of the boss, and a very essential one for him to maintain his mastery over the workers. Whenever the workers show signs of uniting in defence of their own interests, the bosses begin to think up ways to divide them.

The massive post-war strikes in the docks have shown that the dockers do not have to learn the lesson that "unity is strength", and so, naturally, the Ports authorities have been trying out ways of weakening the dockers' solidarity. Useful help is always given to a government—whether Labour or Tory—by those politicians who pretend to speak as the workers' friends. Men who perhaps started as workers themselves but who have made the grade and left the ranks for more comfortable positions.

A pool man works by the job. If his gang finish a job at 2.30, they go home. A gang will never work short-handed.

If a perm's job finishes at 2.30, he can be ordered to another job—even if its only sweeping up he must fill in his time. Perms will work short-handed; they never protest at these conditions, and are satisfied to let the pool men do their fighting for them. They are bribed by getting what is known by dockers as the "Cream" of the jobs. They are classed by pool men as "Rats".

On the question of holidays, the perms have in all three weeks to the pool men's two weeks. They also have a sick benefit and retirement pensions.

If a perm takes part in a strike or lock-out he is returned to the National Dock Labour Board, and becomes a pool man once again.

The Syndicalist

THE aim of the editors of *The Syndicalist* is to encourage the growth in this country of a Syndicalist movement. It is not our aim to actually organise the workers in syndicates—that is the task of the workers themselves, and cannot be done by anybody else.

The task *The Syndicalist* takes upon itself is to present the syndicalist point of view on topical events, to explain the aims, principles and methods of syndicalism, and to expose all the various attempts by leaders, well-meaning and otherwise, who tend to destroy the workers' confidence in themselves, and to get on top. For whether the leading is done in the name of Free Enterprise, Socialism, Jesus Christ or Joe Stalin, the result, as far as the workers are concerned, seems to remain the same.

The fault lies, as we see it, in the fact that the workers are prepared to believe that their emancipation will be carried out for them by some benign authority. Syndicalists regard this as most idealistic and unrealistic. The sooner the working-classes of all countries stop allowing themselves to be led by the nose by leaders, the sooner will they realise that the responsibility for attaining their freedom is theirs and nobody else's.

The Syndicalist will do its best to bring about that realisation and to support the struggle that the working-class must wage to win its emancipation and to achieve workers' control of industry in the free society.

NO APPEAL

It is our ambition to exist without having to appeal for money in the form of cash subsidies. We want *The Syndicalist* to pay its way through sales alone. This it will do if everybody who buys a copy of this first number will buy two copies of the next and pass one on to a friend or workmate. Better still, buy a bundle (special discounts are allowed for quantities) and distribute the paper among your fellow workers.

If, therefore, you approve of the effort that is being made in bringing it out, support us in the way that really matters—get *The Syndicalist* circulating in the factories and workshops, in the mines and the ships, on the railways and the farms. Wherever workers are toiling for a boss, they have an interest in achieving Workers' Control!

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An ex-Labour M.P. who is now doing good work for the bosses is Mr. Gilbert McAllister, former M.P. for Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, who recently wrote in the *News Chronicle*, in an article about the London docks:

"There is a strong, perhaps an overwhelming, case for a new dock labour scheme whereby each shipping company and each stevedoring firm has its solid corps of men attached to it permanently and paid by it continually.

"In addition there must be a mobile pool of men."

In other words, it is in bosses' interests to have a solid corps (perhaps solid corpse is a better word?) of well-disciplined workers, divided from another section of workers who can be called in to do the dirty work, while the perms keep the best-paid work for themselves.

It may seem that workers in the docks would benefit from the spread of permanency—but would the bosses support it if it were only for the workers' good?

Below, we print the comments of a comrade in the docks, on the different categories of dockers:

1. Pool Men

First of all, there are the pool men—the men who report for work every day and are directed to jobs. If no work is available, they are paid the basic "bumping" rate. If there is work, he is paid piece rates—but constantly has to fight for the proper rate, dirty or danger money.

In London there are about 26,000 pool men, out of whom the PLA has established a certain number of "A" men—i.e., "Preference" men. A good amount of these are "Yes" men.

2. Permanent Staff

These mainly consist of old "A" men, their numbers are made up with Blacklegs from previous strikes. In return for their steady jobs, these men agree not to strike or disobey orders. They are merely there to lick the governor's boots.

3. Limited Man

This class of worker is far worse off than the perm. In his case, if he takes part in a strike or lock-out he is automatically sacked, and will have to leave the industry and sign on at a Labour Exchange.

ONE ORGANISATION THE ANSWER

The above notes show how the workers are being divided one against the other. And their own organisations, by dividing dockers from stevedores, stevedores from lightermen, only make it worse.

There is only one answer: one organisation of all portworkers and the abolition of permanent employment. Instead of being misled and divided by the various organisations which pretend to lead them, let *all* portworkers—dockers, stevedores, lightermen, clerks—whatever their job, join together in one syndicate to take over the ports and run them for the community under workers' control.

A.G.

HOBBIES FOR DOCKERS

THE *South London Press* (4/4/52) reports that "The L.C.C. may soon be helping to organise morning classes in handicrafts and physical training for London dock workers who have been hit by the mounting unemployment accentuated by the drop in imports."

Work in the docks, of course, is such a soft job, that we are sure any docker would be only too glad of the opportunity, on a workless morning, to dash along and do some physical jerks just to keep in trim.

As for the handicrafts, we can imagine the following conversation coming up any morning now:

"Coming round the caff, Claude?"

"No, thank you, Cecil, I'm too tied up with my knitting. I really must do ten more rows on my tea-cosy before bumping-on this afternoon."

DOCKERS! Read

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SCISSOR BILL



Could This Be You?



By DAN



Thomson's is Black!

GLASGOW.

FOR too long the publishing firm of D. C. Thomson & Co. has been a thorn in the flesh of Scottish Trade Unionists. Ever since the British General Strike of 1926, this firm, has made it a condition of employment in any of the departments of its vast publishing empire, that the employee shall sign an agreement not to belong to a trade union.

In spite of the condition imposed by the boss, many of Thomson's workers have been joining the printing trades unions, on the quiet. But the issue became anything but quiet on Saturday night, 19th April, when, after a machine minder had been dismissed without reason, after 31 years' service with the firm, the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants (NATSOPA) called out all the rotary pressman on the Glasgow Sunday Post, Thomson's Sunday paper claiming a million circulation.

This was a lightning strike in the good old tradition, and since, NATSOPA claims, 74 of the 110 workers in the department are by now union members, the effect on the paper's appearance on Sunday morning was pretty disastrous! With a great deal of improvisation, with the help of the few remaining blacklegs, the paper came out late.

The union claim that the scabs were only able to get one machine out of five running, and in fact only about one-tenth of the paper's normal run was completed.

The unusual thing about this strike, for these days, is that it is official! It's rather amusing, for a syndicalist, to see how a union can act in its own interests.

However, the union have acted as last, against this reactionary firm, and have declared all the firm's publications "Black". As workers who ourselves demand the right to associate how we think fit, we can do nothing less than support this strike, and call upon all workers to boycott and to refuse to handle Thomson's publications until the boss is compelled to grant rights of association to his workers.

Housing..... COUNCIL TENANTS RESIST RENT INCREASES

A CALL for direct action against any attempt to evict tenants of Kilmarnock Corporation who refuse to pay the rent increases the Council are demanding was made at a meeting last week.

In some cases the increases amount to 100 per cent., and many of the tenants would very clearly not be able to pay such exorbitant levies. When the increases were announced, the tenants immediately formed a rent protest committee, and, with strong feeling aroused among the townspeople, a mass refusal to sign the Council's new missives has been agreed to.

At the mass meeting where this resolution was accepted, many members of the audience recommended that "mass physical action" should be taken against anyone attempting to evict non-payers. The meeting also decided to hold a parade through the town on Saturday, May 3rd, and* that streets should organise themselves into resistance groups.

The next thing for the Corporation tenants to aim at would be the taking over of their whole

neighbourhoods themselves and running them without the humbug and waste and contract-seeking that is bound up with local government.

Let the people of Kilmarnock realise that they are capable of doing this and they will be surprised how easy it would be for them to run their own community with due regard for all their needs.

Fisheries..... FISH DOCK WORKERS DEMAND SUMMER HOLIDAY

FLEETWOOD, LANCs.

FLEETWOOD's main industry was nearly paralysed when the workers received the trawler owners' offer for a second week's holiday, to be taken in the winter instead of in the summer.

The employers finally yielded to the long-standing demand for a second week's holiday with pay, but made as a condition that only one week could be taken in the normal holiday periods, as to take the two weeks together would dislocate the work too much.

But the men thought otherwise, and on the threat to strike, the owners thought otherwise too, and agreed to discuss the matter further.

The men maintain that it would be easy to organise summer relief men from the casual labour force which is always available, and by working on a rota, no dislocation would occur.

If the workers were in control themselves, these issues could be quite easily solved in common-sense ways, without the continual wrangling which goes on under boss control. The men have the solution already—and they know what they are capable of doing far more than the boss.

Textiles

The Textile Flop

BRADFORD, where I am writing this, is the "centre of the Yorkshire Woollen Industry", which is to say the place where most of the buying and selling, but less of the actual spinning and weaving, of wool takes place. The percentage of actual textile operatives in the population of Bradford must be a good deal less than in the small towns of the wool district. Therefore Bradford has not been so badly hit by the textile depression—yet.

The figures from Bradford Labour Exchange before Easter were something over six thousand on short time (all in the textile and clothing trades) and something under two thousand on the dole.

Their families are also, of course, directly affected, and the figures have increased since, but there is no obvious sign in Bradford itself (again—yet) of the textile and clothing slump causing a general local depression. No chip-shops having to close or bus drivers going on short time. (Firms are cutting down their employed numbers a bit, but not, I suppose, more than elsewhere in the country.)

In other woollen industry towns, the position is worse (700 unemployed in Keighley). Over the border, in the cotton country it is much worse (20,000 unemployed in Bolton). A lot of people in Yorkshire got a week's holiday—without pay—for Easter; a lot more in Lancashire are still having three weeks. I know people in Bradford who have been working a week and playing a week since March, and people in Nelson who have only worked four or five weeks since Christmas, not to mention former employees of a mill at Oswaldtwistle, for instance, which has shut down for good.

A Boom started it

The trade has been slumping gradually for a long time. The trouble started in March, 1951, when American uniform manufacturers bought a tremendous amount of wool and the price rocketed.

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Then the American buying stopped and, thudd!! down came the prices. And wool especially, which had been bought at top price and was still being processed, had to be sold made-up without profit.

In November, forty pieces were sent for export from one worsted mill in Bradford, and thirty-nine sent back because of minute flaws. An overseer I know who works at that mill (an "overseer", or "overlooker", in Lancashire, seems to be a kind of apprentice-trained-foreman-cum-mechanic) was instructed that any operatives reading, or knitting, or with a break more than five yards down the piece, were to be sacked at once.

The same week he caught one of his best girls reading and his longest-employed girl (about fifty years old) with a break nine yards down the piece. He is worried he might eventually have to sack someone. My aunt, who was a weaver, was badly injured at work and had to go on industrial insurance benefit just before the slump. She is almost glad.

Employers and merchants are looking everywhere for orders. Staunch Tories are turning anxious eyes on the Moscow Economic Conference. "This isn't politics," they tell the press. "This is bread and butter." Personally, I don't think there will be sufficient orders for some time yet.

Even a war, with its enormous uniform orders, the absorption of surplus personnel and perhaps the destruction of more continental and Japanese mills than British ones, would only stave off for a time the inevitable decline of the British textile industry.

A dark prospect? Well, in a way I suppose it is. But one thing the politicians carefully overlook in their speeches, one we all tend to forget, is that people *don't mind* working short hours, or changing jobs, or even not working at all.

What we as workers want is not "full employment", but the living we earn by being employed, not a chance for more overtime, but a chance for more money. (In much the same way, nobody "wishes he could stop smoking" but everyone would like the money he would save by not smoking.)

Now, the abolition of the whole system of money, wages and property . . . that is another problem. D.R.



CORRESPONDENTS WANTED

We want correspondents in all areas in all industries. If you are prepared to contribute local information on what is going on in your area, please write in first instance to the Editors, The Syndicalist.

LETTERS

The Editors invite letters, comment and criticism. Space is limited, so please keep them as brief as you can and post them so that they reach us not later than 20th of each month.

The Syndicalist

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