

Roosevelt "Democracy"

We reproduce a letter sent to the organ of our American brother Party, the "Militant" which desscribes the conditions which obtain in the Southern States of America. While pretending to wage a war for "democracy" the American capitalist s maintain similar racial oppression, terror and discrimination as the Nazis do in Europe. Our brother Party in America, the Socialist Workers' Party, is conducting a systematic struggle against " Jim Crowism," and all forms of racial discrimination and oppression.

THE " DEEP SOUTH "

Editor:

The atmosphere here in the "Deep South" fairly crackles with the leash- T.B ed fury of the Negro people at gener- Danes ations of degrading repressions. And more Negro blood has flown in the South since Pearl Harbour than you would know about from reading the papers. The following "incidents" reported to me never saw print:

Louisiana, white woman: "Why, Narbeth Sympathiser them niggers are trying to take over the South. 150 of them marched on Ebbw Vale Sympathiser our town a while back, were going to take it over. We got word they were coming, and a crowd of white MP's and the town's strong men went out to meet them. They got as far as the depot there. Our men stopped them with bullets." . . I asked were the Negroes armed. She said sure, "but we shot first." I remarked that I hadn't read that in the papers. "Sure not," she said. "A lot of other things South Wales ... like that aren't in the papers, either. Them niggers'll learn that this ain't the north!"

Mississipi, farmer: "Why the other day, one of them niggers got on the bus and set right down by a white woman. The bus driver told him to News git up and he refused to do hit. The bus driver called ahead to have the sheriff meet the bus at the next stop Edinburgh RC.P. and a squad of armed men met the bus H.A. and ordered the nigger to git off and Hugi he Jist set there. They had to drag him off the bus and they filled him full of lead on the spot. But that won't cure them. We got to do more than kill one nigger to cure them."

All bus drivers, I was told, carry guns now. "They have to, the niggers has got so bad."

I got on the bus at Alexandria, La. and there were no empty seats. As I was standing in the aisle, perfectly willing to take my turn at standing, the driver came back and ordered a Negro sailor to get up and give me his seat. I protested that I didn't want to take another's seat, but the driver again rudely ordered the sailor to get up and move back. I had to take the seat; I knew that if I protested again it might make trouble for the Negro.

It is practically worth a Negro man's life to be seen talking to a white woman, so I couldn't even apologize to him. It was a very uncomfortable ride for me but I noted that the Negroes didn't take it uncomplainingly. They muttered among themselves quite audlbly, and I heard one man say distinct-ly that "in some parts of the country, service men of all colors get the choice of seats," and there was a general murmur of approbation from the Negroes. It is a new thing in the South for Negroes to dare to publicly state their discontent.

Another time I was riding on an almost empty bus. I had a seat towards the rear of the coach, and across the aisle from me two Negro men sat quietly talking to each other. Suddenly the driver stopped the bus and strode furiously back and ordered the Negroes to move back. "Can't you see there's white folks sitting there?" he shouted, meaning me.

I quickly got up, and said, "Why don't I move up?" There are plenty of empty seats," and started to take another seat. The driver blocked my way and said "Keep your seat. They kin move back." I pushed him out of my way and took a forward seat, saying I dish't want to incompany the said. ing I didn't want to inconvenience other people needlessly. The Negroes sat there. The driver slouched back up front and looked his hatred at me

One significant thing I have noticed. There is more friendly, easy talk be-tween whites and Negroes, in spite of the terrorism, than there ever was in the days before the war. I have seen white boys and men talking to Negroes on the buses many times, talking as men talk to each other. In Baton Rouge I spoke to a friend about the "Negro menace." This friend, certainly no radical, replied that the situation is due almost solely to the fear that has taken hold of the white people, and their reaction to it. They are treating the Negroes so badly that they are making inevitable the explosion that seems imminent.



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T.W.

M.H.

R. (Swansea)

Liverpool

C.T.

M.H.

Tony

Dan

Hugh

P. (Brynammon)

Motherwell R.C.P.

H.W. (Plymouth)

Charlie White

Harry Haston

J. Bains ...

Chingford R.C.P.

Newcastle R.C.P.

Glasgow R.C.P.

R.J.W. ...

J.P., Cairo

question of old prices and consolid-ation generally was left in abeyance. 5 0 ... 1 0 0 ... Newcastle Lianelly 10 Brynammon 1

2

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Total ... £104 13 5

C.P. Sabotages

Blitz Workers

Committee

At its meeting held at the Royal Vet Hostel, Camden Town, London, on the 22nd November, the London Blitz Workers Hostel and Site Committee

carried their attempt to organise an

There was a reported increase in the

-by the delegates who assembled to

report and discuss the next stage in

where the building workers are billet-

ed; cold and poor food served in the

canteens as well as at dinner break.

But the main grievances are the low

the organisation.

union bureaucrats.

Action Committee a step further.

result of consolidation when putting in the same effort as before. The A. V. Roe management were not prepared to recognise this arrangement. This meant workers returned, on condition that

LIVE PLANTS

DEAD PLANTS

CAPITALISM

IN WAR AND PEACE

Reproduced from U.S. Trotskyist paper "The Militant".

A.V. ROE STRIKE

Dispute Over Award 356

BY D. MORGAN

The recent 12 day strike of A. V. a loss of 10 per cent or more in wages they would strike again if the time Roe workers at Woodford and Manford the majority of workers, and as adjustments are not satisfactory.

The recent 12 day strike of A. V. a loss of 10 per cent or more in wages they would strike again if the time adjustments are not satisfactory. own tools" by 30,000 workers.

he strike was provoked by the Manement's "interpretation" of Award the Award that provoked the Bar-

WORKS COMMITTEE OFFICIAL BULLETIN PUTS CASE

The Works Committee official Bulletin outlines the case of the struggle as follows:

"Owing to the controversy caused throughout the engineering trade by Award 326, the National Arbitration Tribunal met again on the 25th September to answer eight questions submitted by the Engineering and Allied Employers Federation and by the National Engineering and Joint Trades Movement as to the interpretation of the Award.

After a Works Conference on the 28th October, the first claim for retrospective pay inside the Avro Group was made and proved. This claim concerned only those prices signed up since the Award.

The Woodford Works Committee put forward a supplementary claim for consolidation of all prices signed before the Award on a basis of the average bonus earned at the time of the Award and retrospective pay-ment on them."

ratives, threatened all the A. V. wages can easily be calculated by the e plants in the North West, and fact that £60,000 in back pay was in-

A local Conference was called to discuss the claims of the workers: "failure to agree was registered". The dispute then went to a Central Conferrow strike a year ago—and its refusal ence at York where the findings were to carry out the findings of a York referred back to the Works for final settlement. On the basis of this decision the Stewards hoped to achieve a speedy settlement. The manage-ment's idea of settlement was that the workers "should forget" their demands. After six months negotiation, and eighteen months after the date of the Award, the Works Committee was confronted with a situation where a member of the Employers' Federation refused to apply a decision of their Executive body!

> The management refused all atempts to solve the problem. Monday 23rd October, at a meeting of production workers they passed the following resolution. "In view of the management's refusal to settle our claim under the 326 wage award, we herewith withdraw our labour, pending Ministry of Labour Enquiry into the action of the firm."

1,500 workers came out, later these were joined by 800 workers in the Manchester factory. Workers through-out the whole A. V. Roe North-West actories threatened to down tools in ympathy.

As a result of this threatened complete stoppage, a composite Conference was agreed to. At this Conference the bosses' representatives upheld the management's interpretation. Because of the workers' delegates opposition they agreed that the firm would com-The intention of the Award was that pute bonus on the consolidated rate, the piece worker should not lose as a provided the workers agreed to adjust-

On the basis of this agreement the

DEAD MEN

A substantial victory has been won as a result of this direct militant action. But for the treacherous role of the union officials—who at every stage frantically demanded a return to work -a greater victory would have been If the workers had accepted the policy of the union officials and Stalinists they would have lost everything.

The workers of Woodford and Man-

chester A. V. Roe have learnt by their own experience that Arbitartion machinery works in the interest of the boss The E.W.O. and class collaboration must go! For a militant union leadership-for effective factory organ-

South Wales DEFENCE COMMITTEE

The delegate Conference held in Troedyrhiw on Saturday, November 11th was called by the Merthyr Provisional Defence Committee in order to widen the representative basis of the Committee and to establish, if possible, a permanent Defence Committee in this important mining area of South

The delegates present represented he following organisations:

Merthyr Trades Council and Labour

Dowlais Womens Co-op Guild Merthyr I.L.P.

Revolutionary Communist Party National Union of Public Employees National Union of General and Mun-

icipal Workers A.E.U. No. 2

Amalgamated Union of Locomen, Engineers and Firemen

Dowlais Lodge S.W.M.F. Merthyr Vale Lodge S.W.M.F. Penalta Lodge S.W.M.F.

The Conference was Councillor Claude Stanfield (I.L.P.).

Discussion was opened by Mr. S. O. Davies, M.P., who showed quite clearly paring to ling class is consciously preialist aspirations will the workers' ing struggles they will not not not not use all the anti-working legislatide which is at present on the Statute Book. The general discussion which followed showed that the delegates were alive to the necessity to establish representative Defence Committee and the general opinion expressed was that such a Committee would not only provide invaluable aid to any victims of ruling class legislation but would also act as a rallying point in the defence of Labour's hard-won rights.

A resolution was then adopted re-electing the old Provisional Committee and deferring the setting up of a permanent committee to a further conference to be called after the delegates had reported back to their organisations and received the necessary mandate.

John Lawrence.

Labour to Power

on the following Programme

AN END TO THE COALITION WITH THE BOSSES. LABOUR AND TRADE UNION LEADERS MUST BREAK WITH THE CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT AND WAGE CAMPAIGN FOR POWER ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME:-

Industrial and Economic Policy.

Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, tr. sport and all big in dustry wit. Jut compensation, as the prerequisite for a planned economy and the only means of ensuring full employment with adequate standards of living for the workers, and the operation of the means of production under control of workers committees.

Confiscation of all war profits, all company books to be open for trade union inspection, control of production through workers' committees to end the chaos and mis-

management.

Distribution of food, clothes and other consumers commodities under the control of committees of workers elected from the Co-ops, distributive trades, factories, wives' committees, and small shop-keepers, and allocation of housing under the control of tenants' committees.

A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum; the rate for the lob; and industrial rates for all members of the armed forces.

Democratic Demands

5. Repeal of the Essential Works Order, the Emeregency Powers Act and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking legislation. Full electoral and democratic rights

for all persons from the age of 18 years. Full democratic and political rights for the men and women in uniform.

Immediate freedom and unconditional independence for India, Ireland and all the colonies of Brit-ain; immediate withdrawal of British armed forces from these countries; full economic and military assistance to the Indian and colonial peoples to maintain their independence against all imperialist attack.

Military Policy

8. Clear out the reactionary, profascist, and anti-labour officer caste in the armed forces and Home Guard; election of officers by the ranks

9. Establishment of military schools by the Trade Unions at the expense of the state for the training of workerofficers; arming of the workers under the control of workers' committees elected in the factories, unions and in the streets for the defence of the democratic rights of the workers from reactionary attacks by the enemies of the working class at home and abroad.

International Policy

0. Against race hatred and discrim-Antion of all forms (Vansittartism, Bar); for the and the Colour co-operation of workersation and iers of all countries.

1. Unconditional defence of the Soviet Union against all imperialist powers; despatch of arms, food and essential materials to the Soviet Union under the control of the Trade Unions and factory committees.

12. A Socialist appeal to the workers of Germany, Europe, Japan, and the rest of the world, on the basis of this programme in Britain, to join the socialist struggle against Nazism, Fascism and all forms of capitalist oppression and for a Socialist United States of Europe and a Federation of Asiatic Soviet Socialist Republics.

not included in last month's "Socialist have gone in the last issue and which should be of interest to our members and sympathisers. We hope Branch Secretaries will continue to send items of interest regularly each month.

NOTTINGHAM.

On Sunday, 8th October, the Not-ingham Branch of the R.C.P., co-perated with the I.L.P. in organising an Anti-Labour Laws Victims Defence Committee meeting held at the Circus Street Hall. Comrade **Ted Fletcher** of the Birmingham' I.L.P. and Comrades Roy Tearse and Jock Haston were the speakers. Eric Nightingale, prominent member of the Nottingham District Committee of the A.E.U. was in the chair. About 300 people listened attentively while the three speakers dealt with the significance of the attack on the R.C.P. under the Trade Disputes Act. The overwhelming majority of the workers present were engineers from a number of Notting-ham factories. Two delegates from the Albion Strike Committee (Glasgow) asked to be given the platform for 10 minutes to state the case of the 1,600 Albion workers then out on strike. An appeal for solidarity was warmly responded to.

SHEFFIELD.

At a meeting of sympathisers organised by the Sheffield Branch of the Ric.P., 35 workers listened to Comrade International as they apply to the problems of the workers in uniform.

Owing to a hitch. Party Notes were | Tyneside strike case, the attack against our Party, and the perspectives for the Appeal". We are therefore including made for the party. Over £4 was colsome items of party news which should lected which is excellent taking into consideration the low wages of the Sheffield workers. A quantity of literature was sold.

GLASGOW.

Regular open-air meetings are being held in Brunswick Street on Sundays at 3 p.m. with Comrade Frank Ward as the main regular speaker. The meetings serve two purposes—propa-ganda and training of speakers.

In addition to our weekly indoor study class (open to all contacts) a special class for workers in a large factory was started four weeks ago. Comrade Roy Tearse gave the first four lectures which were well received, and the class shows signs of increasing in numbers. We hope to run other factory classes in the very near future To raise funds, a dance was arranged

for Friday, 10th November in Hillhead Burgh Halls.

EDINBURGH.

Public meetings are being held at the Melbourne Hall every Sunday night. Comrade Frank Ward, the Party's Scottish organiser, (recently discharged from the air force "services no longer required") spoke to an audience of 50 workers on the "Military Policy of the Proletariat." Drawing the full political conclusions from the position in the armed forces and from his own experiences, he explained

Bill Davy, Type apprentice leader spoke at the following meeting to about 100 workers on the "Lessons of the Tyne strike and the problems facing the Youth." He received a wonderful reception from the audience who were impressed by his ability in expounding the Party's case. Harold Atkinson spoke on the anniversary of the Russian Revolution and our position was well received. The average attendances rea 50 to 60 workers.

The study class which meets every Wednesday in Marthyr will in future be held in the I.L.P. Rooms at 7 p.m. and not as previously stated, in the Miners' Hall.

MERSEY.

A central study circle for members and sympathisers has been inaugurated under the auspices of the Merseyside District Committee of the R.C.P. to be held on Sundays, in Cooper's Hall, Islington Square, Liverpool, at 4 p.m.

BELFAST.

The Belfast, Comrades are holding regular study circles each Sunday at 36 Gresham Street, commencing at 8 All interested in the programme of the Fourth International are invited to attend. Discussion follows each lecture.

BIRMINGHAM.

The Birmingham comrades are organising an India Meeting to be held on Indian Independence Day in Birm-ingham on January 26th, 1945. The two Indian speakers will be Ajit Roy and V. Sastry. Arrangements are already in hand to draw a full meeting of Indian workers in the district.



unionists. Jock Kennedy, an official of the A.S.W. and leader of the Stalinist faction in the London District of that Union who was the only paid official present, led the attack to smash the Blitz Action Committee, and to convert it into safe channels for the trade

The rules of the Union were suffi-ciently elastic, he said, to keep in check any attempt to set up an unofficial committee which tried to deal with wages and conditions. He was followed one by one by the Stalinist faction, who demanded that the Action Committee be converted into a "welfare" committee.

One delegate reported that a Trade Union official had come on the job at the insistence of the workers to correct a grievance, and before he went he told the management that they were D.S., Batton Rouge, La. paying their workmen over the rate!

All the Stalinists took up the lead given by Kennedy in attacking the "Socialist Appeal" for trying to make "political capital" out of the meeting, as he put it. This expressed the rage number of workers represented-4,000 of the Stalinists at the fact that the assembled delegates eagerly bought the "Socialist Appeal" because of its forth-Among the numerous complaints and right presentation of the building grievances elaborated by the delegates were: lack of sheets in the hostel beds workers' case. The chairman, Ewan Carr certainly

gave the Stalinists a hiding. He re-fused to allow the Stalinists to draw the red herring of the "Socialist Appeal" sales into the discussion, and trounced the Stalinist slanders that the

by the ilk of **Kennedy**. He was the only paid official there. He said how sympathetic he felt to this committee . . . But it must not fight. If the other Trade Union bureaucrats kept away, they were honest. They didn't want rank and file committee and said Kennedy is much more dangerous because while pretending to be a friend of the rank and file, he is trying to smash up the movement from within.

Keep these people off your platforms. Let the delegates have time to express their wishes. Get down to forming a real fighting committee. If the conditions of building workers are bad now, they will be a thousand times worse after the war. The building workers have the opportunity of their lives not only to improve their shocking conditions, but to get better con-

The Death Agony of Capitalism AND THE TASKS OF THE WORKING CLASS
By Leon Trotsky OGRAPHE OF THE FOURTH INTERNATION.