

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

## The Socialist Appeal Stands For:

An end to the coalition with the bosses. Labour and Trade Union leaders must break with the capitalist Government and wage a campaign for power on the following programme:

1. Immediate despatch of arms and material to the Soviet Union under the control of the Trade Unions and factory committees.
2. Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry without compensation.
3. Confiscation of all war profits—all company books to be open for trade union inspection.
4. Workers' control of production to end chaos and mismanagement in industry to be exercised through workers committees.
5. Equal distribution of food, clothes, etc. under control of committees elected by housewives, small shopkeepers and factory workers.
6. Sliding scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum.
7. Repeal of the Essential Works Order and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking laws.
8. Clear out the reactionary pro-fascist officer caste in the Army and Home Guard. Election of officers by the soldiers.
9. Establishment of military academies by the Trade Unions at the expense of the state for the training of worker officers.
10. Arming of the workers under control of committees of workers elected in factories, unions and in the streets against the danger of invasion or Petainism.
11. Freedom for Ireland, India and the Colonies.
12. A Socialist appeal to the workers of Germany and Europe on the basis of this programme in Britain to join the Socialist struggle against Hitler for the Socialist United States of Europe.

Read the Testament of LENIN (inside)

Vol. 4, No. 1

OCTOBER, 1941

ONE PENNY

# WHY USSR IS SUFFERING REVERSES

## CLYDE WORKERS' STRIKE AGAINST ORDNANCE FACTORY RAMP Government Acts as Agent of Big Business

On September 23rd the workers at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Dalmeir on the Clydeside downed tools in protest against the transfer of the factory from Government to private control. A demonstration was held in Glasgow and two deputations inter-Dollan issued a statement at the City Chambers. After the second meeting, which had been agreed to by the delegation. The important section of it reads:

"I am authorised by Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Supply, to give you his personal guarantee, in writing, that on the day the war ends the factory will revert to the control of the Director-General of the Royal Ordnance Department and as such will become a permanent establishment under State control and management... changes have been made for the sole purpose of increasing output so that the war may be ended in favour of democracy. In this way, a factory which cost millions of pounds of public money has been handed over to Sir James Litigow and the Beardmore bosses free of charge, and the fact that the men's leaders accepted Beaverbrook's promise only serves to obscure the indignation that is widespread throughout the Clyde area. (Continued on page 2)

## Internationalism has been Abandoned

Kiev has fallen to the legions of German imperialism. The Donetz Basin is threatened. Leningrad and Odessa are besieged. Even the bourgeois press speaks of the seriousness of the military situation in which the Soviet Union finds itself and is already preparing an alibi for the failure to send substantial aid. The German armies are blasting their way inch by inch into Soviet territory, paying a bloody price in casualties, it is true. Already the regions conquered are TWICE THE AREA OF GREATER GERMANY. The bitterly contested but triumphant advance of the German troops is due, of course, to the superiority of German technique, organisation, industry and military skill over that of Russia.

But in war, morale is the decisive factor. Even these victories would not be of vital importance if the armies of German imperialism had their morale shattered. The German soldier today is apathetic and indifferent. Insofar as Russian propaganda has any effect, it serves only to drive him, in despair, into support of Hitler. At the time of the wars of intervention almost the whole of Russia was at one time in the hands of imperialism. All that was left to the Bolsheviks at one period were the two towns Petrograd and Moscow and one province. An overwhelming superiority in military equipment was in the hands of the armies of intervention. Annihilation of the young Soviet Republic seemed certain. And if it had been allowed to remain a purely military question, annihilation would have been the result. But that was a revolutionary war, led by Lenin and Trotsky.

What are the methods of waging a revolutionary war such as the Socialist Appeal calls—the methods which would avert the disasters now facing the Workers' State? First, the reintroduction of complete workers' democracy within the Soviet Union, and the re-establishment of Soviets. (Continued on back page)

## Workers' Victory at Handley-Page Essential Works Order Defeated

In the middle of last August the management of Handley-Page began the application of the Transfer Scheme under the Essential Works Order. 19 workers received notices of transfer, among them being a high percentage of militant workers and some shop stewards. The workers were discontented by the application of the scheme whereby an arbitrary selection of shop-stewards and militant workers, could be made by the management. In order to make it more palatable and soften the blow to the men, the management announced at least reasonable conditions for those to be transferred: the men who received notice were not to be dismissed until alternative employment could be found for them. The management were proceeding with caution in order to use this as the thin end of the wedge. But some of the men had not been found other work, whereupon the Ministry of Labour advised the firm to proceed with the strict application of the Essential Works Order. The management then acted with the knowledge of full support by the Ministry of Labour.

### VICTIMISATION BEHIND THE TRANSFERS

On the 10th of September, 29 men received seven days notice of transfer. Of this lot, the majority were militant workers, and, once again, included several shop stewards. Many of these highly skilled workers had not been found alternative employment and would have been thrown on the dole.

The workers soon saw that this placed an intolerable power in the hands of the management to get rid of all those militants who had stood for their interests and thus incurred the dislike of the bosses. In addition there was the provocation of the high-handed and callous way in which the management was treating these workers in applying the provisions of the E.W.O.

### STRIKE ACTION TAKEN

As soon as the news spread through the factory several sections immediately downed tools. Other sections quickly followed this lead. The main assembly shop was soon at a standstill. Next morning the ancillary departments struck in solidarity. 2,000 workers were already on strike by Thursday morning. Throughout Thursday other departments were coming out one after the other, the stores, millwrights, inspection departments etc. A notable feature was the class solidarity of the women workers who came out in support of their fellow workers.

In spite of the equivocal acceptance of the E.W.O. and all that it means, by the leadership of the Communist Party, the rank and file members of the Communist Party instinctively came out in solidarity with the other workers. The first test and the facts of the class struggle compelled them to abandon the policy of the

## LENIN'S GENERAL STAFF OF 1917 STALIN THE EXECUTIONER ALONE REMAINS



### BOLSHEVIK CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF 1917

These pictures depict the General Staff of the Bolshevik Party which, under the leadership of Lenin, led the victorious October Revolution of 1917. Stalin destroyed the entire generation of the Old Guard. Not only that. He also decapitated the entire leadership of the Red Army, the trade unions, the Youth organisations. Lenin attached tremendous significance to the Old Guard of Bolshevism. He regarded these men—the living embodiment of the experience of three revolutions (1905, February 1917, October 1917), of the struggle against World War I, the Civil War, the post war period of reconstruction, as the only guarantee of correct policies. "If we do not close our eyes to reality, then it must be recognised," Lenin wrote in March 1922, "that at the present time the proletarian policy of our party is determined not so much by its social composition as by the enormous and unlimited authority of that thin layer which may be called the Old Guard. Even a minor internal struggle within this layer would suffice if not to undermine, then, in any case, to weaken its authority to such an extent that the decisions would thereafter no longer depend upon it." Stalin and the bureaucracy have not stopped at "weakening its authority". They have annihilated it, and with it the programme of international Socialism for which it stood. It is to this that we can trace the terrible defeats which, despite the heroism of the Russian workers and soldiers, the Red Army is suffering today. Only the restoration of the methods of Lenin and Trotsky can save the Soviet Union from total destruction at the hands of international imperialism, either of Germany or the "allies"—Anglo-American imperialism.