DEPRESSED AREAS AGAIN WHY THE HUNGER Italian C.P. Attacks

The fear of unemployment is once again raising its ugly head. In many parts of the country, it is no longer a threat but the stark reality. According to the figures issued in March the total number of the unemployed to-day amounts to 370,000-an increase of 120,000 over the previous quarter.

The most sinister aspect about these figures however, is not the amount but their distribution. They are concentrated in a few areas, viz., South Wales, Scotland, Durham and the North-West coast, The old Depressed areas are coming back once again. In South Wales, according to a Labour M.P., "cold shivers are running down the spine of the people". In this area, including Monmouth-shire, there are at present 70,000 unemployed, the majority of whom are from mining, munitions, building and engineering trades. In Scotland, during the last nine months the total of unemployed workers has jumped up from 25,000 to 70,000.

The Government claims that the real problem that faces the country is not shortage of work but short-

even less excuse for not raising the existing scales of unemployment benefit. It is a disgrace and a national scandal that at a time industries were transferred from when the coal-owners are being compensated to the extent of over a hundred million pounds for an industry they have ruined and destroyed, that the unemployed man and his family should be made to live on an allowance which is harely enough to keep body and

In the House of Commons, one of the Labour M.P.s produced a letter from one of his unemployed constituents which gives us a vivid idea of the sense of injustice and frustration which prevails in the ranks of the unemployed worker to-day. We quote the following :

From An Unemployed Worker

"If our Government leaders and Members of Parliament scho for some reason call themselves Socialists could enjoy the benefit and happy position of being un-employed and try to balance a family budget on an income of £2 10s. with which to feed.

seeing themselves developing into bitter personalities and torture themselves about the things the stites of life—knowing that such needs cannot be satisfied because Seeigh decrease otherwise.

Is it surprising that men and women living under these condi-tions are contrasting their miserable allowances with the £1,000 salaries which the M.P.s want for themselves? If the Government cannot provide work for the unemtemporarily or otherwise, then they must provide for a decent standard of life for all these victims of capitalist society. Work or Full Maintenance—that must be our slogan, and the whole Labour movement must fight for its accomplishment.

"There are queues of men in Government claims, that there is a some districts looking for jobs but there are queues of employsers in other districts looking for the unemployed worker in South Wales or Scotland who finds it impossible to move out of his home. But if they are really so certain at the present unemployment is The workers in these areas are that the present unemployment is only a temporary thing, and will looking for something better from soon be wiped off, then they have the Labour Government than

> one area into another to suit the interests of the capitalists, leaving behind them a trail of misery and suffering in the form of the De-pressed A. eas. It should be the job of a Government that really stood for the interests of the workers to see that production serves the interests of the people. and not otherwise.
>
> So far as the Labour Govern-

ment 's concerned there have been no end of promises and assurances on this score. They have stated time and again that under no cir They have stated cumstances would they permit the resurrection of the Depressed Areas. What is lacking is not

Areas. What is lacking is not promises but a policy.

Take the case of South Wales.
Here, the Government has a scheme for 122 new factories. But of these only 28 are actually in hand. If and when they are completed, they will provide work for only 7,700 out of the total unem-ployed of 70,000. It is the same ployed of 70,000. It is thing in the other areas.

Much has been said of the delay, red-tape and inefficiency of the clothe and provide shelter for a man, his wife and two children they would be wishing and working for a bloody revolution and not waiting comfortably for a gradual social change. Whilst purities, they could deny themselves the luxury of a 'jag' or a half-a-pint of beer. . . They red-tape and inefficiency of the correction, red-tape and inefficiency of the correction, red-tape and inefficiency of the correction. Parametrical Bureaucraey. But the real reason why so much has been done in words and so little in practice lies deeper. It is the fact that 90% of the Government's planning for bringing new work in the once Depressed Areas depends on the good-will and co-operation of Big Business and City Finance.

from any sense of patriotism, but because they see in the abundance Society decrees otherwise." of female labour in these areas the possibilities of super-exploitation.

In South Wales, the majority of the newly transferred industries have little room for men, skilled or

In Durham, to quote from the speech of Mr. Levers in the House of Commons: "The factories that have been so far put up are em ploying young women and girls There is not an example of govern-ment factory sponsored directly or indirectly which is employing a man. The fathers are saying, 'Have we gone back to the unhappy days of the daughters keeping the fathers?'

It is becoming obvious to the workers in these areas that it is worse than useless to try to in-culate a spirit of patriotism and national responsibility in the calculations of the capitalist class. The Labour Government must abandon its policy of cajolery and persuasion and be prepared to take drastic action against the indiffersabotage of and

What is needed is a national plan for the organisation and distribution of industry in the interest of the working class, irrespective of profit. Such a plan does not exist today. Nor is it feasible so long as industry is owned and controlled by the capitalists. It is not enough for the Government to create a few islands of nationalised enterprise in the sea of monopoly capitalism. All Big industry must be brought under national owner ship without compensation, and operated under the control of the operated under the control of the workers. Only on this basis can there be a plan for full employment and security for the workers. If we are to avert a new economic disaster far worse than the depression of the thirties, then the whole Labour movement must impediately begin to ever all inmediately begin to exert all its strength to force the Labour leaders to implement this polic-

SUPPORT WEYMAN **STRIKERS**

During the dispute at Lagonda Motors, reported elsewhere in this issue, the workers at Weyman's Vehicle Body Builders, Addlestone gave their support to their fellow Trade Unionists on strike, ...Now Wayman's workers are themselves engaged in a stay-in

The issues at Weyman's are Dissatisfaction with the existing bonus rates. The workers demand that their The representatives should have a voice in the fixing of bonus rate, and the right to inspect

the firm's books. Coupled with these points demand a 160% T.U. shop.

All support for the Weyman

Also, in 1943 strikes accounted miners forced to work in other areas. No miner is allowed to leave the industry. Bevin boys are to be forced into the army. Such are Shinwell's threats to increase production! Already sections of the miners' unions have miners forced to work in other sections of the miners' unions have protested against this most disabsenteeism graceful attack upon the men who sweat their guts out to win coal. **Production Has Increased**

SHINWELL ATTACKS

MINERS

BY J. DEANE

miners has come not from some die-hard Tory, but from

a 'Socialist" Minister of Fuel, E. Shinwell! With the

full support of the Cabinet, Shinwell has threatened the

miners, and in particular the Bevin boys, who were forced

into the pits against their will, with ruthless action.

The most disgusting and reactionary attack upon the

Despite the increase in produc-

tion of 54,500 tons a week over Murch 1945, coal stocks have been reduced to a level which faces Britain with the prospects of a coal famine next winter. Production must be increased by a further \$00,000 tons weekly, if the minimum domestic requirements are to be met. Like Major Lloyd George, Churchill's Minister of Fuel, Shinwell holds "absenteeism" and "unofficial strikes" responsible for the failure to measurably increase production. Facts would show that this is a most reactionary lie, which serves to obscure the real cause for the failure to solve or ameliorate the coal production problem.

Absenteeism Not The Cause

Official figures are not available Official figures are not available but we have the right to suspect a dishonest sleight of hand by Shinwell, when he claims that absenteeism is 17.13 per cent. There is a difference between voluntary absenteeism and involuntary absenteeism (caused by illness and accidents, etc.. The former accounted for 6.1 per cent. in 1943; the latter for 9 per cent. in the same period. The loss of labour-time through accidents and ill ss is greater than that lost ill is is greater than that lost by "absenteeism". This means that if all roluntury absenteeism was stopped it would not produce

Pits where unofficial strikes take | a third of the required increase in place are to be closed and the production ;

most certainly prove: that neither " unofficial absenteessm or unofficial strikes" can explain the failure to measurably increase production. In repeating these allegations Shinwell repeats the lies of the capitalists who attempt to shoulder the burdens of capitalism onto the backs of the workers.

Real Causes of Crisis

The cause for the failure to inease production lay in inefficiency, lack of modern machinery and the steadily worsening of underground conditions. The mines have been nationalised, but the control is still in the hands of the capitalists, and the payment of millions in compensation to the coal-owners places an intolerable burden upon the miners. Shinwell tries to hide these facts.

Figures Tell The Story

The man-power situation in the coal industry is part of the prob-lem, because this astounding "wastage of labour", as it is cynically termed, is directly caused by the economic and technical chaos of this industry. During the recent coal debate in the House of Commons, J. Daggar, M.P., gave the following pregnant facts:

" In the 12 years, 1932-43, ice "In the 12 years, 1952-45, he lost in the mines no less than 10,306 workers, equal to the population of a decent sized town. In addition, more than a town. In addition, more than a of the working class. million and a half mine workers we injured and rendered incapable of working for three, six or more days. More than 261 boys more days. Golomy (Continued in next Column.) as a whole.

under 16 were killed in the production of coal, and more than 60,000 injured and rendered idle. . . 2" In 1920 there were 1,200,030

men in the mining industry. Today there are only 632,000 effectively employed. Of this number more than 100,000 are over 55 years of

the Labour Government wanted to increase production it could do so, if it broke from the capitalist and conducted a genuine Socialist policy. If it abolished the payment of compensation to the coal-owners it could use the money to increase the wages of the miners. to increase the wages of the miners to introduce modern machinery and thus increase the productivity of labour. If the Labour Government called upon the miners to exercise their class initative and take control of the pits in the hands of pit committees, and operated the nationalised industry under workers' management and not that of the capitalists or their agents, the miners would safe guard their conditions and take the first steps to remove the real obstacles—the capitalist organisation of industry.

To determine that nationalisation will act in the interests of the working class the miners must insist that there is no compensation to the coal-owners; they must fight against the present bureaucratic and classically state-capitalist coal board and its replacement by a system of Workers management. Broaden-ing the struggle from their own industry to industry as a whole, they can act, as they have done in the past, as the militant spearhead

STRIKES IN IRELAND?

BELFAST-

IN CRUMLIN ROAD PRISON, BELFAST, DAVID FLEMING, A MEMBER OF THE REPUBLICAN ARMY, HAS BEEN ON HUNGER STRIKE FOR OVER 50 DAYS IN PROTEST AGAINST THE BRUTALITY OF THE PRISON WARDERS. HE IS REPORTED TO BE "SINKING FAST".

In Dublin 400 Turf workers struck work and highly unlikely that the Monarchdemonstrated before the President for the release of Sean McCaughey, the 23-year-old Adjutant General of the I.R.A., imprisoned for "unlawfully impersonating and assaulting" Stephen Hayes, one time Chief of the I.R.A., who was condemned by the I.R.A. as an agent provocateur. But Sean McCaughey died after 23 days hunger strike.

The case of David Fleming is prisoners live in Crumlin Road a glaring exposure of the conditions under which political Special Supplement:

THE CASE OF DAVID FLEMING

"In the autumn of 1942, David Fleming came up from Killarney to Belfast: a tall splendid young man in the prime of health and strength. The very model and prototype of the Irish Volunteer, he was a dynamo of activity and he radiated courage and good humour to all who were privileged to know him.

In September 1942, he was arrested after a fierce gun battle on the Crumlin Road, in company with John Graham of Newcastle. A month later he was sentenced to 12 years penal servitude, with Graham and Hugh McAteer, on a charge of Treason-Felony, the 'crime' of Davit and John Mitchell.

After the escape of Steel and cAteer in 1943. Fleming was McAteer in 1943. Fleming was adjutant of political prisoners in 'A' Wing and about this time he was singled out for provocative treatment by warders Boyd and Kennedy. His first attempt to secure political treatment was made in the summer of that year and a prolonged and bitter fight ensued. He was beaten after this strike was broken and was subjected to continual personal searching and striping. was very prominent in all attempts to break and hundlings. to break and humiliate Fleming.

In 1944 Fleming received a very beating which injured his health permanently. Mr. H. Diamond, M.P., read a statement in the Stormont about this incident which is starkly illuminating:

"Warder Foster ordered me to face the wall...When I re-fused, Jackson said 'I'll soften you.' Foster then hit me with his fist and Thompson with his keys. Then Foster kicked me. I was put on report and brought to see the Doctor. On my way to see him I was pushed downstairs by Warder Noble, Outside IS THE GOVERNMENT TO LET HIM DIE? WE PLACE

up to my cell in A3. That afternoon I was brought to the Governor's Office. I was walking between Moore and Neeson I looked behind me and at that Neeson grabbed me by the hair and pulled me backwards. He dug his knee into my back so hard that water came from me. I fell. Moore then hit me while I was on the ground. Neeson pulled me up to my feet by my hair.

I got three days bread and
water and I also lost three
months privileges.'

After this beating Fleming changed physically and mentally. Always practical and sensible in nis approach to all questions, became almost irresponsible, forgetful and careless about his appearance. He suffered a complete breakdown and nervous became moody and irritable. moody and irritable. After the beating up he was transferred to the prison hospital. About his clear. He stay there he is not clear. He realises he was ill but beyond incidents, the rest obscure.

From this time onward Fleming suffered more and more from the sadism of the prison officials. Eventually conditions became so intolerable that he was forced to the last terrible weapon in the armoury of the political prisoner-Hunger Strike.

The forcible feeding started on the 23rd day of the strike. In spite of this Fleming continued to fight on and has now refused to take any food or water voluntarily. The latest reports from the prison are that his condition is serious, he is sinking fast. He is not expected to live another week-forcible feeding has been abandoned -it is now too dangerous.

Few men have suffered so much Few men could have en-dured the horror of this man's

Warders Moore and Boyd with batons. When standing in the line with my back to Boyd, he kicked me in the leg. MISTAKE AS TO THE MORAL SAMES AND SOURCE AND After I saw the doctor, Noble, ISSUES INVOLVED. IF DAVID Boyd and Moore beat me with FLEMING DIES, HE WILL their fists and boots, from Al HAVE BEEN MURDERED."

Demand Release of Political Prisoners

Labour M.P.s Protest

Fifty British Labour M.P.s have release. That is a step in the right direction—but it is only a

long sentences or interned; these men must be released. Scores of Irish Republicans are serving sentences in British prisons True, these men took part in the futile bombing campaign of 1939, but the responsibility for that campaign lies with the Stormont Government, which deprives them of legal methods of struggle, and with the British Government, which subsidises Stormont. The ending of the repressive legislation in both Northern Ireland and Eire-would pave the way for the growth would pave the way for the growth of a mass socialist movement, thus eliminating the basis for the under-Republican struggle.

Our Attitude To The I.R.A.

Revolutionary socialists have nothing in common with the policy of individual terrorism pursued by the I.R.A. The armed robberies, the shooting of policemen and prison warders merely provide the Government with an excuse for re pressive measures against all opposition. They hope to unite Ireland, but succeed merely in deepening the antagonism between "loyalist" and nationalist workers, thus furthering the interests of the capitalist class.

It must be realised, however, that the I.R.A. is the direct outcome of the sectarian policies pursued by the Tory-Unionist Govern-

ment at Stormont and De Valera's clerical regime in Eire, both of which depend for their existence on a disunited, prejudiced working Fifty British Labour M.P.s have already wired the Stormont Government demanding Fleming's release. That is a step in the ination. Deprived of the possibility ight direction—but it is only a tep.

Many others are either serving sentences or interned; these indicates the possibility of a legal struggle, embittered by police persecution and economic discrimination, their methods are determined by the very system that condemns them.

Release All Political

Prisoners

We demand that a Committee be set up by the Labour and T.U. movement of Great Britain and Ireland. to be afforded full facilities for investigating charges made by Fleming against the prison warders, and the treat-ment of political prisoners generally.

A full amnesty for political prisoners in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Eire. The abolition of the Special Powers Acts in Northern and Southern Ireland.

French C.P.

(Continued from page 1.) no longer openly give its powerful

upport to the House of Savoy.

If honestly conducted, the If honestly conducted, the plebiscite on June 2nd will spell finis to the Italian Royal House. Umberto will follow his father into exile, unless-the reactionaries try to retain by armed force what they cannot hope to hold through the ballot box. In such an event civil

war is inevitable.

The strength of the working-class parties however, makes it ists will take the risk of a resort to arms. Reaction will have to bide its time.

S.P. and C.P. - Same Programme .

Meanwhile, the various parties are preparing for the elections. There are no clear-cut issues which divide the major parties and the masses are finding it difficult to distinguish between the programmes of the Communist and Socialist Parties and the Christian Democrats. To add to their confusion, Togliatti, leader of the Communist Party, in a speech in Rome on May 5th, assures them that there are no differences.

"With the Christian Demo-crats", he said, "we have a common programme; that pro gramme which was approved together with the Socialists at the Naples Congress of the General Confederation of General Confederation Labour. We have declared common programme we should work together . . up to now they have said 'no' to this pro position."

Indeed, according to Togliatti, he only thing which distinguishes from the other two is that the Stalinists are for "unity" whilst the others are not.

Trieste

Nothing is stranger in this ection than the efforts of the election than the efforts Stalinists to cover up their past. they supported Monarchy. For more they have hedged on the issue of Stalin's foreign policy, which requires that Trieste goes to Yugo-slavia, would have antagonised tens of thousands of thousands of potential st voters. This was a communist voters. question, said Togliatti, which had to be settled through peaceful negotiations between Italy and Yugoslavia. Today the Stalinists

are succumbing to chanvinist sentiment and are chalking the walls with the slogan "Long Live Italian Trieste in the Italian Republic". This is nothing but opportunist manoeuvre

Togliatti Attacks French C.P. — Covers Stalin

Desperate for votes, Togliatti does not even hesitate to attack the Communist Parties of France and Yugoslavia. In the same Rome speech already quoted, he

"Nothing will prevent me from declaring that I am not in agreement with those com

who . . . commit the error of not making any distinction between fascism and the Italian people."

There is not a word of criticism nowever to be found in Togliatti's speeches against his master in the Kremlin, who is behind Yugo-slavia's demand for Trieste and who wants to impose on the Italian people a reparation claim for £75,000,000. (Italy "has paid reparations in full", says Togliatti elsewhere in the speech, through the blood and sacrifices of her partisans and strikers). On the contrary, he lands Soviet foreign policy for its great contribution to peace and democracy ".

For Private Initiative

To make quite sure that no-one misunderstands the policy on which the C.P. is facing the voters. Togliatti stressed:

"We do not advocate a Socialist economic system for Italy and believe that it is clear to all that there does not exist today the conditions for inaugurating such a system in Italy. We affirm that it is necessary to leave a large field of development to private initiative, which alone makes possible the rapid reconstruction of court with the control of the co tion of our national economy.

Speaking in the San Carlo Theatre, Naples, on May 8th, Togliatti once again called for the collaboration of the C.P., Socialists and Christian Democrats. He stressed that only the Communist Party had made possible a "stable government" since 1943.

The workers of Italy know very well the price they have had to pay for this 'stability'. Under the succession of coalition governments in which both the C.P. and S.P. functioned, their conditions nave steadily deteriorated. On every important social issue the Right wing parties in the government forced a crisis. In t sacred name of "national unity the Left-wing parties gave way and another slash had been taken at the workers' standard of living.

For a S.P. - C.P. Government

In the coming elections, the workers of Italy will vote Socialist and Communist, not because the programmes of these parties fulfill their aspirations, but because they are determined to prevent a victory of the reaction. They will vote of the reaction. They will vote Socialist and Communist as the only way of asserting their class independence. By giving the work-ing-class parties a clear majoray over all other parties, they will show their support for the line of action put forward by the Italian Trotskyists, the Partito Operaio Communista (Workers' Communist Party), who are described in the Party), who are demanding that the Socialist and Communist the Socialist and Communist leaders break with the capitalist parties and form a government of the working-class parties Socialist-Communist-General

federation of Labour Government. This is the road forward for the Italian workers. This is the first step towards that socialist economic system which Togliatti fears so much. 13 May. 1946.

French Turn

(Continued from page 3.)

in a rise in the prices of stocks

and shares. However, it is significant to note that in spite of all the failures and shortcomings of the Stalinists and Socialists, in spite of the fact that the masses did not have an in-spiring socialist lead, the number of votes for "Yes" was only a few hundred thousand less than the yotes received by the Socialists and Communists Election.

According to the press, sections of the socialist voters, some of the white collared and middle class element voted "No.".

The overwhelming majority of

the workers continued to vote for the workers' parties It is still possible that the Stalinists will gain votes in the

capitulation to monopoly capital has merely whetted the appetite of the reactionaries, who are preparing for an offensive against the working

Civil War Coming

General De Gaulle remains as a reserve weapon of the capitalist

EGYPT (Continued from page 1.)

complete break with Britain's imperialist past, by the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of troops from the whole of the Middle East, and the granting of complete independence to all the Arab masses. Along these lines the workers in Britain could lay the basis for a new association with the Arab countries, based upon friendship and trust between the toiling masses of these countries, and their mutual co-operation in the building of an independent Socialist Federation of the Arab workers and peasants, in alliance with a Socialist

However, there will be many fluctuations in the class struggles that lie ahead, with alternating waves of reaction and radicalisation. As the Manchester Guardian expressed it in an editorial:

"Without a vigorous reorganisation of a social and economic life, France is in danger of becoming a second Spain.

The fact is, because the Stalinists and Socialists did not shatter forever the hold of the combines and trusts of the 200 families who rule France; because they have been unable to recover and gain support amongst sections of the despairing middle class, civil war is virtually inevitable. The present position cannot continue indefinitely, though as in Spain the distance will be deliver. Stalinists will gain votes in the General Election at the expense of the Socialists, while the Socialists may recover many of the votes that they have lost. But the workers' parties, because of their policy, cannot hope to win the bulk of the middle class vote.

France is split into two camps, which, despite the perfidious leadership of the Socialists and Stalinists, are irreconcilable. The capitulation to monopoly capital the climax will be delayed.

Unless the French workers are mobilised for a determined struggle against capitalism, the reaction will gather its forces for an on-slaught on the working class. The Staught on the working class, The French section of the Fourth International, the International Communist Party fights for the only policy which offers a communist solution. They are demanding that the Socialist and Communist Parties break with the capitalists and struggle for power on a recolutionary programme. on a revolutionary programme. They are fighting in the defence of the workers standards, and to take action against the employers and reaction. Our French Party points to the road of Lenin: the establishment of a Soviet Socialist France and the complete over-throw of the power of the capitalist class.

Published by E. Grant, 256, Harrow Road, London, W.2. Printed by C. A. Brock & Co. Ltd. 79 Southern Row, London, W.10.