ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, FOURTH INTERNATIONAL.

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TWOPENCE

# F12 MONTHS PRISON For Aiding Strikers

Vicious Sentences under Trade Disputes Act TO APPEAL COURT

THE TRIAL OF OUR FOUR COMRADES IS OVER. COMRADES ROY TEARSE AND HEATON LEE ARE SERVING PRISON SENTENCES OF 12 MONTHS, COMRADE JOCK HASTON IS SERVING 6 MONTHS, COMRADE KEEN. WHO WAS SENTENCED TO 13 DAYS IMPRISON-MENT HAS BEEN RELEASED.

# Churchill Preparing Peace of Revenge Allies Offer No Hope for German Workers

THE OCCUPATION OF THE CHERBOURG PENINSULA GIVES THE ANGLO-AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS A POINT OF SUPPORT FOR THE DECISIVE STRUGGLE WITH THEIR GERMAN ANTAGONISTS. BUT THE MOST STRIKING ASPECT OF THE INVASION OF EUROPE HAS BEEN THE DESPERATE RESISTANCE OF THE GERMAN SOLDIERS AND EVEN THE SOLDIERS FROM THE COUNTRIES CONQUERED BY GERMANY, DESPITE THE OVERWHELMING MATERIAL SUPERIORITY OF THE ALLIES.

of slaughter on the Russian front have created havoc within the ranks of the German army. Even the youth who are left are old and haggard according to the reports of the "News Chronicle". Wrinkles in their faces give an indication of the worry and suffering which they have under gone and are undergoing....Despite the hopelessness of their position, as the more serious capitalist press testifies, the fear of the results of defeat keeps them fighting doggedly and deter-

The capitalist press, particularly that section such as the "Dall Mail" and the "Sunday Dispatch " which ensusjustically susported Hitler before punishment of all Germans whom they hold responsible for the crimes of

Five years of war and three years | proclaimed the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms as their aims in contrast to the slavery which the prospect of Hitler's victory would mean to the peoples of the world. In the last war the real plans of the Allies were kept secret until the defeatof Germany, but now, openly, Churchill has announced that the Atlantic Charter does not apply to Germany. By implication he admits that Germany is to be carved up, big slices going to other powers. Thus the aims of the imperialists are cynically

> That the imperialists can speak so openly is due to the policy of Stalin and the Labour leaders. Such statements in the middle of the last war would have aroused a veritable storm in the Labour movement of the entire world. The Stalinists and the Labour

# From Imprisoned Comrades to the Party.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS GIVEN BY THE THREE COMRADES FROM THEIR CELL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE TRIAL:

We have been convicted and imprisoned because of our advocacy of the programme of the Fourth International. The trial has demonstrated clearly that evidence or no evidence, the capitalist class will condemn revolutionaries to persecution.

We affirm that such persecution and imprisonment will not shake our faith in the correctness of our programme. On the centrary, we believe that the working class will not have any alternative but the leadership of the Fourth International for its emancination.

The case for the prosecution was conducted by Paley Scott, K.C., assisted by Dr. Charlsworth. Curtis Bennett, K.C., was the Counsel for tse defence, briefed by Messrs. Smithdale & Rutledge. He was assisted by Mr. Burge and

THEIR CRIME? THEY OFFERED ADVCE TO THE APPRENTICES IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE HATED BEVIN BALLOT SCHEME. THEY ASSISTED IN DRAWING LEAFLETS DEMANDING PROPAGANDA NATIONALISATION OF THE MINES AND THEIR OPERATION UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MINERS AND THEY OFFERED SOME ORGANISATIONAL IDEAS GAINED FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF THE WORKERS STRUGGLES IN THE PAST. By M. LEE

When our comrades were first arrested they were charged with "incitement and conspiracy". On each occasion they appeared in court, further charges were added. In spite of the direction of Judge Cassels to the jury it is significant that they were found not guilty by the jury on the charges of incitement and conspiracy. This is a clear vindication of Comrade Haston's first statement upon his arrest, namely:

The charge was a frame up; the conspiracy appeared to come from the top; and, this was a case of political victimisation.

The whole character of the evidence

whether they had met any of the ac-cused or not, and the responsi-

bility for all their actions was their

own, this completely took the bottom

out of the "incitement" charge. The |

brought forward demonstrated that this was the case. Paley Scott tried desperately to establish that a sinister conspiracy had been at work on the part of the four comrades, to bring the apprentices out, leading them by the very nose to the brink of disaster. But when the witnesses for the prosecution, 9 apprentices one after the other said in no uncertain manner that their feelings were very deep and bitter against Bevin's Ballot Scheme and that they were determined to take any action against it, including strike action; that they would have struck

about the political bodies to which the accused belonged. He described the positions which the four comrades held

in these organisations. Dealing with the background of the Trade Disputes Act after the General Strike of 1926, to prevent such a re-currence to "make matters doubly sure" in 1927 the government of that time passed the Trade Disputes and Trade Union Act. The Tyne Apprentices' Strike was an illegal strike as defined in the Trade Disputes Act, and putting the charges generally, the four "all united in inciting young men to assist in the declaring and to assist in the carrying on of that strike." The strike had nothing to do with employers and workmen and did not affect wages and conditions. It was a strike calculated to coerce the government.

Their evidence was based on Davy, and some other apprentices and documents found in various places. He described the apprentices as "hot headed young men" and the leaders of these youths, Bill Davy as "a man with strong political views." Davy was a fully agreeing party to all that was done, probably still is. He warned the jury before accepting the truth of his statements, to bear this in mind. He was in addition, probably a very reluctant witness.

Of course, not the defence but the prosecution chose the witnesses, and the fact that the jury had to be warned against the prosecution's chief witness, in advance, demonstrated the inherent weakness of their case.

The capitalist press, particularly that section such as the "Daily Mail" and the "Sunday Dispatch ' Cash stically supported Hitler before punishment of all Germans whom they hold responsible for the crimes of the Nazis. In this, they are receiving full support from the so-called Communist Party and the Labour and Trade Union leaders. Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt have been proclaiming that draconic measures will be taken against the German people after Hitler has been defeated. A peace of Carthage will be imposed which will make the Treaty of Versailles look like a benevolent Sunday school treat. This will be a peace similar to the monstrous "peace' which Hitler has imposed on the peoples of Poland, France and other European countries.

In the first World War the ruling class of the Allied countries pretended to stand for the right of self-determination and democratic freedom of all countries. This policy was summed up in Wilson's 14 points. At the beginning of this war too, the Allies

That the imperialists can speak so openly is due to the policy of Stalin and the Labour leaders. Such statements in the middle of the last war would have aroused a vertable storm in the Labour movement of the entire world. The Stalinists and the Labour leaders have become so degenerate that they have betrayed not only the elementary democratic rights of the peoples, but that internationalism which they gave lip-service to in the past.

The capitalists have publicly been doing penance for their "generosity" to Germany after the last war—This time we must be hard, they proclaim. An examination of the Treaty of Versail'es would demonstrate the real nature of their fine philantrophy to beaten foes. Germany was stripped of Alsace-Lorraine, which was handed back to France, the Saar was handed to the virtual control of France for 15 years, Eupen-Malmedy was handed over to Belgium and Schleswig-Holstein to Denmark; a corridor of Polish territory was created

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# CLEAN UP B.I.S.A.K.T.A. NO BREAKAWAYS!

The British Iron Steel and Kindred Trades is notoriously one of the most bureaucratically constructed Trade Unions in Great Britain. John Brown and the full-time officials of the Executive dictate all Union policy—long term, short term, national and local—and, as yet, rank and file steel-workers have evoled no effective meas of bringing this little clique of petty dictators to heel.

But trouble is brewing for the Brown-Walker axis unless they very soon begin to respect the wishes of the men who pay them their not inconsiderable wage-packets.

The disgust in Ebbw Vale—one of BISAKTA's strongholds—has reached a new high level with the latest bureaucratic action of the Executive. The President, Secretary and another official of the E.C. No. 2 Vale Branch have been charged by the E.C. with—insubordination(!), and, by decree summarily removed from their elected positions in the Branch.

The facts of the case are rather complicated, but boiled down to essentials they amount to this. A dispute at Richard Thomas's huge works in Ebbw Vale among the furnace men over payment for week-end work resulted, after much negotiation in complete deadlock. With no other course open to them the men decided to ban week end working until their claims had been met. BISAKTA's Executive

agreed that the men had a legitimate claim but, naturally, they opposed their "unconstitional" action and insisted that the men lift the ban and continue the peaceful negotiations. But, having had enough of this type of "negotiation", the men stuck to their democratic decision to ban week-end working. Incidentally, despite the ban, no production was lost—a further proof that long hours do not make for increased production.

The whole of the No. 2 Branch supported its officials in carrying out their decision. Faced with this display of militant independence on the part of his own rank and file, John Brown acted with prompt military thoroughness. By decree of the Executive, the officials were summarily removed from office.

Disgust with the E.C. runs high in Ebbw Vale. The Secretary of No. 2 Branch is a man who, by his tireless (and unpaid!) efforts to guard and improve the conditions at Ebbw Vale. has earned the genuine respect of the steet-workers. He is also the Secretary of the All-union Works Committee which represents some 24 different origanisations. That he should be removed, against the expressed wishes of the Branch by a well-paid bureaucratike John Brown has infuriated the rank and file. But, despite their disgust, the Branch is determined to con-

Continued on back page.

We affirm that such persecution and imprisonment will not shake our faith in the correctness of our programme. On the centrary, we believe that the working class will not have any alternative but the leadership of the Fourth International for its emancipation.

At this critical juncture in the history of our party in Britain, the main task of our comrades is to close their ranks, to knit the party together and march forward united, in a spirit of comradeship and with that singleness of purpose which alone will gain us the leadership of the British working class.

The watchword of the members of the Party must be:

UNIFY THE RANKS! BUILD THE PARTY!

FOR THE VICTORY OF THE FOURTH

INTERNATIONAL.



COMRADES JOCK HASTON, ANN KEEN, HEATON LEE AND ROY TEARSE — TAKEN JUST BEFORE THE TRIAL AT NEWCASTLE COMMENCED.

### TELEGRAM SENT BY THE COMRADES FROM THEIR CELL TO AMERICA:

In going to prison we send greetings to our 18 American comrades now serving prison sentences. We send fraternal greetings to the Socialist We as Party and the Fourth International who are undergoing similar persecution at the hands of the imperialists. We affirm that only the Fourth International can emancipate the workers of that world.

and that they were determined to take any action against it, including strike action; that they would have struck whether they had met any of the accused or not, and the responsibility for all their actions was their own, this completely took the bottom out of the "incitement" charge. The apprentices were "incited" not by our comrades but by Bevin's Pit Ballot Scheme, and they said so.

Almost the first words of Paley Scott's opening speech were "Let me say at the outset that this is not a political prosecution." But no sooner had he said this, than he proceeded to make a violent political speech. He said it was necessary that he should tell the jury something

reluctant witness.

Of course, not the defence but the prosecution chose the witnesses, and the lact that the jury had to be warned against the prosecution's chief witness, in advance, demonstrated the inherent weakness of their case.

The question of nationalisation of the mines and their operation under workers' control occupied the core of the case for the prosecution. The prosecution claimed that the lads had and could have no interest in the nationalisation of the mines. But their own witnesses proved the falsity of this argument in their evidence from the hox.

Continued on page 2.

## Railworkers Prepare N.U.R. Conference

### RESOLUTIONS REFLECT MOOD

BY SID BIDWELL

On the Agenda of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the N.U.R. which commences on July 3rd, resolutions from many quarters are expressive of the growing revolt of the working-class in general against the present disastrous political and industrial truce, which binds the workers hand and foot to the war chariot of British imperialism.

The demands on the Agenda are also indicative of the desire for a break with the policy of sacrificing the interests of the workers in Britain now, and waiting to settle accounts with the British capitalists after the war. Nearly five years of war have taught the railway workers that war-time politics are inseperable from peace-time politics.

The plans of the union leaders to assist in helping the ruling-class to build a corporate state after the war, as opposed to a workers' state which yould take power out of the hands of the capitalists, is reflected in a proposal by Edinburgh No. 5 Branch which calls for Control Boards with Trade Union representation. Among the rail workers there is much misunderstanding on the question of workers' control and it needs to be discussed throughout the country in every Branch room if the mistakes on the continent are not to be repeated

There is a straightforward motion from Perth No. 2. (W. Ballantine's Branch of which he is Secretary) calling for an end to the electoral truce which is stifling the Labour Movement locally and nationally. Significantly, this is supported by the Sheffield and Chesterfield D.C.

But a resolution submitted in the name of Rayners Lane and one other goes much further, and correctly analyses the nature of the war besides calling for the recapturing of Socialist independence. It should cause the most important debate at the A.G.M.,

and if carried will constitute the first decisive step of any Trade Union in returning to the road of Socialist internationalism.

It coincides so closely with the Trotskyist view that it is worth repeating in full. It is as follows:

"This A.G.M. recognises in Fascism the supreme effort of finance capital to retain its grip over the lives of the workers, having its roots deeply imbedded in dylng world capitalism. It is not essentially the product of Germany, but the method of the capitalist-class all over the world employed to maintain its rule.

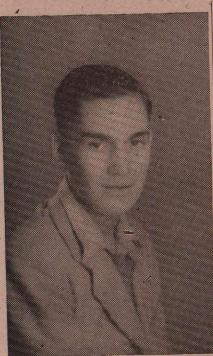
"The present Tory-ridden British Government has time and again shattered the illusion that the present war for them has anything to do with the issue of Fascism versus Democracy. Their ready deals with Facists and near-Fascists who have switched camps during the course of the war; their cynical disregard for the sufferings of the Indian masses; and their failure to extend democracy to the territory occupied by British imperialism clearly demonstrates that they struggle to substitute Nazism for their own branch of oppressive rule.

"Although they have conscripted the lives of the workers they have consistently refused to conscript the capitalists in the total war against Fascism and are allowing unprecedented profits to be made out of the toil, tears, blood and sweat of the people. This assembly, therefore, declares its complete lack of faith in the existing Government to wage a genuine struggle against Fascism and calls upon the Labour leaders to break the coalition with British imperialism; demand a General Election on an up-to-date register; and immediately demand the nationalisation of the banks,

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# OUR COMRADES IN THE WITNESS BOX

### 'All acts undertaken were the 'I want a Socialist Government' joint acts of the apprentices'



BILL DAVY

for the prosecution. His bearing in the courtroom evinced the praise of all dissention among the apprentices was alike. He was confident, thoughtful whether or not to include nationalisand sincere.

the formation of the organisation of with strike action. At all meetings apprentices to oppose the Bevin Ballot where strikes were discussed, none of Scheme. He discussed with the ac- the four were present. cused propaganda bearing on the op-position of apprentices to the Pit Ballot Scheme and also methods of

Bevin, Davy said: "I expected to re- adopted by the apprentices. ceive a reply from the Minister of

Obviously I did not union

fore he would climb down."

Cross examined by Curtiss-Bennett, he agreed that he had quite well formed political views of his own, and that he had some experience in popularising a cause in the Young Communist League. Nationalisation of the mines was his own view. Approval of the apprentices was obtained for all published documents. Documents not approved were not published. All acts undertaken were the joint acts of the apprentices. The leaflets produced as evidence against the accused, represent his views. His view was that nationalisation was a subject for apprentices to discuss because they might be called into the mines.

Before he met any of the defendants the strongest indignation was aroused among the apprentices at the Ballot Scheme. If he had never met any of the defendants there would have been a strike. The apprentices first met to a strike. The apprentices first met to discuss the Bevin Ballot Scheme before the four defendants appeared on the scene. It was the general view that there would be a strike.

at any price. That was our view without the intervention of the four ac-Comrade Bill Davy, 19 year old ap- cused. None of the defendants ever prentice fitter, was the chief witness addressed any public meeting advocating a strike. None of the four had ever advocated a strike privately. The ation of the mines in their programme and not as to whether there was to He said he met the defendants after be strike action. Donnachie agreed

The fact that Bevin did not see the apprentices made them very angry. He saw Sorenson in the House of Commons and Sorenson agreed that Asked by Paley Scott what he ex- they had a very real grievance and pected would result from the letter to agreed entirely with the programme

Asked why he resigned the secre-Labour, at least to say that he would look into the matter and consider it."

Alluding to Davy's letter to Tearse in which occurred a phrase: "If Bevin won't climb down, we will pull him down?" he said "Obviously I did not the would be expelled from the matter and consider it."

# BILL DAVY\_ ROY TEARSE\_

Comrade Tearse said he served in think Bevin would consent to our demands if we asked him in a quiet sort mands if we asked him in a quiet so of manner and that we might have to was its industrial organiser. He was make our request a little stronger be-fore he would climb down." also national secretary and organiser of the M.W.F. which was an industrial organisation.

Curtis-Bennett: Why did you come Newcastle when you did?

Tearse: I came to find out for myelf what was happening with the apprentices' movement.

Bennett: What impression did you get from the apprentices?

Tearse: I have never seen any section of the working class so bitter as the apprentices were about the Bevin Ballot Scheme and the impression I gathered was that they would oppose it with the utmost energy, and if necessary take strike action if all other methods failed.

Asked what he meant by his reference to call-ups in the army, Tearse said: I was warning the apprentices that the authorities would probably they should look upon this as victimisation and treat it as such. My views on this question were historically proven correct, as this did in fact happen. Workers must be constantly tices being conscripted for the mines the guard against victimisation when ditions. It is not a fact that I said apprentices should strike rather than go into the army.

When asked by Paley-Scott what he there was "a thorough oiling of the strike machine", he replied: As the lads had decided to strike in any case then they should do the job efficiently.

Asked to explain a letter to Lee, Tearse pointed out that it mainly dealt with the question of work in the unions. What we were concerned about was to prevent the apprentices from being expelled from the union. I was pointing out that immediate efforts should be made to get the Minister of Labour. support of the official union organisations. I believed this would prevent the lads having to leave the union.

Paley Scott: You hoped there would

Tearse: I do not live on hopes. In

Paley Scott: What do you mean by "the apprentices strike had the possi-

of the workers and what I meant was that the strike may shake the working class to such an extent that they would become alive to the tremendous problem facing the boys and the manner in which the coalowners were sabotaging production in the interests of profit—in the same way as the Barrow strike made the working class movement alive to the manner in which the employers were reaping profits whilst the workers were receiving low wages.

Paley Scott: You want to shake the

Tearse: I want a socialist society in Britain and the world which would completely overturn present day soc-

Paley Scott: Very awkward in time of war? I don't think so.

Paley Scott: I suppose this is a cap-

Tearse: In my opinion yes.

Paley Scott: Were the newspapers not correct when they stated that revolutionaries were behind the strikes?

Tearse: The press had lied about the Trotskyists in the same way as ition to the Regulation. they lied about Lenin during the last! war when they declared him as a | the boys came out on strike?

"German spy."
Paley Scott: What did nationalisation have to do with the apprentices'

Tearse: It had everything to do meant by advising Lee to see that with it. If the mines were nationalised under workers' control it would which in any case couldn't solve anything, completely unnecessary:

Paley Scott: Did you expect that Bevin would reply to the letter of the apprentices handing in strike notice?

Tearse: Anyone in a responsible

If I were in such a position I would certainly have taken heed of the apprentices' request.

Bennett: If you received notice for the army would you go?

Tearse: Yes. The reason is that I Party. so far as I hoped one way or the other, I hoped that the apprentices will be no necessity for a strong way we go into industry when conthere would be no necessity for a way we go into industry when conscripted along with other workers.

was not concerned with bringing the boys out on strike at all. My idea Paley Scott: was that they should gain for themselves all the support they could among other sections of the working class; to get their leadership who had very high. Everybody feels years been calling for nationalisation of the mines for years, to bring pressure to bear on the Government to agree to their demands.

Paley Scott: This could not solve the question of their having to go Tearse: In the first place I regard down the mines. You knew that the the interests of the country as those Government couldn't nationalise the mines in three weeks?

Lee: Yes, I believe it could be done. The mines and the whole social services were nationalised in one week in Russia in 1917.

Paley Scott: That was in the days of Trotsky.

("Hear, hear" from the dock.)
Paley Scott: You thought that you

could make the trade union leaders

change their minds?

Lee: Certainly. That was my idea.

The lads should bring pressure to bear on their leaders through the trade unions, to fight for the policy which they had been advocating for years. If these trade union leaders had assisted the youth—if they had not been strike. To give an illustration of how the mines. the leadership of the trade unions react to pressure, we saw what happened with Jack Tanner. He supported the Trotskyists organised this strike, they introduction of the new Regulation 1A(a) just recently. But when he felt the pressure of the rank and file, he.

Lee: You will notice it is followed

Lee: My interest was political. I Lee: I was sorry the boys were

Paley Scott: What did you mean very high. Everybody feels years younger. Wonderful days!"

Lee: I meant that there was a

wonderful feeling of solidarity among the population for the lads. I was

conveying that spirit in the letter.

Paley Scott: Where did you get that impression?

Lee: In the buses and queues. Judge Cassels: How many buses ere you on that day?

Lee: Two. Cassels: Do you know how many uses there are in Newcastle.

Lee: No. I am not on the Trans-port Board. But one could gauge the eeling. It was an indication.

Paley Scott: I suggest to you that

you were indecently elated!

Lee (laughing): Not "indecently."

Paley Scott: What interest did you have in the boys going down the

Lee: I had a great deal of interest. I have been down the mines myself for four years and I know what it is like. I know the chaos and waste that renegades, there would have been no results from the private ownership of

did a complete somersault and now by the word "workers" in parenthesis. What was meant was that I had heard from a shipyard worker that this is Paley Scott: Were you glad when what the workers in the yards were

# ANN KEEN\_

### solve the coal crisis and make such a scheme as the Bevin Ballot Scheme, I can to the Party'

the North East R.C.P. until her ar- possibly can. position had the elementary duty to rest, was in the witness box for but reply to such a letter, especially the Minister of Labour.

The Roll Hade witness box for but rest, was in the witness box for but 10 minutes or so. Few questions were put to her by the defence counsel and the prosecution.

with the technical work.

She was a Trotskyist and a member

Comrade Keen, District Secretary of | Keen: Well, as much of my life as I

Asked what she meant in a letter to Tearse by saying "Things are likely to pop any time now", she explained that after a visit to Ellen Wilkinson, She agreed that she had assisted the boys had been treated with such contempt by her that the feeling ran very high and as a result anything the Revolutionary Communist might happen. I was trying to express the feelings of the boys. That is the

beive a reply from the minister of Labour, at least to say that he would

down" he said. "Obviously I did not union.

Asked why he resigned the secrelook into the matter and consider it."

Guild, Davy said that the A.E.U. Alluding to Davy's letter to Tearse in which occurred a phrase: "If Bevin level had been warned by the officials had proscribed the Guild and level have their demands granted and that we should be with them. In the same

### Apprentices in the Box 'None of the Defendants

advocated Strike'

John Cooper Brown, Apprentice Scott: Did the other apprentices in plater, South Shields. When Martin your firm come out? was deferred the Tyne Apprentices Guild considered that part of their demands had been met. They thought the deferment was due to their action. So far as he knew, Tearse had not advocated a strike. Witness added that before the deputation went to London to lobby M.P.s, the apprentices had decided to have a strike if negotiation failed.

Curtiss Bennett: And that decision was reached at a meeting at which Mr. Tearse was not present? Yes.

James Lloyd, former apprentice and now a journeyman joiner, South Shields described the two meetings addressed by Tearse in Newcastle and said that Tearse spoke of the success of the Barrow Strike Committee and gave advice on organisation. At the next meeting other committees suggested by Tearse were formed. These were Picket Committee, Flying Squad Committee, Financial Committee, Propaganda Committee, Hardship Com-

In reply to Curtiss-Bennett, Lloyd said that if he had never met Tearse there would still have been a strike of the Tyneside apprentices. Tearse did not advocate a strike. Any Tom, Dick or Harry could have given the advice Tearse gave.

trician, Whitley Bay, spoke of going to Lee's house after the meeting at with them. which it was decided to send a letter to the Minister of Labour, threatening ation of the mines. Tearse spoke at a being militant? a strike in three weeks if certain de- meeting on nationalisation of the mands were not conceded. Lee and mines and the correctness of advocat-Keen were present.

that night.

Cross-examined, Landells told Curtiss-Bennett that he had never heard Lee or Keen advocate a strike. He did not know either Tearse or

dells said that a week before the strike on the policy of nationalisation. he ascertained that he and other apprentices at the firm where he was politically employed were unconditionally deferred

Mr. Scott: Did the other apprentices at your work know?

Landells: It was common know-

Scott: Did you come out on strike Landells: Yes.

prentices.

and butcher boys and every boy who s an apprentice?

William Wardroper Patterson, ap prentice shipwright, South Shields. At the time he was 19.

eved an official statement?

eason for believing it.

ou want to believe?

ing into the movement.

were a strike raising body, that they created strikes up and down the coun-William Landells, apprentice elec- try, that they created and lived on

I opposed the policy of nationalis-I sat on the sofa with Heaton Lee meeting. I partly raised the storm. and he drafted a letter to be sent to I tried to explain that with such a gle Bevin and handed it over to Ann Keen policy negotiation were impossible. I to be typed. We posted the letter tried to disprove some of the state- teach Davy. stead of good seams.

Curtis-Bennett: Were you in favour of strike action

Donnachie: Yes, if negotiations Re-examined by Paley Scott, Lan-failed. But he opposed strike action

He said he opposed the Trotskyists

Asked what his political views were, and were not liable to be called up for he said he had been described as a 'milk and water'' socialist and a "re-

> I accused Tearse of creating the Barrow strike and of being on the Barrow strike committee. Tearse denied this and challenged me to a de-

the exemption met his personal desire, but he came out on strike because he wanted exemption extended to all ap-

Scott: Do you mean grocers' boys,

was one of the delegates to London. He told Mr. Curtis-Bennett that at the time of the trouble he heard that boys under 20 were deferred, but he coal production. did not know whether to believe it.

Patterson: I believe in my own con-

Daniel Donnachie, 22 of Blyth, told

I consider the Militant Workers

ing such a policy. It was a stormy ments of Tearse that the coal owners were working slaty seams of coal in-

actionary.

Federation, it was for strike?

working class policy.

Tearse: I do not live on hopes. In

be a strike

the army would you go?

won't climb down, we will pull him that they would be expelled from the there would be no necessity for a way we go into industry when conscripted along with other workers. Paley Scott: When you offered the Comrade Tearse was in the witness

assistance of the Militant Workers' stand longer than any of the other comrades. Paley Scott's method was Tearse: That is not true. There that of shouting, sneering and adoptare many problems facing the working ing a general bullying manner. It was class and the M.W.F. constantly at- worthy of note that though comrade tempts to give assistance to the work- Tearse was depicted and described by ers. It did the same with regard to Paley Scott as an "evilly disposed" the apprentices. The object of the man, he was but 3 years older than M.W.F. is to co-ordinate the struggles one of the apprentice witnesses whom of the working class in the unions and he was supposed to have "incited" and the factories for a fighting, militant led by the nose, being himself only 25 years of age.

### Landells: Every one of them. In reply to Scott Landells said that he exemption met his personal desire, 'My Interest was Political'

Comrade Heaton Lee entered the vitness stand ready to challenge any attack of the capitalist class. His bearing was fearless and bold and he answered the questions clearly and precisely. He said he was an agent for Messrs. Wimpey & Co. on open cast

Asked by Paley Scott why he spoke at an apprentice meeting in the name Judge Cassels: Would you have be- of "Henry Parker" he stated that he had a good job from a financial point Patterson: Not unless I had good of view and he knew that his employers would victimise him if they became Paley-Scott: You believe in what aware that he was associated with any left wing organisation. Therefore in order to avoid victimisation, he used the name of "Parker" when writing a strike, Daniel Donnachie, 22 of Blyth, told of a meeting at South Shields at which fears were justified since he had been he informed the apprentices that he suspended when the raids took place, suspected political influence was creep- and was sacked from his job upon his

.. Paley Scott asked him what he meant by a "militant worker"

Lee: A militant worker is a worker, who recognising he is one of the op-

Lee: Yes, I do.

Paley Scott: You are for strikes? Lee: Striking is one of the weapons agreed with the contents. workers use in the course of the strug-

Paley Scott asked what he tried to

Lee: I tried to teach him what a revolutionary communist was.

Paley Scott: What is the difference between that and Trotskyism? Lee: They are synonomous.

Judge Cassels asked Lee for a definition of a "Trotskvist"

Lee: A Trotskyist is the name to one who accepts the revolution ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Tery differentiate from the Stalinists who are not communists at all.

Judge Cassels: You mean Marx and the others were "communists"?

Paley Scott: You try to convince people of revolutionary ideas? Lee: Yes.

Paley Scott: And you found Davy a very apt pupil? Lee: He was a hard nut to crack.

He had ideas of his own. Paley Scott: Is he a member of your

Lee: He is now, yes.

Paley Scott: You filled Davy's head with ideas about nationalisation of the nines ?

Lee: He was interested in national-

sation before I met him. Referring to some notes in Lee's and Haston's handwriting on the organisation of the apprentices, containing the words "War Chest £250" Paley Scott asked if this was not for

Lee: £250 for a strike? How can a strike be run on £250? Ridiculous!

Paley Scott: Does it take more? Lee: I'll say it does. The sum of £250 was estimated to propagate the ideas of the boys among the apprentices and the working class generally. The war chest was a fund for conducting a propaganda campaign.

Referring to a letter drafted to Bevin by Lee together with two ap-Paley Scott: You favour all workers prentices Davy and Landells after a decision to send it by the Guild Executive. Lee said he thought their action was precipitate. He told them he dis

> Paley Scott: You knew that all apprentices in the shipbuilding and engineering industries were exempt under the Bevin Ballot Scheme?

> Lee: They are not. Paley Scott then produced a letter from the E.T.U. District to Branches found in Lee's house which said that all apprentices under 20 in the shipbuilding and engineering industries could be deferred on the application of the employers.

Lee said he had seen this letter and its contents were common knowledge. building apprentice and is un'der 20, was called up, this was regarded by the apprentices as a breach of faith by

would be a strike?

on yaou and the Revolutionary Communist

Tearse: Yes. The reason is that I Party Paley Scott: You devote your whole life to the work of the Revolutionary about Ellen Wilkinson.

high and as a result anything might happen. I was trying to express the feelings of the boys. That is the

## Jock HASTON-Lads should consent if the

Pits were Nationalised.'

Comrade Jock Haston occupied the a deputation as a means of national witness box for only a short period- propaganda. not more than 30 minutes. The reason for this was the absolute poverty of and the drafting of the leaflets one 'evidence' against him.

by Paley Scott and when it became of Commons, he had not contact with obvious that nothing was coming out the apprentices. of the cross-examination for the prosecution he closed down like a clam.

Comrade Haston said that on a routine visit to Newcastle he had met Davy that the deputation would be there.

But unfortunately they were not inthe Guild. -

"It was my view, and the view of my party that nationalisation of the pits and their operation under the control of the workers was the only solution to the coal crisis. This was the view not only of our party but of a number of organisations of the working class and prominent individuals-including I may say at one time-Mr. Bevin's.'

Paley Scott asked what was meant in his notes: "Sunderland suicide

No vote, but compulsion. He replied that "Sunderland sui-cide" referred to a lad who had been called to the pits under the Bevin Ballot Scheme who had recently committed suicide in Sunderland. Davy had informed him of this and it illustrated the feeling of the lads to the calling up to the mines.

"No vote, but compulsion" meant the lads. They had no vote, no legitimate means of expressing their opposition to this compulsion, but were nevertheless compelled to go down privately owned mines.

Paley Scott asked: What is meant

and should be done at once.

to me that some of the apprentices believed that by sending a deputation to parliament they would receive some ton's approval of the policy of enter-redress for their grievances. I noted ing the official body of the A.E.U. the point and expressed my opinion sky. We are called Trotskyists to But when Lowery, who was a ship- which is underlined in the exhibit Tearse and myself on February 10th "must only be conceived as a means of national propaganda." I suggested took the view that the leadership of to Davy that if any of the apprentices the Trade Unions would try to cir-Bevin. They were infuriated. To had any illusions on this core he cumvent the Guild-that they would confirm this Lee read from the letter should disillusion them. As a general make it an illegal body in the trade rule results are not obtained by work-Paley Scott: Did you hope there ers from this type of activity. Once body of youth in order to break up they understood this, they should send

Apart from the discussion with Davy

night and his interview with the ap-Most of the questions puttohim were prentices when they visited the House

> He had met the deputation at Kings Cross station as a reporter. He had as a matter of fact, notified the press terested then—though they are now.

> Paley Scott: I suppose you discussed politics with the apprentices in London?

Haston: I discussed politics with hem as much as I could. I am a Paley Scott: Do you think the term

bloodsucking" could have been used v Davv? Haston: Yes, I believe so. He was

rained in the Communist Party. (Laughter.)

Paley Scott: You are interested in

Haston: I am interested in strikes and every other social phase which affects the working people

Pointing to the draft original of a leaflet produced by the Tyne Apprentices Guild, Haston said, "Here you find one idea which was rejected by Davy and by the other apprentices and was deleted from the leaflet. It was my opinion that the apprentices should that this was a very sore point with publicly state that if the mines were nationalised and operated under workers' control, they would allow themselves to be drafted to the pits. But that they were not prepared to allow themselves to be drafted down the mines to produce coal for private profit. So hostile were the apprentices "Deputations, letters, etc. to to going down the pits under any cirparliament futile as general rule and cumstances that it was entirely remust only be conceived of as means jected, as you can see from the pubof national propaganda. Once this lished leaflet, demonstrating clearly is fully understood by app's then that it was their ideas contained in possible to send dep. to parliament the leaflets. What was for me a very important political propaganda ques-Comrade Haston: Davy explained tion was rejected by the apprentices.

Paley Scott quoted from a letter from Tearse to Lee mentioning Has-

Haston: This was discussed between when the boys visited the House. We unions and would set up an official

(Continued on page 4)

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International.

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EDITOR: E. Grant. BUSINESS MANAGER: J. Graham.

### EDITORIAL.

### PERSECUTION WILL NOT DETER US

The working class has been struck a great blow. After a six day trial three members of the working class have been convicted on a charge of aiding workers on strike. It was not only our Party that was on trial. The entire British working class was in the dock. In the conviction of the comrades the workers have sustained a temporary defeat.

The trial, however, completely vindicates our Party and its role quately house the people, with some in the recent struggles of the workers. Comrade Haston at the very outset put the stamp upon it by characterising it in open court as "a case of political victimisation and a frame-up." The trial was staged by the capitalist class to expose a supposed that they aim eventually to build 3 to gigantic conspiracy. The yellow press screamed accusations and innuendoes. Bevin lent his weight by thundering hell and fire at his Dorchester Hotel speech. In spite of this campaign, the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" on the charges of conspiracy and incitement. The comrades have been sent to prison for nothing more sinister than giving what aid and assistance they could to workers on strike. That verdict is a victory for our Part and for the workers.

Comrade Haston declared at the outset that the four comrades and our Party are the scapegoats for Bevin's Regulation 1A(a). Bevin painted a picture of nation-wide conspiracy; the verdict of the jury knocks the bottom out of his case. It seems now that there was no conspiracy, no incitement. Therefore, we demand the withdrawal of Regulation 1A(a) and we call upon the workers in the factories and mines to demand its withdrawal.

It is now clear for all to see, that while we were specially selected for an attack, the trial was directed against the entire working class. It was just a warning, a preliminary challenge of the capitalist class. The reply of the workes to this challenge must be clear and sharp. The immediate, nation-wide demand for the release of the comrades must be organised.

Finally, we declare that the trial has demonstrated the terror our political programme strikes in the hearts of the class enemy. They realise that only our programme can challenge their rule and

# There is No House

The Government is tackling the housing problem. With a great flourish of pens and words, countless comnittees have been set up to examine the problem in detail.

'There is Lord Portal, sitting . . . with . . . 50 or 60 committees, in-cluding the roof and tile committee, the cement committee, the committee for slates and tiles and the committee for this, that and the other. Everything about the house has a committee sitting on it, BUT THERE IS NO HOUSE."

Thus commented Mr. Maclaren, M.P. recently in the House of Commons debate on housing, who also quoted Lloyd George stating, when aced with a similar situation in 1918,

"we have had endless authority, but you cannot plough waste land with writing paper, you cannot sweep away slums with paint brushes." That however, is precisely what the

Government is attempting to do.

It is estimated that 5 million new houses are needed in order to ade-I.P.'s placing the number at 51 million. The Government plans on the other hand, to build 2-300,000 houses within 2 years of the ending of the war, which means about 6 per cent of he actual requirements. It is true

spread over the next 10-12 years!
In Sheffield, for example, houses vere being condemned at the rate of 3,000 a year before the war, and their ninimum immediate requirements are stimated at around 30,000 houses. heir share in the Government's plan" however, could not be more than 2,000 houses—a picture which could be duplicated in almost every ther British city

million houses-but this is to be

This is not all however. The total number of men available for ALL purposes in the immediate post-war period vill equal, according to the Govern-

### BY JIM HINCHCLIFFE

ment, only that number who were en-gaged solely in repair and maintenance work before the war, that is, around 300,000 men-it is with this background that we are now able to see the Government's "solution" in a more realistic light, with proposals which will not alleviate the difficulties, but in fact, will serve only to aggravate

Whilst the Tories try to minimise the seriousness of the whole situation, we are provided with a glimpse of the disgustingly sub-human conditions under which the workers have to exist, when examples were given of workers in Stoke-on-Trent living in "railway wagons and horse vans with no water laid on or any lavatory accommodation" paying 10s. a week rent, and when Mr. Hynd, M.P. reported that—



"I have been in some of these slums . . . When you enter the living room the first thing that strikes you is the leg of a bed protruding through the ceiling. You reach the bedroom through a narrow staircase of rotted steps, on which you have to climb on all fours in case one of the stairs collapses. The living room is also a scullery. It has a stone sink which was once a deep sink, The edges have worn down flat, so it does not hold water and the floor is permanently wet. In another house the family are compelled to live in one room because they cannot get upstairs. The stairs disintegrated long ago. If you could get upstairs, the rooms would not be habitable, because from below you can see the sky in the gap between the ceiling and the walls . . .

This is a picture, not of 17th century England, or of 20th century Bombay, but of conditions existing in Sheffield, in the 1,944th year of the Christian

With this testimony of how capitalism has "solved" problems in the past we can now examine exactly how it proposes to "solve" them in the future, and the answer is simply—that they were made of; they are an init doesn't! The Government's White spiration to all who fight against Paper has not yet appeared, although promised for January of this year, and whilst it has been stated that delays should not be caused by "motives of personal gain or other selfish reasons", the "Times" advances the idea that the delay has been caused through-

Committee. These proposals involve ship. They affect powerful and well organised interests . . . '

will never dare to violate their fundamental interests, and even on the question of fixing the price of land for post-war reconstruction at the 1939 level, the Government has retreated and talks of purchases at the inflated current prices. Instead of a bold and constructive policy, it is content to let the matter be left in the hands of private enterprise and vested interests.

To what extent the capitalist system abotages the development of the welare of the masses, is reflected in the immense burden of interest payments which is paid for by the workers when they pay their rent. In 1924, Mr. John Wheatley, Minister of Health in the 1924 Government, calculated that the cost of interest payments was no less than 66 per cent of the rent, that is, about 13/3d. in the £, and even assuming that it is now around 50 per cent, it means that the AVERAGE RENT PAYMENT COULD BE RE-DUCED TO HALF ITS PRESENT FIGURE—a staggering conclusion which in itself is an admission of the hopelessly parasitic and inefficient THEM! nature of capitalism.

The housing problem can never be solved within the limits of the capitalist system, and whilst we are pre-sented with immense possibilities in relation to the pre-fabricated manufactured hous, the other revolutionary methods of building and construction, the whole future is held within the rrim and destructive vice of monopo



Dear Comrade,

My friends and I have read the press attacks, and their demands for strong action. A similar attack has gone on against the '18' American Trotskyists.

They the '18', showed what stuff workers' rights, and who will defend those rights regardless of boss-class attacks.

Let the workers take note of who the bosses attack and seek to suppress. As in all past history they attempt to get rid of the real leadership. They "the difficulty of reaching an agreed will not succeed, no matter how ruthdecision on the compensation and lessly they lash out. Their attacks are betterment proposals of the Uthwatt a sign of your strength and their a sign of your strength and their weakness: I send you my very best fundamental changes in land owner- wishes for the fight in which you are

about to engage.

I also send £10 to help you in these It is here that we now begin to difficult days. I write this letter in a reach the centre of the problem. Pre- dugout on Anzio Beachhead, to the cisely because the Government repre- sound of violent artillery fire; all hell sents the capitalists and landlords, it seems to have been let loose-the music of an outworn system!

Greetings from this dugout on Anzio, and a warning to Trades Unionists and a warning to Trade Uunionists fail to come to your defence now is to open the way for the big antilabour drive of the boss-class. Today it is you in the vanguard; tomorrow they will attack the whole Labour Movement.

Here, we vow in our dugouts: Never again". An independent working-class movement is the greatest assurance that this time it will be "Never again", and that the workingclass will not only end this bloodbath. but will establish a decent and a sane

I'm sorry that I cannot write more, and must apoligize if this letter is a ittle disjointed, but, as you know, we are in the throes of an attack. suppose that there is a good menu at the Savoy tonight, and nice clean beds for those who make the millions out of this. WE SHALL NOT FORGET

Success in the fight,

Yours fraternally, From a dugout on Anzio.

### DEFENCE S.W. London Committee Formed

REPORT OF CONFERENCE HELD AT R.A.C.S. SMALL HALL, TUESDAY, 13TH JUNE, 1944.

Twenty-two delegates from the ollowing organisations were present, together with a number of visitors:

Carshalton 2 Hackbridge Mitcham2 Thornton Heath 1 the legislation under which they have been charged."

G. Healy moved the resolution. He was a delegate from Thornton Heath No. 1 branch of the A.E.U. The trial, he said, was significant not only because four people on trial were Trotslyists, but because bound up in the trial was the whole future of the trade union movement. It was not possible to separate the prosecutions from the

be clear and sharp. The minietiate, nation-wide domains for the release of the comrades must be organised.

Finally, we declare that the trial has demonstrated the terror our political programme strikes in the hearts of the class enemy. They realise that only our programme can challenge their rule and that only our programme can offer an alternative to the working class. We declare that imprisonment and persecution will not still our voice, will not deter our course. With redoubled energy we will continue the struggle for the victory of the workers under the banner of the Fourth International.

### RACE HATRED

A thirty-year-old American negro was sentenced to death by an American Court Martial on an offence of committing rape. Fifty thousand British people signed a petition for his reprieve and since then the sentence has been commuted from hanging to life imprisonment.

Generally, the question of misscariage of justice has been com- Committee had been set up not only mented on by "Tribune", "War Commentary" and other journals. But it raises a more fundamental question than miscarriage of justice.

In the American army a negro soldier is sentenced to death for rape, but a white American to a term of imprisonment. For the same offence different punishment is imposed, depending upon the colour and the race of the accused.

Roosevelt has hypocritically asserted that this war is fought to end the theory of the "master race" but look at the picture of the American Negroes:

In the army they are segregated. They are confined to the most menial jobs. Many sections of the services are closed to them, however qualified they might be. A different penal code, imposing heavier punishments upon the negroes, exists.

This racial discrimination is not a peculiar American or German feature. In the British Empire armed forces flogging is imposed only on the West Indian coloured soldiers. At the Geneva Convention when a Japanese delegate moved a resolution calling for equality of civil rights between all races, the British delegates opposed it on the ground that without the assumption of racial superiority, they could not maintain an Empire.

Racial discrimination, Jim Crowism, are some of the methods by which the ruling classes disunite the workers to keep them in subjugation. In periods of war and crises, these differences are accentuated. Significantly in the last two years, race riots have increased in America and anti-Semitism has been on the ascendancy in Britain. Such antagonisms are deliberately fostered and encouraged by the capitalist class.

But the mass of the British workers have shown their opposition to Jim Crowism. When the thirty negro soldiers were court martialled, the British soldiers supported them. The petition for their reprieve was organised by the Bath Labour Party. In the common struggles for better conditions that will develop in the future, differences of race and colour will be thrown overboard by the toiling masses. Workers of Britain and of America will support the negroes in their struggle against race discrimination and against the policies of Roosevelt to keep millions of them in conditions of starvation and segregation,

Twenty-two deregates from the following organisations were present, together with a number of visitors:

A.E.U.:

Co-ops.:

I.L.P.:

Mitcham2 Thornton Heath 1 Thornton Heath 2 Southfields A.U.B.T.W.: Brixton and Clapham St. Helier Sutton & District Trades Council Vickers Armstrong Works Committee

Carshalton 2

Hackbridge

S.S.C.S. Fed. Guilds Council Thornton Heath

Women's Guild Battersea Tooting

Wilmbledon P.P.U.: Streatham Croydon Wandsorth

Reg. Groves, as Chairman, opened the meeting; he explained that four people had been arrested under the Trade Disputes Act, and a National for their defence but to conduct agitation against the new Regulation 1A(a). The following resolution was before the conference:

"This conference agrees to form a South-West London Committee of the Anti-Labour Laws Victims Defence Committee, for the purpose of mobilising support in the area for the following objects: Providing legal aid to the four people arrested Under the Trade Disputes Act, and to any other working class prisoners who may be arrested under this Act, or under the New Defence Regulations: sustaining the victims and their dependents, and making clear the anti-working class character of

No. 1 branch of the A.E.U. The trial, he said, was significant not only because four people on trial were Trotstwists, but because bound up in the trial was the whole future of the trade union movement. It was not possible to separate the prosecutions from the new legislation, as the Government had made these arrests to cause a scare while they introduced the new regulations; through these arrests every rank and file worker was threatened. It was around this struggle that a real feeling of unity could develop in the ranks of the working class.

D. King, delegate from Sutton and District Trades Council, seconding the resolution, pointed out that he was not a Trotskyist but an ordinary member of the trade union movement. The real issue before the Conference was that the Trades Disputes Act was now, for the first time, being implemented. The Government had chosen this time in view of the opening of the Second Front. They were putting shackles on the trade union movement, and they must not be allowed to get away with it; the attack on the Trotskyists was merely a cover for an attack on the trade union movement.

In discussion, Fred Emmett from Mitcham No. 2 A.E.U. said that this was an attack on the workers as a whole. The Government had taken advantage of the agreement not to have strikes, and the union leaders cluding "conspiracy and incitement" were pointing to the Trotskyists, to cover up their own bad leadership.

Bro. Briggs of Carshalton No. 2 A. E.U. stated that the attitude of his branch was that they were not concerned with what these four comrades did or who they were, but with the 'conspiracy and incitement' the jury

(Continued in next Column.)

sorved wronin one ist system, and whilst we are presented with immense possibilities in relation to the pre-fabricated manufactured house, the other revolutionary methods of building and construction, the whole future is held within the grim and destructive vice of monopoly capitalism, with the hand of the land lord demanding his rent, and the Building Societies and Banks demanding their interest. This is the standard by which our rulers judge any particular problem-does it yield a profit! the welfare of the masses is hardly a consideration at all for these uman vultures!

The arguments in favour of the solution of the housing problem are argu-ments in favour of the overthrow of capitalism, the root cause of these shameful conditions, and it will only be by the taking of power by the workers themselves, that they will be able to lift their eyes to the broader horizons of decent homes, peace and plenty for all.

(Continued from previous Column.) principle involved—the implementation of the Trade Disputes Act.

Bro. King stated that if the apprentices in Surrey had been organised as strongly as they were on the Tyne. they would have taken the same action, because feeling was so strong against the Pit Ballot Scheme.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried unanimously.

A resolution as follows was carried by acclamation, to be telegraphed to the four comrades whose trial had opened during the day:

"Conference of delegates from union branches, Works Cocmittees, Co-op. Guilds, socialist societies South-West London extends full support and solidarity to you all."

Labour to Power

on the following Programme AN END TO THE COALITION WITH THE BOSSES. TRADE UNION LEADERS MUST BREAK WITH THE CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT AND WAGE A CAMPAIGN FOR POWER ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME:

Industrial and Economic Policy. Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry without 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 mismanagement.

Distribution of food, clothes and other consumers commodities under the control of committees of workers elected from the Co-ops, distributive trades, factories, housewives' committees, and small shopkeepers, 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 job; and industrial rates for all members of the armed forces.

**Democratic Demands** 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 Britain; 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 at-

Military Policy

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

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.



In a speech at Falmouth, May 21st, 1927. Ernest Bevin had this to say of the Trade Disputes

"All I can say is, let there be a strike and let any one of us be arrested. Sir Douglas Hogg will soon discover what the attitude of the Trade Unions is . . . That this Bill was particularly designed to put into servitude the transport workers more than any other class . . . To carry out the Bill this Union would have to split into 180 different parts. . . ."

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# THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE VERDICT

# Labour Movement Watching the Appeal

(Continued from page 1).

the movement. We were convinced of this from the many precendents where the trade union leaders had done this in the past. It was our view that if the leaders did this, the apprentices should immediately enter the official movement and take it over and voice their demands through that body.

made it a legal strike?

Haston: Not necessarily. But this would have strengthened the hands of

I would point out that only about 20 per cent of the apprentices were organised in trade unions, and one of the most important questions we tried to teach the lads was to organise the youth one hundred per cent into the trade unions.

Paley Scott produced a copy of the mid-February "Socialist Appeal" and

"The Tyne lads have already tasted blood". When an apprentice -not in the engineering trade was recently given instructions to report for pit training, they threatened to bring every apprentice on the Tyneside out on strike unless his notice

This has convinced the lads more union organisation."

"the benefits of militant union organ-

convinced of the need for a fighting militant union organisation that was prepared to fight for their demands.

Paley Scott: You interviewed the lads as a reporter?

Haston: Yes.

In exasperation Paley Scott burst out: "You! The National Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party!" and sat down.

All the comrades conducted themselves in the court in a manner worthy of our tradition. Each took every opportunity afforded him or her to present the views of the party, and insofar as opportunity did present itself, this was admirably done. Their behaviour in the witness box impressed all alike. There were a number of apprentices sitting in the visitors gal-

Owing to the fact that we have no but to Messrs. Capitalists. lawyer in our party who holds our He left the court accompanied by his movement, they will pursue the matter views no Goldman as the Comrades

### Bevin in the Box

like a leaf.

In the lower court, the labour official had stated that he was not aware whether Bevin had seen the letter of Judge Cassels: Would that have the apprentices or not. Bevin said he had seen the letter and had not replied to it, but referred it back to the official bodies concerned.

> wood had ever discussed the Tyne Ap- working class. prentices' strike with him. Readers will recall the statement of Kirkwood in the House: "I am satisfied that a proper man, with the courage, would go and face the workers. I have asked the Minister (Bevin) time and again, but he has said "No, I am not going" I asked him to go to Tyne but he said 'No." I said You can take it from me they will strike.' He said "Let them strike. If they want a showdown we are ready for them."

He did not see the apprentices in the House because he did not know they were there. When he said this there was shuffling in the gallery among the apprentices who claimed was cancelled. It was! The aid was that they had seen Bevin in the lobby when they were in the House.

However, he continued, had he than ever of the benefits of militant known that apprentices were in the house, he would have refused to see Paley Scott: What was meant by them in any case. Why? Because it was the official policy of the Government (Mr. Churchill had said so) to Haston: They had become more deal with industrial disputes with the accredited bodies, and not with unofficial bodies.

But no guarantee had been given that if the circumstances of the war altered, the arrangements would not be changed. In other words, no guarantee had been given that involves the activities of any worker, any shop stew-introduction of Regulation 1A(a). George Sinfield wrote in the "Daily worker" on April 12th, describing antee had been given at all.

these labuor leaders who have deserted over them. So agitated were they organised labour thorughout the councreating a disturbance.

lery who expressed their admiration lesson in the role of the labour bureau- from the time of the appeal findings, for the way in which the comrades crats in the coalition government. thus losing the time they will have Services rendered, not to the workers, already served, due to the supreme

apprentices were not in the dock is obvious. Bevin knew full well what an outcry would have been provoked if a hand was laid on the lads—parti-Bevin took the witness stand shaking the Ballot Scheme. What the capitalists needed was a dark and sinister "conspiracy" on the part of "out-siders." But there was no conspiracy. And hard as they tried, the prosecution could not conjure up one.

Our comrades were found not a penal offence", read: guilty on the charges of conspiracy and incitement. This is a victory He emphatically denied that Kirk- not only for our party, but for the

> The charges upon which he comrades were convicted are these of "aiding and abetting Davy" and "furthering" a strike declared illegal under the Trade Disputes Act. Prior to this case it had been a ruling in the House of Lords in the case of Conway versus Wade in 1909, that the term "furtherance of a trade dispute" must apply to a trade dispute in existence under the act done must be in the course of it and for the purpose of

> But dealing with the interpretation of "furtherance" Judge Cassels said in his summing up speech:

strike is an illegal one."

fficial bodies.

Paley Scott asked Bevin if an under-the working class movement. Not only world in their fight against labour. taking had been given to exempt apprentices in essential work. Bevin said he preferred the word "guarantee". is it a question of the use of the infamous Trade Disputes Act against ary "Daily Worker" from adding its militant workers; it involves the actpressing dissatisfaction over a griev- Bevin's meeting with the employers The reactions of the lads as Bevin ance which may lead to a strike-he and trade union leaders: left the witness stand is proof that becomes liable to conviction under the term "furtherance." The appeal to the working class are losing their hold the higher court is being watched by that the police officials had to keep try because of the grave consequences them in check and prevent them from which can arise out of it. And although this may mean that our com-Bevin in the box was a first class rades will have to start their sentence importance of the issue to the labour to the end if

sive influences.

That inference is now almost completely vindicated by the facts . . .

individuals responsible for fomenting offence to incite unrest in industry."

People Instigating Strikes ''—Hidden Hand Agitators Marked'' "The principal aim of the people in the cipal aim of the new measures will be many was handled by her victors, it to get at "the hidden hand agitators."

and the press to prepare public opin- from lack of milk as a result. ion for the introduction of Regulation The precedent set in this interpre- ment of reaction. It is used by the of the population in Germany.

"He outlined the additional powers he wants the Cabinet to adopt which aim to clamp down on the organisers of unofficial stoppages in

a formula for consideration which provides for dealing with elements from outside and inside industry, but which at the same time recognises and safeguards the legitimate activities of shop stewards and trade union leaders."

CHURCHILL PREPARES REVENGE

(Continued from page 1). in the living body of Germany which separated East Prussia from the rest of the Reich. All her colonies in which she exploited the colonial North East. It seemed so unlikely peoples were taken away from her and that the boys had taken this serious step on their own initiative.

These territorial changes bled Ger-On the contrary, there was every many to the limit Alsace-Lorraine reason to believe that the strike was and the Saar were among the main promoted and fomented by subver- iron and coal producing centres of Germany. Their loss crippled her.

But not content with this the Allies demanded even more. Germany's The Daily Mail of April 6th, under the merchant marine was confiscated. Her heading "Incitement to strike will be Navy, rather than surrender to the Allies was scuttled. Reparations "All subversive organisations and were demanded which even the more sober capitalists pointed out, it would strikes, particularly in the coalfields be impossible for Germany to pay. It are to be suppressed . . . The new order will specifically make it a penal capacity. On top of this, unilateral capacity. On top of this, unilateral disarmament was enforced on Ger-The Evening Standard headlined on Many. The Rhineland was forcibly April 5th, "Cabinet Have List of demilitarised. To complete the pic-All this, and more, was part and blockade of Germany was continued parcel of the carefully planned cam-paign on the part of the Government and 1,000,000 German children died

Versailles meant to the German promoting the interests of either party or both parties to it."

100 for the introduction of Regulation 1 A (a). A "scapegoat" had to be found for the introduction of this antiworking class legislation. Every class merciless exactions from Germany, conscious and organised worker knows Britain and France occupied the Ruhr that it is not "outside agitators" or in 1923 because Germany was unable "It is not necessary that the act "subversive elements" who cause to pay reparations. As a consequence in furtherance of an illegal strike strikes. A strike can only take place there was a terrible inflation which should be during the actual time of upon the democratic decision of the ruined the workers and the middle the strike; it may be an act which workers themselves. No outsiders can class. The mark dropped at the could reasonably be regarded, upon force or cajole workers to take such height of the inflation to the figure of the evidence, as an act in prepar- drastic action which involves hardship about 12,000,000,000,000 to the f. This ation for the strike and that that and suffering for themselves and their meant insecurity, hunger, want and families. This is the time worn argu- misery for the overwhelming majority

> In this war as the result of the increasing contradictions of capitalism on a world scale, the aims of the Allies make this savage Treaty seem like the milk of human kindness. Instead of the Polish Corridor cutting off East Prussia from the rest of Germany, the problem is to be "solved" by handing over the rest of East Prussia to Poland. And so with the claims of the rest of the countries overrun by Hitler; instead of the fantastic figures of reparations demanded from the Ger mans last time, new figures which stagger the imagination are being Mr. Bevin outlined his views very worked out. Russia alone is claiming freely and frankly. He introduced ten to twenty times the figures of Versailles. Lenin referred to the Versailles Treaty as a robbers dictated peace which would sow the dragons teeth of new wars; what would he have called this super Versailles?

Now it is these same architects of

coupled with the wonderful resistance of the Red Army have created the beginnings of a new mood among the advanced German workers. Had Stalin offered an International Socialist alternative, with the brotherly hand of co-operation to the German workers and soldiers, the Red Flag would have already conquered all Europe. Nevertheless it is impossible to hold back the wheel of history. In spite of the assistance rendered Hitler by the policy of Stalin and Churchill the German workers are beginning to move. It is doubtful whether Hitler will survive 1944. The unbearable tension is being reached which led to the revolution of 1918. The German workers are preparing to revenge themselves for the crime of Hitler

To quote from two reports received by the International Transport Workers Federation:

and the Nazis.

"A trade unionist who speaks German fluently returned in April from a two years' stay in Berlin as a foreign worker, which he undertook in order to study German conditions. He reports that in a factory where he was employed, the forty German workers included two Nazis, two Communists and three Social-Democrats. The other German workers were all opposed to the Nazi regime, but did not want to hear of the old parties.' . . . The report went on to say that the workers now express their opinions frankly and are inclined to sabotage and ca-canny, but would not yet risk a strike.

.... Reports which have come independently from four German districts tell the same tale. Clandestine Soldier's Councils are said to have formed in these reserve battallions. They have even begun to act. They started quietly by protesting with success against the cancelling of warm meals; this was how the revolt in the Fleet started in 1918. The reports make it clear that these Soldiers' Councils have a political aim, as have those which were formed a good deal earlier in Norway."

The Allies know this mood of the German workers and that is why they are attempting to poison the minds of the peoples of Britain, America and the Soviet Union against all Germans instead of distinguishing between Nazis and their capitalist backers, and the German workers.

They will not succeed. The workers of Germany and Europe will find their why to the programme of the Fourth International. They will fight for a Socialist Germany in a Socialist apprentices sitting in the visitors galfor the way in which the comrades bore themselves.

Owing to the fact that we have no but to Messrs. Capitalists. lawyer in our party who holds our views-no Goldman as the Comrades able to bring out our political ideas wrath of the rank and file. to the best advantage. On top of this, the comrades were not permitted to make a final statement before sentence Class Justice and was passed, as this privilege is apparently not accorded in cases of "misdemeanour" as it is in cases of a the Implications ently not accorded in cases of "mis-"felony.

But despite this, the political issues involved were clear. The revolutionary policy of the Trotskyists versus the under the control of the miners, demo- illusioned. cratisation of the unions on the basis of a fighting policy of independence from the capitalist class. All the evidence in favour of the prosecution was that which was retrogressive and reactionary-private ownership of the mines, narrow craft unionism, and the propping up of the state machine by the labour leaders. There was no ambiguity. The issues were clear.

## on Barrow

Scott attempted to introduce the role and militant acts." of Comrade Tearse and the Militant Workers' Federation in the Barrow Strike. Donnachie, a prosecutión witness, hostile to the accused, stated in equality forbids the rich as well as the evidence that the Militant Workers' Federation was a strike creating body, which lived on strikes and incited the Barrow strike. He further stated that of their class and not in the interests Tearse was a member of the Barrow of the workers. Every worker knows

agreed that he was.

of the Barrow Strike Committee was owners and arms barons would have called in as a witness for the defence. been brought to trial and gaoled for He said he was a political opponent of instigating and inciting working people the four accused. He had no sym- to strike over a thousand and one pathy with their political ideas. He injustices. was there in the interests of truth. He categorically denied that Comrade Tearse had had anything to do with the Barrow workers coming out on strike. He stated that the services rendered by Comrade Tearse to the Barrow workers was at the request of the Strike Committee. Comrade Tearse was never a member of the strike com-The circulars sent out on behalf of the Barrow strikers issued in the name of the Militant Workers' Federation was only sent out after consultation with the Barrow Strike Committee and with their agreement.

In examination it was revealed that Bro. Trewartha had been approached by the Chief Constable in Barrow for a statement for the prosecution. He had given a statement in which he had outlined truthfully the facts. Although this was in the hands of the prosecution, they had not revealed it in the court, and they had deliberately withheld such information and attempted to impute a role to Comrade Tearse which they knew to be untrue.

Bevin in the box was a first class rades will have to start their sentence lery who expressed their admiration lesson in the role of the labour bureau- from the time of the appeal findings, crats in the coalition government. Services rendered, not to the workers,

He left the court accompanied by his secretary, solicitor and his detective, in the United States had, we were not well protected, he thought, from the of Lords.

# of the Verdict

The summing up of the Judge can reactionary anti-labour policy of the best be described as a fine case for capitalist class these were the issues the prosecution. Anyone who might at stake. All the evidence in favour have had any illusions that the judiciof the defence was that which was pro- ary was separate and independent of gressive-nationalisation of the mines politics, would have been rudely dis-

The law of the land, he told the jury, is the same for everybody. "The law of the land applies to all-to employers as well as to workmen; the 1927 Act contains similar provisions with regard to lockouts as it does with regard to strikes; the law applies to those who think that this war is a war to save civilisation and also to those who think that this war is just a capitalist war. The law applies to Bro. Trewartha those who believe in bringing about changes and reforms, if necessary, in society by peaceful persuasion, and also to those who think that such changes and reforms, if necessary, Throughout the proceedings Paley should be fought for by revolutionary

This reminds one of the dictum of Anatole France in describing bourgeois justice: "The law in its majestic poor to sleep under bridges, to beg for bread, and to steal . . . . . The capitalists make the law in the interests Strike Committee and that Tearse had it, the law applied equally to employers and workmen, during the course Bro. Tom Trewartha the chairman of the war, countless numbers of coal-

Dealing with Davy and the appren-

tices, the Judge said:
"In this case some of the witnesses for the prosecution may be regarded as accomplices with the defendants. If the defendants or any of them were guilty of any of these offences Davy was equally guilty, and therefore, in law, he is what is known as an accomplice. It sometimes happens that the Prosecution considers it necessary to put into the witness box a witness or witnesses whose presence in the dock might not have been out of place. In such cases it is the duty of the Judge to warn the Jury that whilst it is open to them to act upon the uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice it is dangerous so to do, and that they should look to the rest of the evidence and see whether any substance has been given, any evidence by the accomplice is corroborated or strengthened by independent testimony."

The reason that Davy and the other

thus losing the time they will have already served, due to the supreme importance of the issue to the labour, movement, they will pursue the matter to the end, if necessary to the House

It is the duty of the organised labour movement to rally to the support of the imprisoned comrades and give every moral and financial aid to the Defence Committee in taking the case

# of IAa

our party and our comrades is recalled, in the light of the verdict, the whole set-up and preparation for the introduction of Regulation 1A(a) can 23rd. As reported in the "Herald" be seen in its real perspective.

The "News Chronicle" of April 3rd,

now on strike have been hoodwinked lation. into their illegal action by sinister tical game."

The Sunday Dispatch of April 9th,

"Strikes are being fomented by agitators belonging to the organisations calling themselves the "Militant Workers' Federation" and the "Revolutionary Comment Party" in connection with which is published and distributed the 'Socialist Appeal.'

. Those behind the 'Socialist Appeal'-the writers on the paper, and the agitators who foment trouble among the miners-are Trotskyists, who believe in permanent revolution.'

Evening Standard of 5th April, the correspondent wrote in an "Hidden Hand Agitators Marked."

"The principal aim of the new measures will be to get at the 'hidden hand agitators'.

. . . The law apparently requires some amendment to subject agitators outside the industry to the same consequences as can be imposed on

he Sunday Express of April 9th, J L. Garvin wrote:

"There is proof that agitators outside the industry are playing an insidious and virulent part to incite sabotage of the war effort. To these intriguers no repression up to penal servitude can be too stern."

he Daily Sketch editorial, of April

From the very beginning clere some suspicious features, bout were some suspicious features the strike of the apprentices

a formula for consideration which from outside and inside industry, but which at the same time recognises and safeguards the legitimate activities of shop stewards and trade union leaders.'

It was only when resolutions of protest began to pour in from trade unions and workers bodies that the 'Daily Worker' changed the line and started to demand the repeal of 1A(a). Their argument was that the Government had ample powers to deal with 'outside agitators'' without having to The Preparation of half for the workers and half pass Regulation 1A(a). This method against, will not deceive them in the long run. Already the clause of the A.E.U. Executive dealing with 1A(a) declaring that the Government had When the libelious campaign against ample powers to deal with outside agitators, has been defeated by the National Committee of the A.E.U. at its last session in Edinburgh on June delegates took the line that it must be Bevin, the Stalinists, the Labour clear they did not subscribe to the leaders, the capitalist class and their view that strikes were caused by out-

really believed this? Of course not! activity was nothing short of playing the rank and file in the union. "It is beyond doubt that the the bosses game and paving the way Tyneside and Clydeside apprentices for the introduction of the new regu-

object is to injure the war effort and reliable tool, ready to stand to and to use the boys as pawns in a poli- rush into print at a moment's notice. The Tories could never have passed this legislation without the aid and indeed the initiative of the labour leaders. Although Bevin denied that a campaign had been whipped up in preparation, it was clear for all who had eyes to see that this was the case. In retrospect, it becomes doubly clear that there was no justification for the new regulation if that was to prisoned comrades. J. L. Garvin put the position plainly enough in the 'Sunday Express' of April 9th:

"The duty of arousing public opin-Mr. Bevin and he discharged it with a vengeance."

He served the capitalist class well. ers now claim that the persecutions gate Conference to discuss the formuwere aimed solely at the Trotskyists. The workers will give them the right workers to victory and the capitbeyond shadow of doubt that it is an attack against the whole of the work- lenge to the labour lackeys of the ing class movement.

Why have the Trotskyists been alone in aiding the apprentices in their rade Haston said to Judge Cassels struggle against the Bevin Ballot from the dock: "I hope I have served rallied to the side of the lads in their true judges were the working class. tendencies in the country alone give a verdict has been not guilty. policy and a direction to the struggles

Continued at foot of next column. | ment.

Lenin referred to the Verprovides for dealing with elements sailles Treaty as a robbers dictated peace which would sow the dragons teeth of new wars; what would be have called this super Versailles?

Now it is these same architects of disaster who have the audacity to blame the German workers for their own crimes.

or undunguisun. Nazis and their capitalist backers, and the German workers.

They will not succeed. The workers of Germany and Europe will find their why to the programme of the Fourth International. They will fight for a Socialist Germany in a Socialist United States of Europe and the E. GRANT

# CLEAN UP B.I.S.A.K.T.A.

(Continued from page 1).

tinue its militant policy towards the bosses of Richard Thomas.

But the very real danger which now exists in Ebbw Valle is, that this perfectly correct disgust with the E.C. press all lashed out the same scare side influence. They maintained that will extend to the Union as such. In stories about "incitement" and "con-strikes were caused by conditions in fact, already there is talk of breaking spiracy" on the part of the Trotsky- industry and not by those outside it. away from BISAKTA and forming a Can it be that the Stalinist leaders local Steel-workers Union. If such a breakaway occurs the responsibility in an article headed "Scotland Yard They have themselves been subjected rests solely with Brown, Walker & Co., Searches Men Who Duped Youths to the same vilification at the time whose contemptuous bureaucratic Into Striking", written by Ian Mac- when they were revolutionary. This actions have weakened the faith of

But this split need not, and must not take place. To break away and return to the old days of local unions would The British capitalist class have in under the present conditions of a influences outside this area whose the labour and Stalinist leaders a highly centralised industry, be a fatal policy. It would merely divide the workers, isolate the militants and, in any case, still leave Brown & Co. in supreme and even stronger control of the bulk of the BISAKTA membership. .. "Socialist Appeal" is solidly behind the Ebbw Vaile rank and file workers in their struggle against the BISAKTA bureaucracy. We suggest that millitants must get together now and formulate a fighting program to rebe sought in the actions of the im- capture the Union for the rank and file. The National Union is a great achievement of the steel-workers. Cleansed of its non-fighting bureaucracy it can become a powerful ion by a full exposure was left to weapon in the struggle for a better means of life.

John Brown poses as a great 'constitutionalist". Very we'll. Demand Let Bevin and the trade union lead- of him that he call a National Dele-

answer for the trial has demonstrated alists to their doom. We alone have a policy which constitutes a real chalcapitalist class.

Our comrades have been found guilty selected for persecution? We were not in the capitalist court. When Com-Scheme? There were other political my class as well as you have served and militant trade union bodies who yours in this trial," he knew that their just grievance. Because we of all the And in the eyes of our true judges the

We salute our class war prisoners of the workers, whether they be and pledge ourselves to continue the miners, apprentice engineers, or any struggle for their release and for the other workers. We have the ideas emancipation of the class in whose and the policy which will lead the interests they are serving imprison-

lation of a - New Constitution. One which gives the hard-working rank and file control over its full-time officials. BISAKTA does not hold National conferences-and even the Area conferences are saddled with Agendas set by the Executive. The membership have no "constitutional" method, under the present rotten constitution, of exercising a democratic control. This must end, for without such democracy in the union, the militants are terribly handicapped in their day to day struggle against the steel-

Ebbw Vale can start a real movement to transform the Union into a fighting weapon of the workers by rallying the BISAKTA membership throughout the country around these simple democratic demands.

For Annual Delegate Conferences with completely open Agendas.

For the re-election of all E.C. members at every Annual Conference.

### N.U.R. CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

armament industry, mines and transport and their operation under the control of the workers and technicians. This alone can guarantee a genuine struggle against Fascism, a fair share of the nation's wealth and goods for everyone and will inspire the German and European workers to rise with us in fighting against Fascism, capitalism and for Socialism."

The practical steps contained in this resolution are the best possible weapons to place into the hands of the conscripted British workers who now go into the blood-bath against the conscripted workers of Germany. Only these proposals can lay down the guarantees for the workers of Germany-drive a wedge between the Nazis and the German people and start to build the foundations for the United Socialist States of Europe.

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