



October 1952

THE

# Syndicalist

## FOR WORKERS' CONTROL

Vol. I No. 6 ..... Twopence

After Seven Years of Apathy—

## Bevan to the Rescue

JUST after last year's General Election, R. H. S. Crossman, "Bevanite" M.P., said that "Bevanism" would be the official Labour Party policy within 12 months.

He was not far wrong, for it is now widely admitted that there is no longer any real disagreement on policy between the followers of Bevan and those of Attlee. Since Churchill grudgingly admitted that Bevan had been right ("for the wrong reasons") in his arguments that the rearmament programme was too heavy for this country, and has proceeded to cut it, the Labour leaders have had no alternative but to limp along behind and agree—with both the Tories and their own rebels!

It would hardly do for the Labour Party—with its embarrassing pacifist tradition—to be pressing for more rearmament than the Tories!

Similarly, the Party has now resolved that when (if!) returned to power it will restore the Health Service to its former glory and abolish the payments and restrictions the Tories have introduced but which were proposed by Attlee in the Spring of 1951 and were the reason given for Bevan's resignation from the Cabinet. NO ALTERNATIVE.

After all, what else could the Labour Party do? When in office, it had done practically all the Tories are now doing—with the exception of the attacks on food subsidies and the "more houses for sale" line. When they were pushed into opposition—for the first time since 1939—they suddenly discovered that they had very little to argue about with the Tories. As "responsible" leaders of the nation, the Labour movement—both the Party and the Trades Unions—had thrown away any thin remnants of Socialist thought that still clung to them and had degenerated into the administrators of a managerial society.

### Unionism .....

#### What a Relief!

AS we go to press, we learn that the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions has called off the ban on overtime and piece-work, due to start on October 20th.

The ban was to be imposed as the unions' answer to the employers' continued refusal to consider a wage increase. Originally demanding £2 more per week, the engineers let it be known that they would settle for less, but still the bosses held out, refusing to make any offer at all.

The ban has been called off because at last the General Council of the employers' federation have intimated that they are prepared "to seek powers from their members to negotiate an increase." What a relief this must have been to the union leaders! Pushed by their own membership into the £2 claim, they have been crawling to the employers, Sir Walter Monckton, Sir Robert Gould, and anybody else who would listen to them, trying for twelve months to wriggle out of having to use direct action.

Now that the employers are yielding, we can see what effect even a threat of direct action can have. What remains to be seen is how much the unions will accept. Our guess is that it will not be a penny more than 10s. and will probably be 7s. 6d. And the union leaders, whose salaries are paid by their members, will ask us to be grateful for their efforts on our behalf!



They had their sugar plums (Welfare State, etc.) and they had their acid drops (wage freeze, rearmament), but any real differences with the Conservatives were hard to find. In fact, it was not difficult for the Tories to outbid them with its promises of 300,000 instead of 200,000 houses and, of course, "more red meat".

So Labour had to hurriedly find an opposition policy when it was pushed into opposition in the House of Commons last October. Which way could it turn? If we can still talk in terms of "Left" and "Right", it could only go slightly to the "Left"—to a position already

occupied by Nye Bevan, Harold Wilson, and the more astute back-benchers, who saw it coming.

There is nothing like a period in power to disillusion the followers of a "workers' party, and the seven dreary years of austerity and frustration which was the best Labour could do, produced widespread apathy throughout the rank and file. Nationalisation arrived and apart from having more bosses instead of less, the workers hardly noticed the difference. The Health Service arrived, only to be the first to be attacked when rearmament was begun. For the rest—hard work and austerity.

#### SAVED THE PARTY

And then, up rose the latest "Welsh Wizard"; a fiery orator, sworn enemy of Winston Churchill, bringing back a taste of the early "Clarion" days, before the Party was taken over by lawyers and corrupted by power. Far from being damaged by the Bevan Split, the Labour Party is being saved by it. Apathy and discontent are disappearing. Life is being breathed into the old corpse by the new Messiah.

And they have fallen for it. There are stars in the eyes of the rank and file again, and six out of seven constituency members on the Labour Party National Council are Bevan's men. Now we are getting all right again. Forget the 1926 Fiasco. Forget J. H. Thomas and MacDonald and Snowden. Forget Bevin and Cripps, forget the wage freeze and troops in the docks, forget IAA and 1305, forget Attlee and Morrison—Nye is come! Nye will handle Churchill! Nye will lead us to salvation!

But Nye is a politician. When Nye was a little boy his father led him by the hand, away from the pit where he worked, to the local Town Hall. "There," he said "is where the

Continued on p. 4

### Direct Action .....

#### A Start Must Be Made

EDINBURGH.

AS the workers meet one set-back after another and the union officials are forced to come out openly on the bosses' side, many are the questions asked. When all is said and done however, we usually find that the most that ever happens is that the worker joins another union and before long he discovers that it differs in no way from the previous one.

In fact, what happens is that the worker after trying a couple or more unions, either packs up altogether or continues to pay dues to one set of racketeers purely from force of habit. Should he be asked what he pays for he will mumble something about the missus getting a few pounds when he dies, but this merely proves that the missus ought to have had the money years ago; the worker who talks like that, and there are thousands) is dead—from the neck up!

To quit the union once he sees the racket is not enough, and if the worker intends to join another union he may as well stay where he is, for the only change will be the initials on his union card. Should he however decide to go into the matter fully, the worker will very soon discover that nothing less than a new type of organisation is necessary.

This often frightens him. Why? Is it be-

cause any new movement must start from scratch and he feels safety in numbers? Are a thousand "bosses' men" of more use than one? Are we incapable of looking after ourselves? These are all questions each worker must ask, and answer, himself. There is one other however that always turns up—"What about money?" Now a little thought will show most workers that even if their present trade union has millions behind it, his chances of receiving anything are remote in the extreme.

It follows then that the money alibi is merely an excuse to save having to do anything. The day the workers have enough money to compete against the bosses—what a pipedream! There is only one way and one place to fight the boss. The place is where you work. The way is to organise ourselves and start making improvements in our working conditions as we build up our strength to get rid of the bosses altogether. The fact that this is a tough job shouldn't discourage us, nor should we worry too much about the high proportion of "bosses men" who will, together with the union officials, attempt to crush us. A start will have to be made sooner or later and every day counts. Let's leave the unions to the "yes men" and start acting NOW.

T.O.M.



# The Social Change-Over

"HOW do you propose to bring about the revolution?" ask our critics scornfully, and our friends wonderingly. Get this straight first of all. We have no patent method. Nor shall we manage to bring it about. We are not like the politicians who can perform such wonderful achievements on paper. All we can do is to say what our ideas are as to the new society. If the working-class wish to act on those lines, the revolution will be brought about. A social revolution cannot ignore them.

We do not place reliance on one big revolution that will suddenly come to sweep away the current social order and establish the new society. Such was the belief of some early revolutionaries, it is true, but bitter disappointments as long as thirty years ago out-dated that view.

But having said that, there is no doubt whatsoever that revolutionary situations do arise. They have been innumerable in Europe during the past ten years. The effects of industrial risings, wars, political changes, rebellions and many other political catastrophes have given rise to situations where the workers could have taken control, and also to situations where they did in fact take control. The sad fact we have to face in this country, however, (as in very many others too) is that irrespective of whether such situations occur or not, it does not make any difference, because the workers would not know how to take advantage of them. The breakdown of authority can lead to a social revolution, but only if the workers know how it is possible for this to be done.

Our answer is therefore the Social General Strike, or in other words, the occupation of the factories. A lock-out of the employers and the stay-in, keep-working strike that will be effecting the changeover of industry and thus achieving the social revolution. What we cannot give in advance, as if we were prophets or tipsters, is how authority will break down—but war may provide the answer speedier than the remedy.

Before social revolution can be achieved, we must have the revolution in men's minds. Before change can be made, we must have the desire for change. It is *now* we have to build the struggle for workers' control through workers' action at the places of work, and set up the decentralisation of initiative through

local self-building schemes, health schemes, groups based on the idea of the locality rather than the centre. The new society can be built "in the shell of the old", and the revolutionary change-over, the cracking of the eggshell, as it were, will then be much readier of achievement. A.M.

## Survival

### 'Our' Bomb

BRITAIN has exploded an atomic bomb "technically superior" to those exploded by the American and Russian Governments. We are assured, however, that Britain is not at all aggressive or warlike but is so concerned with peace that she produces a bigger and better bomb than any other country.

Of course, the Russian and American Governments are likewise attempting to gull their peoples with such meaningless statements. All governments in all countries claim that they do not want war but at the same time most of them are desperately preparing for it. Surely we must realise that the threat of war is just as real as it was in even 1936. Apart from the production of war weapons, already we can see extensive signs of war preparations nearer home. Every borough, depending on its size, has civil defence centres advertising on a large scale for volunteers. Posters confront us wherever we go, stressing the necessity of preparing for war. This has the effect of not only roping people in because of the fear it invokes, but of working us up into a warlike attitude.

Are we then concerned with preventing war? If so, what can we do about it?

Let us deal with the first question. Do we want to prevent war? Quite apart from the moral issue involved, let us ask ourselves if there are any practical gains to be made from war. Obviously, there are none for the workers at any rate. If we consider only the

last war, of which the signs are so fresh in our memories, we realise how little is to be gained by war! Loss of civil rights, rationing, permits to transfer from one job to another, to mention only a few, and last, but perhaps most important, the senseless loss of life. Thousands of men and women died believing that they were fighting for the greatest cause of all time, Democracy. Freedom and Justice were to be the gains for those who suffered to free the world of Fascism. In the light of events since the end of the war, can people still believe that this is what they fought for? Does the release of the Nazi criminals, the reinstatement of the butcher Herr Krupp, the aid given to Fascist Spain, not prove that there must have been other reasons? Could it have been for greedy, economic and political gains for the capitalists? And were not the anarchists warning you what would be the outcome long before 1945?

At the same time, do not be fooled by the slogans of Stalin's representatives in this country. They are playing the political game just as are the so-called democracies. Events in the last war proved that the Stalinists will do a deal with anyone to further the interests of the Russian rulers, as witness the non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany in the early days of the last war.

We could go on filling pages proving that the ordinary people gain nothing by participating in war, but in fact increase their hardships. Our own experience should have taught us this.

What then can we as individuals do to prevent another war? The old slogan "Wars will cease when men refuse to fight" forms part of the answer. But we must also refuse to take part in the production of any war materials whether it is armaments, uniforms for serving men or civil defence. Above all, we must work towards a free anarchist society destroying the conditions which give rise to war.

Many people agree with us on these issues but argue that one individual resisting attempts to drag him into war production will gain very little. We agree that if there was only one man resisting it would be a noble gesture but would be of little practical value, but our appeal is to every individual we can possibly contact, or you can possibly contact.

The slogan coined by the old revolutionaries that a "bayonet is a weapon with a worker at each end" may sound out of date in face of modern atomic developments, but the effects are precisely the same—"whoever wins a war, the workers always lose".

It is no longer a matter of this political party or that one, of this ideology or that one, it is a matter of *survival*. If in fact you want to live, refuse to support the preparation for war in any form. R.M.

If you don't like

Wage Slavery  
War  
Unemployment

then don't trust

Politicians  
T.U. leaders  
ANY government

but stand solid, organise and strike

Where it hurts  
Where you can get at things  
WHERE YOU WORK

## History • • • • •

### Syndicalism in America

ALTHOUGH never adopting the name "syndicalist" the first movement bringing syndicalist tactics on a big scale amongst English-speaking workers, was the American I.W.W. The Industrial Workers of the World first set forth the principle of industrial unionism, as opposed to the narrow craft divisions of reformist labour, and stood for direct action on the industrial field.

In the years 1906-16 there was a glorious decade of militant action in the history of American labour, in which the I.W.W. organized the most neglected of all U.S. workers, totally ignored by the craft unions: migratory workers, in particular, but also extended to many major industries (especially the maritime workers).

The songs which stimulated the I.W.W. have become known all over the English-speaking world as "American folklore" but what is particularly interesting about the I.W.W. is firstly its recognition of the part to be played by industrial unions in an industrialized society and how the industrial unions could be the framework of the new society; secondly, its practical proof of how the social strike could be used to effect, and how direct action could force

from the bloodiest ruling-class in the world free speech and other inherent rights which the parliamentary socialists claims can only be achieved through compromise on the industrial field and political intervention; thirdly, how an independent labour movement can be built despite the fiercest opposition of the "labour fakirs" of the trade unions.

Faced with a ferocious repression by lumber and copper barons, bitter police persecution, violent "Vigilante" (American Fascist) raids resulting in death or torture, the I.W.W. nevertheless managed to survive the period of American participation in World War I, but subsequently to the war many factors combined to minimise its importance in numerical strength: increasing labour reformism, the growth of the phoney "communist" revolutionary phase, under the "glamour value" of the Russian revolution, and the general world-wide slackening in working-class revolutionary fervour during the inter-war years. However, its importance in revolutionary possibilities can never be sufficiently stressed, and the nucleus of industrial unions kept alive by the I.W.W. in the U.S.A. has stressed the major premises on which this American syndicalist movement was founded:

Direct action;  
Industrial unions to be the germ of the new society within the framework of the old;  
No political collaboration;  
Internationalism (a significant factor in U.S. labour movements, divided by racial, colour and other bars).

Incidentally, many of our readers will be interested in the Chicago "Industrial Worker", organ of the I.W.W.

## Reading • • • • •

### SYNDICALISM—THE WORKERS' NEXT STEP

By PHILIP SANSOM

48 pages One Shilling

FREEDOM PRESS

27 Red Lion Street, London, W.C.1

THEY start coming time of the year, adays they get their before starting work, finish work after that O.A.P. In some com being old enough at for oneself is something But who can say that factory to make the t

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The State in its w Private Enterprise in ward with the second the State will reme What's the good of t now?—a few more y scription? After the s sented by compulsory its most absurd in the scholars are willy-nill months which is com point of view whatso duces the unemploy always occasioned by market with juveniles work racket engaged in First of all he uses th for which he is relu facilities—get a kid in —and the blind-alley the further waste of t conscription) they wi money and fairly eas open-air (hence the p boy supply). Of co learning a trade. M stands round the jo employer seldom prov compared with the ch for the other jobs.

But what a blow to if he is to be som

## The Syndicalist Correspondent Wanted

READERS are remi THE SYNDICALIST from all areas and become financially sta circulation and we t be able to do that wh coverage of the work country.

If you are disappoint has not dealt with so in your neighbourhood yourself for not telli not even have heard a editors, organisers or backing, we have to r ing us from our reade we can only gather press—and you know working-class issues!

If, therefore, you a and want to see it bec and influential—lend fluence to it! Don't or spelling—it's info want.

And even if you d and tell us that, too can answer objections directions!

IF YOU LIKE The Sy



# Youth and the Machine

THEY start coming into industry about this time of the year, poor kids. Usually nowadays they get their holidays over at least before starting work, and the majority don't finish work after that until they qualify for the O.A.P. In some communities the feeling of being old enough at last to go out and fend for oneself is something pretty big in one's life. But who can say that about clocking on in a factory to make the tea for a year or so?

A month or so ago they were still being "taught" by our wonderful scholastic system and may still remember some of the kings, queens and knaves of England. Now they are putting their "education" to good use by tying up parcels, licking stamps, carrying the tools, hanging on a rope at the back of a lorry, running messages, brewing up or fetching the penn'orth of elbow-grease from the nearest shop. Their second education has begun.

The State in its wisdom provided the first. Private Enterprise in all its glory comes forward with the second. But after a few years the State will remember them once more. What's the good of troubling about anything now?—a few more years and up comes conscription. After the sheer waste of time represented by compulsory State education, seen at its most absurd in the last year, when reluctant scholars are willy-nilly given an extra twelve months which is completely useless from any point of view whatsoever save in that it reduces the unemployment to older workers always occasioned by the flooding of the labour market with juveniles, then comes the cheap work racket engaged in by the private capitalist. First of all he uses them for all the odd jobs for which he is reluctant to provide proper facilities—get a kid in to do the running about—and the blind-alley jobs which (in view of the further waste of time pending by virtue of conscription) they will take when it is easy money and fairly easy work—especially if it is open-air (hence the periodical re-issue of van-boy supply). Of course, the apprentices are learning a trade. Most anybody does if he stands round the job long enough, but the employer seldom provides any real training as compared with the cheap labour he is getting for the other jobs.

But what a blow to the boy learning a trade if he is to be so much lower paid than he

would be if he were doing any of the jobs for which the employer prefers cheap juvenile labour to engaging older men, when he realises that he is going to be grabbed back by the State for the Army.

It is impossible to paint too depressing a picture of youth dragged into the great machine, step by step from school to industry to army and back to industry for the rest of its life. But youth must be the time of rebellion and the man who is not a rebel at least when he is young will not only be a slave the rest of his life but a coward too. Later on family responsibilities may well keep the more timid from what they consider to be "sticking their neck out", and hence the great rebel movements always depend on the generous impulses of youth together with the experience of the older man.

Every generation that comes into industry does not have to accept what seems inevitable—for instance the trade union and political socialist movement, trading solely on the memory of the past, putting up leaders who were militants thirty or forty years ago and asking us in virtue of that fact to consider

them as militants to-day, when they have long since been respectable and solid members of society.

Instead let us have militancy right here and now. We know full well that things are better than they were and for that thanks must be given to militants of days gone by. But the real militants of those days, who are still alive, are still militants. The truth is that these "leaders" are the semi-militants of yesterday, those who sold out first. Each new generation in industry has in its hand the possibility of building the traditions of to-morrow.

Its future struggles depend for success on their actions now, in opposing petty tyranny, senseless jobs, in their attitude to the mean power of the Labour Exchange from the time it registers them first to the time it puts them in uniform. If enough young chaps start standing out against the Machine that is enslaving them now, in due time they will be penetrating into industry and making things hum there, building up the revolutionary syndicalist movement for the transference of industry from those who own it to those who operate it.

A.M.

## The Mines • • • • •

### N.C.B. Attacks the Disabled

RADSTOCK.

FACED with the biggest loss of any of Britain's coalfields, although paying the lowest average wage in the country, the N.C.B. in the Somerset area are seeking to offset this loss at the expense of the aged and disabled miners. Because of their inability to live on the pittance of retirement pension or disability benefit, these miners both over the age of 65 and under if disabled, had been given "light" work in or around the pit. In order to cut the loss made locally, in spite of showing substantial profit in other areas, the Coal Board are declaring most miners of 65 and over to be "redundant" and bringing pressure to bear on those partially disabled miners to undertake work of a more arduous nature, to do a "full shift's work", or find work outside the industry.

Such treatment of these miners who have given, in many cases their entire working lives of 50 years and more, who have shed blood and suffer ruined health is typical of the local Board which while continuing to pay millions of pounds to the ex-coal owners by way of compensation, hopes to balance their books by the methods of enforced retirement and hounding cripples. The tempers of the Somerset miners at the sight of this heartlessness has already manifested itself in the fact that of the eight collieries in the coalfield only three pits have agreed to work the Saturday shift this coming winter. Angry voices have been heard to express the opinion that if the National Coal Board can afford to carry the cost of compensating those ex-owners to the tune of many millions of pounds a year and providing other ex-coal bosses with well paid jobs on the Coal Board at all levels, then things being what they are at the moment the cost of carrying these old and "crooked" miners can likewise be borne.

In some of the collieries, miners have not been slow to recognise the connection between this "redundancy" and the demand by the Coal Board for the working of the Saturday shift. At a time when stocks of coal are rising,

the working of overtime and extra shifts can only further threaten the livelihood of those less capable of doing a "full shift's work". Moreover the chances of the British miners' demand for a wage increase being granted becomes more remote, for the success of the miners' claim ultimately rests on the theoretic possibility of the miners going on strike and what sort of a strike is it likely to be if the miners first build up the stocks of coal which will be used to starve them into submission?

To win the struggle for the wage increase the rank and file of the National Union of Mineworkers must first repudiate the faint-hearted "leadership" of Lawther and Co. who by their support of T.U.C. General Council's policy of wage restraint at the Margate Conference have indicated to the National Coal Board their extreme reluctance to press for the 30/- increase. Only when the membership of the N.U.M. are prepared to take matters into their own hands and show the N.C.B. that they really mean business will the British miner even begin to win the battle for the 30/-. As always, it will be direct action or the threat of direct action which will tell most with the bosses of the Coal Board.

JOHNNIE MINER

## Read:.....

### FREEDOM

*The Anarchist Weekly*, 3d.  
From: *Freedom Press*, 27 Red Lion Street, London, W.C.1.

### PORTWORKERS' CLARION

*Organ of the Merseyside Portworkers' Committee*, 2d. monthly.

From: *Bill Murphy*, 25 Harding Ave., Bidston, Birkenhead, Cheshire.  
*Freedom Bookshop*, 27 Red Lion Street, London, W.C.1.

## The Syndicalist..... Correspondents Wanted

READERS are reminded that the columns of THE SYNDICALIST are open to contributions from all areas and upon all industries. To become financially stable we must increase our circulation and we think that we shall only be able to do that when we have increased our coverage of the workers' struggle all over the country.

If you are disappointed that THE SYNDICALIST has not dealt with some very interesting event in your neighbourhood—don't blame us—blame yourself for not telling us about it. We may not even have heard about it! Having no paid editors, organisers or reporters and no capitalist backing, we have to rely on information reaching us from our readers themselves. Otherwise we can only gather news from the capitalist press—and you know how reliable that is on working-class issues!

If, therefore, you are interested in this paper and want to see it becoming more authoritative and influential—lend your authority and influence to it! Don't worry about literary style or spelling—it's information and opinion we want.

And even if you don't agree with us—write and tell us that, too—we fancy ourselves we can answer objections to syndicalism from most directions!

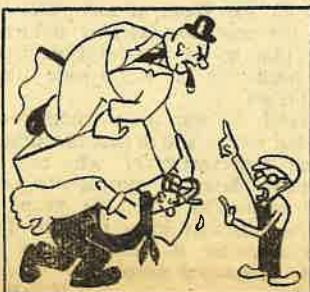
THE EDITORS.

## IF YOU LIKE

### The Syndicalist

DISTRIBUTE IT!

### SCISSOR BILL



### Another One to Carry



strike

at things  
ORK



# The Waste of Capitalism

BACK in the pre-war years, the days of the "hungry thirties" when millions of men were out of work, unemployment was called unemployment. These days, in keeping with the fashion of coining new words to disguise old evils, unemployment is known as redundancy. A fancy word with the same result—no job, no wages, no hope.

## ARTIFICIAL SHORTAGES

Of all the sins that capitalism is guilty of, unemployment is the greatest, for it is the sin of waste. We live in a world of false values, luxury goods are produced by workers for the benefit of the idle rich. The men who produce those goods will never earn enough money to purchase them. Despite the trumpet calls of the Tories for more production, these people really desire under-production or a condition of artificial shortage so that prices will be forced up and up. Capitalism is interested only in the production of goods for profit. That is its sole motivating force. There were several occasions in the "thirties" when foodstuffs were burned or dumped in the sea because there was no market for them. In other words, there was not enough wage power in the workers to buy the food they had produced. Sugar, coffee, rice and oranges were dumped at sea off Brazil and many other places. Herrings and other fish, the produce of the waters around our island, were also dumped into the sea because we did not have the coin to buy them. All this in a world of hungry people. Thousands died of starvation in the Far East and still are dying each year. Millions of people, mainly the Asiatic people, are virtually denied the right to live because a few capitalists own and control the means of production.

Let us take a look at unemployment figures in America in the slump years 1930-1933. After the "sky's the limit" boom in those post-war years came the crash and the production capacity of the worker was only being utilised to 50 per cent. of its capabilities. The position in Great Britain was broadly speaking the same level as in the U.S.A. These figures were maintained in both countries until 1939.

## PROFIT—NOT HAPPINESS

Thus we see that for nine years the productive capacity of the workers of both nations was wasted. Only half the houses, half the food, half the factories, welfare services, etc., were being produced. They were not being produced because the workers were not allowed to produce them—for the capitalist machine had broken down. History is repeating itself and once more the ominous signs have appeared, redundancy notices are being posted in shipyards, motor car factories, and in our

own industry. We must resist them; we want work, we need goods, clothes, houses, we want more of the labour-saving devices for our wives. We want to produce the goods that the people of the world need. We want to live decently and we must not be denied that right by any system which leaves the means of production and distribution in the hands of a rapacious clique of capitalists who barter the lives and happiness of workers for profits.

JOHN MCSHANE.  
(From the *Portworkers' Clarion*,  
September, 1952.)

## Editor's Note:

AND we don't have to go to pre-war times for examples of capitalist waste. Earlier this year, in the richest country in the world, America, there was a shortage of potatoes, but last year they were being dumped, burned and buried.

## LETTERS.....

### Defence Needed

SHORTLY after the Home Secretary's letter on Civil Defence to Local Authorities, the Huddersfield Town Council, like other town councils, started a vigorous civil defence campaign to recruit the workers to join up and protect themselves (and the council) from Crimes against Humanity.

At the same time they increased the work task of the corporation workers above the existing maximum endeavour condition. Knowledge being the qualification of administrative position, these people are well aware that such an imposition can only result in injury to health and premature death, regardless of the consequences to workers' dependants.

This being a parallel result to the Crimes against Humanity, local authorities are among those the workers need defending against.  
*Huddersfield.* A.L.

### Illusions

WHAT has happened to those clever lads who told us that we ought to vote Conservative because then at least the Labour leaders would go militant, the trade unions would look after the workers' interests, or that there would be a wave of industrial unrest?

It sounded so bright and new in working class towns where the Labourites had been entrenched so long, and had a certain amount of attraction to those fed up with seeing the trade union movement the stooge of a "socialist" government. But it must be a bit tarnished now.

Come on lads, wake up—we've had the Labour Government friend-of-the-workers illusion and the Tory Government driving-the-unions-to-action illusion. If you're not careful there will be no more illusions and the workers will begin to act for themselves—without any political sidetracking whatsoever.  
*London.* ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST.

### The Syndicalist for Sanity

CONGRATULATIONS on a well-produced and informative monthly in THE SYNDICALIST. I am enclosing a dollar for an extra copy of same for distribution.

Here, in this capitalist paradise, the workers now realise the need for solidarity but fail to recognise their own individual strength, delegating their power to "leaders", the ultimate decisions being made by the "big wigs" on the executive in the United States.

I found that in the West, at any rate, the I.W.W. had in the past considerable influence and I consider that at the present time there is an urgent need for a world-wide unity between the workers.

Here, the march to war gains momentum with no dissenting voices and in fact encouraged by the "workers' representatives" who call for bigger Government "defence" contracts to keep their members employed. So, the propagation of anarcho-syndicalist ideas through THE SYNDICALIST is essential if sanity is to be restored to these misguided people.  
*Toronto, Canada.* H.G.B.

This was because last year the U.S. Government were paying farmers a subsidy on potatoes—so farmers grew plenty. This year the subsidy has been removed, so farmers have switched to more profitable crops: Result—waste one year, no spuds the next.

Earlier this year we again had the spectacle of plums and cherries rotting in the orchards "because it was not economical to pick them". How many workers had as much fruit as they and their families could enjoy? But in the orchards fruit was rotting on the trees, attracting pests, rotting on the ground, souring the soil.

We could have made jam and preserves, but what was the sugar position? No extra ration for jam making this year, although even the Labour Food Ministers had managed that. Two years ago, Maurice Webb, Labour's Food Minister, said that he "feared" there would be a glut of sugar. He was right. In Cuba they have more sugar than they can sell—we haven't the dollars to buy it. So the sugar producers are now going to curtail production! Result, no sugar for us, unemployment for Cuban workers.

And it is still pretended that capitalism works!

The Syndicalist solution is:—Production for use and not for profit. Abolition of the wages and money systems, and free access to the means of life for all. From each according to his ability; to each according to his need.

## UNION DEMOCRACY

THE sham democracy in the trades unions has been shown up rather badly lately. First there was the publication of a book on the Transport and General Workers' Union, *Democracy in the British Trade Unions*, by Joseph Goldstein, which blew the gaff on how, among other things, elections for union jobs are fixed behind the scenes.

In one election, a dozen shop stewards sat down and, all with different coloured pencils, filled-in ballot papers for 58% of the membership. In one case they were too conscientious, for it was discovered that 104% of the membership had voted!

Now comes the Welsh miners' protest against the N.U.M. leaderships' vote for wage restraint at the T.U.C. at Margate. The miners say the decision was taken without consulting the rank and file. Lawther replies that it is none of their business. After all, they only pay the fat salaries for the equally fat officials—they can't expect to be consulted as well as robbed!

## Meetings

The Anarcho-Syndicalist point of view can be heard in:

GLASGOW—  
Central Halls (Bath St.) Sundays at 7 p.m.

LONDON—  
Hyde Park, Sundays at 4.30 p.m.  
Manette St. (Char. X Rd.), Saturdays at 6 p.m.  
Tower Hill, Fridays at 12.30 p.m.

THE SYNDICALIST is on sale at all meetings.

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## BEVAN — Continued from p. 1

power lies." And Bevan tells us that he was there and then determined to win that power, but when he was elected to the local Council he found that the power was still higher up—and he has pursued power right the way up to the top.

Suppose he achieves the highest position? Suppose he becomes Prime Minister—what then? The Bevan group believe (or declare) that only more "socialist" planning can get Britain out of its economic mess—and maintain the degree of rearmament they support. More nationalisation and more State control—more bureaucracy and more regimentation. And they are not opposed to rearmament *as such*. They are not opposed to conscription; they are not opposed to capitalism as long as it has a veneer of the Welfare State to hide its grosser injustices, as long as it is State capitalism rather than the private kind.

Syndicalists are opposed to all forms of capitalism. We recognise the State for what it is—the machinery of power for the defence of privilege, and unlike the Marxist Bevan we do not pretend it can be used to emancipate the working class. As long as any sort of superstructure exists above the workers—whether it is political, economic or religious, there will be privileges, injustice and the domination of man over man. The alternative to State control is not State control—it is workers'