

DON'T LEAVE IT TO THE FEW

KEEP YOUR PAPER GOING
AN APPEAL TO EVERY READER
BY HAROLD ATKINSON
(National Treasurer, R.C.P.)

THIS entreaty is directed to every reader of "Socialist Appeal" who sympathises with our ideas. It is prompted by the bad state of the Fighting Fund, as revealed in the list of September donations. Money is the very life blood of our publishing activities. Without it we cannot carry on. Yet over the past couple of months the flow seems to be drying up.

The purchasing power, the real wages of the workers, is declining. This we recognise. But we don't accept it as a reason for a decline in our revenue. With the masses bearing the brunt of the aftermath of the imperialist war; as they shouldered the cost, and made all the sacrifices, of the war itself, the need increases for the voice of sanity in a world made mad by capitalism; for a call to revolutionary struggle for the establishment of a socialist system of society in which poverty and want, fascism and war, will find no place. Let us, therefore, face the issue as a challenge. Let us find a broader following for our socialist message; an ever-increasing circle of friends and sympathisers.

We have confidence that we only need to call to your attention, the conditions in which we are compelled to struggle, and you will rally to the aid of your paper. Have you stopped to think of the burden voluntarily undertaken by the small group of pioneers, struggling in face of every obstacle, to show the need for socialist revolution?

Twice a month our paper appears. It is the collective effort of voluntary workers, and a tiny regular staff underpaid and with totally inadequate facilities. Our half-year's telephone bill totals less than the cost of a couple of foreign cables to a bourgeois newspaper. Twice a month, in rain or shine, the small and valiant band of comrades distribute the paper in the localities; see that it gets into your hands, comrade reader. All the time we are faced with a growing burden of debt. That is, where we can obtain credit. The money for our paper quota, for example, must be found before we get delivery. The big capitalist combines are not anxious to help the production of a revolutionary journal.

All this falls on the shoulders of a very small group of comrades. Yet there are thousands of readers of "Socialist Appeal" most of whom are in sympathy with our revolutionary communist aims, most of whom are concerned to publicise and support the struggles of the workers. It is to these readers that we make this appeal.

Throughout history all progressive movements have been inaugurated by small groups of self-sacrificing pioneers. It is the same with our movement today. Yet the need for revolutionary propaganda, agitation and organisation grows with each passing day. Help in every way you can to broaden the circle of socialist pathfinders by spreading the influence of "Socialist Appeal" and building up the Fighting Fund.

Don't leave it to the few!

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

BY N. PENTLAND

Dockland - Defend the 29!

Some Questions to Frank Campbell

NO SPLITS! FOR DEMOCRATISATION OF THE TRADE UNIONS. DEFEND THE 29 MILITANT LIVERPOOL DOCKERS

The reactionary attack by the leadership of the Transport & General Workers' Union against the 29 former leaders of the Liverpool dockers strike movement has provoked national bitterness and disgust. Every dock worker will rally to the defence of the 28 militants; every dock worker will consider this attack by the Donovans and Deakins as an attack upon his rights and his struggle.

For playing a leading role in the national strike of the dockers, in which the overwhelming majority participated, and which was opposed only by the top officials, these 29 militants are charged with carrying out acts contrary to union policy! Thus union policy appears as something opposed to the great mass of union members; something decided by a small clique of top officials.

Some Questions to Campbell

The natural anger and disgust of the Liverpool ex-strike Committee (now the Merseyside Area Dockers' Welfare Committee) took the form of proposing a split from the union and the formation of a more democratic one. For two weeks Frank Campbell, Chairman of the dockers' committee, and P. Callanan, Secretary, carried on intensive agitation for a split.

Thus the dockers were faced with a most serious question. The Revolutionary Communist Party, immediately produced a leaflet opposing the proposed break-away.

Following on this, the leaders of the Dockers' Committee announced a change in this policy. At a meeting of 2,000 dockers in Liverpool, P. Callanan stated: "I am absolutely and unequivocally opposed to any break-away from the Transport and General Workers Union. We will fight on only one front, and this within the union. If the union men don't do their jobs we will get rid of them." This excellent statement of

policy was welcomed by all experienced militant workers.

After this meeting Frank Campbell made a most amazing statement to the "Daily Mail": "The policy of this organisation has been changed but I am not making any statement as to why. We have no connection with the Revolutionary Communist Party, who came to distribute leaflets outside our meeting thinking our policy was to break-away. We laid a trap for them and they fell into it."

What is the meaning of this statement? Does Frank Campbell wish to say that his two weeks campaign for a break-away was to fool somebody? The only people he fooled, if this is the case, were the rank and file dockers. This is the truth of the matter. Perhaps he wished to compromise the position of our party?

The Policy of the R.C.P.

The policy of the Revolutionary Communist Party is known to all militant dock workers throughout the country. The London dockers in particular know that our party has consistently opposed irresponsible splits and break-aways of the type proposed by Campbell. When, during the dock strike of last year, the question of split was raised by the Glasgow break-away union, the strike committees of London and Liverpool (the latter on the insistence of the London Committee) both declared themselves against such a policy. In summing-up the gains of the strike against the

Stalinists who tried to belittle and minimise the struggle, we stated in the "Socialist Appeal" editorial (November 1945):

"Both in Liverpool and London the Strike Committees have explained the fate that would await those dockers who tampered with the ideas of splits from the unions. At this stage they explained, such splits would play into the hands of the Donovans and Deakins. No splits, but a struggle within the union to oust the present leadership has been the programme of the Strike Committees. In this the dockers have made a very important contribution to the Labour and Trade Union movement."

This has always been the policy of revolutionary communists. "Not only is Frank Campbell's statement inexplicable, but it reveals dishonesty and irresponsibility. As with his attacks upon our Party during the dockers' strike—the only party to stand with and aid the dockers—his attacks today can only aid the bosses and their agents. All militant dockers must demand an end to such methods, which can only hinder the dockers' struggle for better conditions and union democracy."

The dockers are bitterly opposed to the Donovans and Deakins, they are determined to defend the 29 and the correctness of their past struggles. But they are also opposed to any suggestion of break-away, knowing that these can only lead to disorganisation of the struggle and the strengthening of the official leaders. P. Callanan expresses this view clearly and correctly.

For a Militant Programme

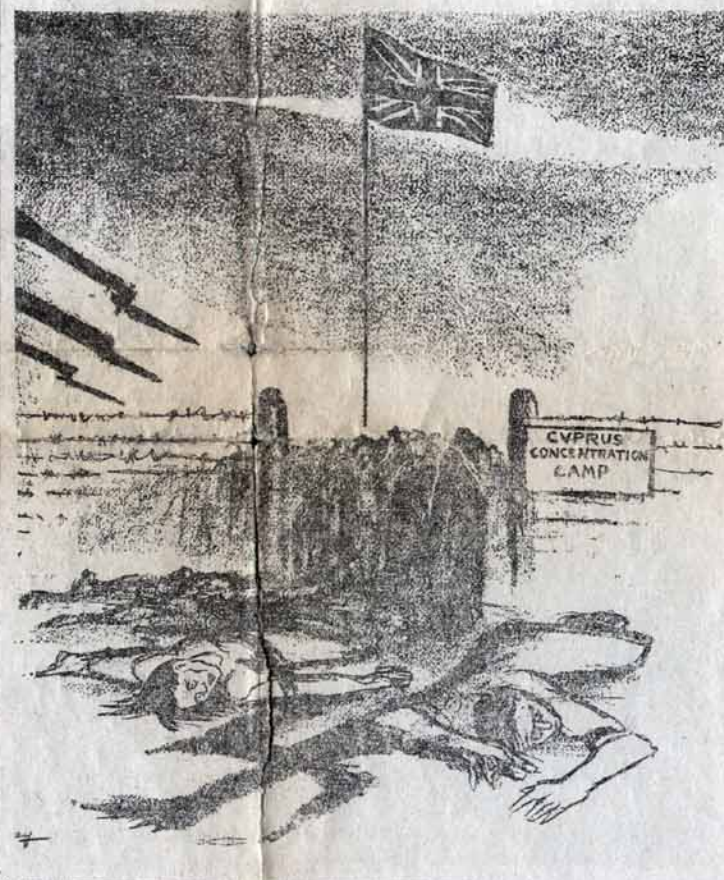
The defence of the 29 militants from the attack of the corrupt leadership, the preparation for future struggles, all this is only possible if the lessons of the strike are understood clearly. As we stated in the above quoted issue of the Socialist Appeal:

"However, it is not sufficient to know that one must fight the union leaders on their own ground; it is necessary to advance a programme of struggle against the present constitution and structure of the trade unions. This programme can only be: For union democracy, for annual re-election of all officials, who will be paid the average wages of the workers. If the unions are to be converted into militant organisations of the working-class then these must be the slogans of a national dockers' movement."

Without such a programme, without consciously preparing and training the workers for these tasks, the Merseyside Welfare Committee, as with all other committees, will degenerate into an obstacle to the dockers' struggles against the bosses and their agents.

Defend the 29!

For a militant Workers' Programme—Build Job Committees. No splits—For Union Democracy!



From LEFT and RIGHT

BY AGITATOR

Mrs. Tennant ... Landlady

Mrs. Eleanora Tennant, Chairman of the ultra-Vansittartist "Face the Facts Association" has been in the news again, this time in the rôle of racketeer landlady. For one "furnished" room, in which "the beds were mattresses on springs, supported by wooden blocks and flower pots", she was charging no less than £3 7s. per week! The Chelsea Rent Tribunal reduced this to £1 18s. 0d. a week. This decision Mrs. Tennant declared "savoured of the Gestapo". The mild actions of the Tribunals in checking some of the most blatant profiteering scandals is described by this anti-working class crusader as an "infringement of British liberties."

Mrs. Tennant and her reactionary outfit have been busy during the past months running anti-alien, anti-semitic campaigns; meetings at which she provided a platform for such notorious fascists as John Beckett.

It is not the Rent Tribunals or bodies (of which there are far too few), which act in some measure against the grosser racketeering exploiters, that endanger democratic liberties, but from precisely such gangrenous growths of the "Face the Facts Association" calibre. And it is the duty of the organised workers to show their recognition of this fact in a very positive fashion whenever and wherever these reactionaries show their faces in public.

Socialist Jazz

The attempts of the Stalinist bureaucracy to "explain away and expose" decadent and "superficial" western bourgeois culture,

are extending into some weird fields. The Moscow Correspondent of "The Times" recently wrote:

"A commission has been appointed to investigate charges of vulgarity and paucity of ideas made against the Soviet music-hall. There is, it is asserted, too little material performed reflecting the mood in which the Soviet people are expected to set about fulfilling the Five Year Plan. Exception is also taken to the quality of the repertory of the Russian State Jazz-Band, directed by Leonid Yutesov, who according to most of his critics, has recently made unsatisfactory headway in evolving a Soviet type of Jazz different from western European forms."

Someone should explain to the Commission that music-hall and Jazz (and in passing they might note that the latter is a product of America not western Europe) reflect the level of education of the masses, which in turn is conditioned by the economic base of society. It is a peculiar commentary on Stalin's recent claim of building "Communism" in Russia and leaving capitalism in the rest of the world, that the cultural level of the Soviet Union calls for de-westernised music-hall performances and Jazz adapted to Russian tastes.

... and Mayfair Tea Parties

By way of contrast we learn from the London "Star" of September 21, that:

"Madam Gusev, wife of the Soviet Ambassador, has been saying good-bye to her London friends, in a milieu where she would not have to bother about the quality of music-hall programmes. "She

Letters

To the Editor,

From A Soldier Abroad

ON A TRAIN IN GERMANY

Cuxhaven, 10th August 1946.

The outstanding thing here is the crowds of children, all ages—and all begging, begging, begging. It's pretty horrible, I can assure you, for obviously one can give to a few, even with the best will in the world.

Lovely kiddies, too—some are really beautiful. Some are thin but some seem quite normal. They follow for ten minutes or so in order to pick up one's cigarette ends. Time after time, one is approached by men who wish to buy cigarettes—the accepted rate apparently is 4 marks each, which is about 2/-.

The housing is mainly flats and as Cuxhaven is a smallish fishing port, it is not far to land free from buildings—result: plenty of allotments which are quite obviously well tended.

The girls are friendly—for practical reasons, of course.

We are waiting for a train bound for Bielefeld. It is now about 1 p.m. and we have recently passed through Luneburg and before that the outskirts of Hamburg.

Kiddies From Nowhere

Whenever the train stops the kiddies seem to spring from nowhere to start begging. The lads respond very well to these children, and when the train leaves all have had something—they rarely eat the food given home. Just think, we have a N.A.A.F.I. on the train and can buy fancy cakes, etc., enough to make ourselves ill for a week. By the way, we have had nothing but white bread, and yet the bread I have seen in the civilian shops looks really grim.

3 p.m. We are waiting at Hannover just now. This area is terribly damaged from air-raids, rather like Battersea.

4 p.m. Minden, Westphalia.

Another full-scale meal plus another parcel of sandwiches—I think the way we are being overfed is a degree more than disgusting.

Bielefeld, 11th August. The kiddies I've seen usually go barefoot. One of the last youngsters I saw begging on the railway lines was a little girl about 7 with a leg off—trying to wave standing on crutches. Do I need to comment?

14th August. Since I have been in Germany I haven't seen any factories at work, and most of those I have seen are just in ruins.

"A Rotten Affair"

17th August. En route to somewhere in the Ruhr, we passed through Osnabruck—or what was left of it, for if anything it was the most badly damaged place I have seen. The only houses that I saw that might be said to be still standing, were usually short of at least one wall—and people were living in those.

This business of B.A.O.R. wives is a rotten affair—did I tell you that I heard of a street in Bielefeld where the people had notice to quit complete with a list of furniture to be left for use by these British families. About 10 days notice, I believe, and if you can imagine what that would mean to you, and try to picture yourself finding accommodation in conditions about 100 times worse than in Birmingham, then you may have some idea how these people must feel about this infernal scheme of our Socialist Government.

1st September.... Did I ever mention the shock I got when I first noticed that folks were living in cellars of ruined houses, (and I mean ruined—completely wrecked) and in makeshift shelters rigged up—perhaps by fixing some kind of roofing.

This is all up to date.

A British Soldier

To Harry Pollitt from the R.C.P.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO HARRY POLLITT, SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY FROM THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY.

Dear Comrade,

The Political Bureau of the Revolutionary Communist Party, at its last session, discussed the question of the attack launched by the Labour Government against the squatters, and especially against the Communist Party and its members for the assistance given to the movement of the squatters.

The Political Bureau decided: "That in view of the progressive character of the actions of the Communist Party and its members in their aid given to the squatters, and whatever divergences of programme and policy separate us and other working class bodies from the Communist Party, it is the duty of all organised workers and working class bodies to rally to the assistance and defence of the Communist Party while the Government attacks it for the support given to the squatters."

The P.B. of the R.C.P. decided, therefore, to issue a statement pledging full support to your Party while it remains under attack in defence of your actions in aiding the squatters. The P.B. also decided to appeal to all other bodies of the working class to do likewise, and to form a united front on this practical issue of the class struggle.

We need not remind you of the differences on principle, programme, and policy that exist between our organisations. These are fundamental differences and have caused many bitter clashes and conflicts between our organisations and its leading members in the past. Nevertheless, and without slurring over these differences or giving up the right to criticise the policy of your Party, we believe that on this practical and progressive action we can find a basis for a united and common front of struggle. With this end in view, the P.B. of the R.C.P. is prepared to place its forces side by side with the Communist Party forces in defence of the squatters and members of the C.P. who are under attack.

With the object of bringing about a speedy concentration and maximum unity of all militant forces in the country, we propose that a deputation from the Political Committee of the R.C.P. meet a deputation of your organisation to find the maximum field of agreement in defence of your members and of the squatters and to seek to extend that agreement to other sections of the working class.

I am enclosing with this letter a resolution of our Political Bureau which explains our policy on the squatters movement and trust that we will receive a speedy and favourable reply to our proposals.

Yours Fraternally,

JOCK HASTON,

General Secretary, Revolutionary Communist Party.