

PROFITS CAUSE PRODUCTION CHAOS

EDITORIAL.

WHOM THE GODS DESTROY

The war of 1914-1918 was supposed to be the "war to end war". According to recent statements the present one might be described to be the "war to perpetuate war." A few months ago Bevin held out to the British workers the shining vista of a future in which it would be necessary for Britain to maintain an army of 4,000,000. Mabane, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Security, now paints the post world victory in even brighter colours. According to him the civil defence services will be continued after the war. In his own words: "It does appear to me that after the war we shall certainly not be able to abandon our civil defence organisation. We shall be able to transform it into an army not standing-by and trained but at call—a necessary and proper supplement to the armed forces."

This grim prospect held before the workers is a symptom of the complete breakdown and decay of capitalism. That in the midst of the greatest slaughter of all times the capitalist statesmen and their labour lieutenants can only offer to those who are enduring the privations and sacrifices, a future of even bloodier and more appalling sacrifices for themselves and their children.

At some periods the attempt is made to coat this bitter pill with the sugar of the "New Order" which will be built after the war. But a "New Order" which has to be propped up with bayonets and which does not even offer an assurance against fire-bombs, high explosives, and poison gas is obviously no new order but a continuation of the old.

During the last war imperialists at least held the illusion up to the masses that their sacrifices would result in universal peace and lasting disarmament. This time, while the lie of a better world is still held out as an inducement, the reality that underlies persists in breaking through.

The future world as the imperialists see it, is one not of peace and plenty, but of bloody chaos and of misery.

The imperialists and their faithful servants have lost all sense of proportion. They are mad if they believe they can impose this "peace" on the masses. Like the rulers of all doomed regimes tottering into the abyss they are mad. Those whom the Gods wish to destroy they first make mad.

The masses of Britain and Europe will make their own peace terms. Only Hitler's regime, but also those of Roosevelt and Churchill will be overthrown. It will not be a programme of war and preparation for war but a programme of fraternal collaboration of the peoples of Europe and all continents in the defence of a world security, peace and plenty, through the abolition of capitalism and the organising of workers power.

The overwhelming amount of evidence arraigned against the government's production policy places it first on the list as the most universally condemned and controversial part of the "war effort".

Reports from mass meetings held by industrial workers all over the country, from leading trade union and labour leaders—even from representative employers and business associations—add to the mountain of evidence accumulating against the method by which the ruling class is "organising" production.

Quoting examples of the chaotic inefficiency and waste in the war industries is by now a common pastime of press leader writers and is becoming a case of flogging the obvious. The attempts of government spokesmen to paint a rosy picture of "the great speed up" fly directly in the face of universally known facts.

PROFITEERS CLOSE MINES

The supporters of the profit system are the first to deny any responsibility for the backward state of industry. Mr. Tinker's statement in the House of Commons debate on production "that mines were still closing in spite of all the unions efforts to keep them open, because the owners claimed it was not possible to work them profitably" gives a good example of the effects of the profits lust.

Mr. T. Smith, in the same debate stated that the output of coal "had declined in the Midland area from 1,663,000 tons for June 2nd to 1,586,000 tons for July 19th." Such a state of affairs is the logical outcome in a situation where state policy is subordinate to the interests of a clique of bankers and financiers who to-day dominate every sphere of industry and who by their control over the basic industries exert a supreme influence over the whole structure of British industry.

CASH AT THE HELM

In fact, "progress" in the sphere of production bears a significant resemblance to the victorious retreats in the military sphere. "It is no secret, says Mr. Gordon England, that the science of production is but little known in the production departments". In the vital sphere of supply eighteen raw material controllers hold between them forty company directorships. These are the people who exert

a decisive influence on production and who are responsible for output.

They are expert at stock exchange manipulation and have achieved fame and affluence in the business world as financial wizards. But the war calls for experts in production, and the whole past history of these people is a story of efforts directed towards producing ever greater profits, with the production of commodities as an incidental part of their task. This is the reason behind the chaos in industry and one look at the profit figures of the monopoly concerns represented by the production controllers is enough to convince anyone that the "profits first" line is paying handsomely.

PRODUCTION ORGANISED BY 1945?

The glowing prospect held out by the ruling class as a result of this policy was amply illustrated by Mr. J. D. Biggers, U.S. Co-ordinator of American and British production, who in an optimistic speech in London said, "I think that the combined efforts of the present programmes of our two nations, properly synchronised, will out-produce the Axis powers by Mid-1943"—disregarding the fact that a "synchronised effort is as far off as ever—how long after mid-1943 will it be before Anglo-American superiority in arms output will justify counter-action?"

"SMALL MEN" IGNORED

Outside of the all-powerful realm of the banks, the trusts and the monopoly combines, there is universal discord. The present production policy, run by and on behalf of the "big men" leaves scores of small businesses desperately groping for existence as the Limitation of Supplies and Concentration of Business Premises Orders drives many small concerns to the wall, leaving this vast potential reserve of industrial capacity to flounder around helplessly without any plan to work out its own salvation as best it may.

Industrial experts are "frankly disturbed" at the planlessness of production and suggest that responsibility should be taken out of the hands of the financial magnates controlling supplies. Throughout the country factory workers are holding what are in effect vast protest meetings against the ill-effects of this policy which is spreading universal discontent and apathy among the industrial workers of Britain.

A ballot vote carried out by the Executive Committee of the South Wales Miners Federation recently endorsed the proposal of the E.C. in favour of working extra shifts to ease the situation in that industry. A few weeks back the mine-

owners were accusing the men of sabotaging the "war effort" by having time off. To-day the closing of the mines for profit reasons reveal who are the real saboteurs.

MINEOWNERS SABOTAGE OUTPUT

But the decision of the men to work extra shifts can only be described as a complete capitulation to the profiteering mineowners. A similar decision was also taken by the Fife miners Union Executive. The reception given to such actions has been shown in a press report on Sept. 26th. "25 Northumberland coal miners were asked by the management to increase their output by a ton a day each. By the end of the week they had reached their target. They held it a fortnight. Then they were told by their manager that in view of the increased output he wanted to discuss lowering their wage rate. They rejected the management's proposal and he retaliated by cancelling their wage agreement by placing them on day wages. The men are now producing the original amount but they are 9/- a day poorer for their efforts to speed up output."

The situation demands drastic action. While the war industries remain the plaything of finance, capital, inefficiency, waste of labour, power and material will remain. Not only this. The implications of leaving control in the hands of the capitalists, free to dictate their own terms and impose their own conditions upon government policy has been seen in the enormous growth of anti-working class measures.

At a time when revolutionary enthusiasm is called for, the working class is being driven into a state of apathy and demoralisation. Industrial conscription, the E.W.O.'s, the relaxation of the factory acts, these are the terms finance capital has dictated and is part of the price the working class must pay for capitalist control. Under the same plan the "allies" of a year ago—the French working class, are to-day paying the final instalment.

The growth of the Factory Committees and the Shop Stewards movement is an indication of the growing consciousness of the workers that only they, through the independent action of the producers themselves, can effect a remedy to the present chaos and guarantee the continuance, not of an out of date abstract capitalist democracy, but of genuine tangible workers democracy. Only by the expropriation of the war industries and through workers control of industry can the present disastrous trend of the "war effort" be reversed.

G.P.U. PREPARING ALIBI FOR TROTSKY'S ASSASSIN

MEXICO, D.F. As the first year following Leon Trotsky's murder passes, the G.P.U. is gradually arriving at a plan to free Jacson, the assassin. Little by little, the foundation for the projected "alibi" is being laid. In a statement which was published in all the dailies of Mexico City, Natalia Trotsky denounced this plot in the strongest terms.

The murderer's lawyer, Medillin Ostos, has followed the policy of seizing upon every occasion to protest against the judge's "partiality". He demands the right to ask questions of witnesses that have nothing to do with the case; he demands the testimony of people when such testimony can do nothing but clutter up the court records. Each time the judge refuses such a request, he protests the decision and the judge's "partiality".

On the other hand, it is possible to discern a line of development in the midst of much irrelevant material. He has asked certain questions of every policeman who was a member of the former guard posted outside the house on the day of the murder: Was Trotsky strong or weak? Was he agile and quick in his movements or slow? Where was the police guard posted to watch the office in which the fatal blow was struck? How does the police in charge know that only government officials entered the house on the night of the 20th of August?

GERMAN WORKERS STIRRING (from page 4)

ship by their refusal to form a united front that allowed Hitler to grasp power without a struggle. In 1933, Walter Citrine attempted to justify at the T.U.C. Conference, the treachery of the German Social-Democrats in not declaring a general strike—although he admitted it might have been successful by enlarging on the horrors of the civil war in Germany which it would have provoked.

It is significant for us to note that all news of the so-called anti-war move of the People's Convention was suppressed in German newspapers and wireless. Goebbels did not dare to let it be known among the German workers that a working class opposition, even in the caricature form of the

"SELF-DEFENCE" THEORY

Such questions following Jacson's statement last March that he had been injected with a "strange liquid" before making his most complete and damning statements, makes it clear that the G.P.U. is constructing the story designed to free its agent. This story may well be: "Trotsky became violently angry during an argument with Jacson and attacked him physically, forcing Jacson to kill in legitimate self-defence! Tell-tale evidence was removed from the office in the first night after the murder." To forewarn of such a story, Natalia Trotsky issued her statement to the press.

The repercussions to this statement were immediate. The following day, Ostos sent a note to the press "in answer" to the charge levelled against him. Gallantly assuming the pose of a gentleman, he said he wanted to be "not only tolerant but also benevolent" with the aggrieved widow, and therefore . . . did not answer one of the charges in a statement accusing him of being the go-between and therefore the accomplice of the G.P.U. He added that in regard to "the Messrs. advisors" of Comrade Natalia, he promised them to continue to the end the defence of the G.P.U. assassin. His justification is that of all gangster's lawyers—he is only pursuing his profession. His "profession" apparently obliged him to become an accomplice in his client's crimes!

People's Convention, was developing in Britain.

The ruling class of Britain which organised the power of German fascism is not in the least interested in waging a war against Fascism. They have always backed up reaction. Only the programme put forward by the *Socialist Appeal* can transform the war from a predatory imperialist war, into a genuine war of liberation on the part of Britain, for the destruction of fascism and the real defence of the Soviet Union. Only such a programme would immediately arouse the latent might of the German working class, banish the spectre of an endless war of extermination, and through the fraternal collaboration of peoples open up the prospect of a genuine new order of peace and prosperity—the Socialist United States of Europe.

WHY WE CALL FOR LABOUR TO POWER

"I am a former supporter of the Communist Party but now support your policy. What I cannot understand, however, is why you demand that the labour leaders should take power when you know that they will betray the workers. Look at their bad record in the Labour Governments of 1924 and 1929."

CAPITALISTS RES' ON LABOUR LEADERS

The above question is asked us by many comrades turning towards our tendency. The vast majority of the British working class passively support the Labour and Trade Union leaders at the present time. It is only by the hold which the Labour leaders have over the workers, that the capitalists in Britain continue to rule. Lenin once pointed out that without this support the capitalists could not rule for ever twenty four hours. It is for this reason that at all times of crisis, during revolutionary periods and especially during war, the capitalists compel the Labour and Trade Union leaders to enter the cabinet. Without their co-operation it would be impossible to launch the terrible attacks on the standard of living and the conditions of the workers which we see taking place today. Anderson would not have dared to launch the attacks against the workers which Morrison has done. Bevin has carried out measures which no Tory politician could have done.

The capitalists use the labour leaders in order to shield themselves from the anger of the workers. On the other hand, the labour leaders attempt to justify their position by the necessity for the workers to make sacrifices in the interests of "national unity". The main argument they use for their present betrayal is the need to wage a war against Hitlerism and fascism. Seeing no other alternative, the majority of the workers accept this—though sceptically and grudgingly.

MASSES STILL SUPPORT LABOUR LEADERS

It is true that the advance guard of the working class know the real role and treachery of the Labour leaders. The experience of the Labour Governments of

1924 and 1929 have demonstrated the incapacity of the labour leaders to solve any of the problems of the working class. Yet, despite this, the main mass of the workers, even the more class conscious sections of the workers in the trade union and labour movement, still have confidence in the ability of these leaders to offer them a solution to their problems.

In 1917, even after the February Revolution in Russia, when the Bolsheviks were a powerful force compared to the revolutionary forces in Britain today, they were in a minority within the working class movement. At that stage Lenin emphasised that the main task was to "patiently explain" the position to the workers. Like our own labour leaders, those in Russia formed a coalition government with the capitalist class. In order to expose them completely in the eyes of the workers, Lenin and the Bolsheviks issued the demand that they should break with the capitalists and take power into their own hands. By these means the labour leaders were exposed as agents of the capitalists and as being unwilling to fight for power on a programme in the interests of the toilers. In this way the Bolsheviks won to their side the majority of the Russian workers and led them to the victorious conquest of power.

TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARIES IS TO SEPARATE MASSES FROM LABOUR LEADERS

The Labour leaders in Britain rely purely on the passivity and inertia of the working class. This was clearly demonstrated at a recent meeting organised by the Labour Party in London at which Herbert Morrison addressed an almost empty hall. Once the workers and soldiers realise the enormous and decisive power which lies within their grasp the days of capitalism will be numbered. But in order that they should become aware of this potential power and make it actual, it is necessary that they should be aroused from their indifference and apathy. The Labour leaders deceive the masses into believing that they really represent their interests. No amount of pure denunciation can prove the contrary

to the workers. The masses learn only from experience, plus, of course, the systematic education and criticism of the advance guard. What the Labour leaders fear more than anything else is the independent mobilisation and initiative of the working class. In order that this shall be accomplished it is necessary to expose the incompetence and treachery of the Labour bureaucracy. By putting forward a programme of demands which really reflect the interests of the working class, and demanding that the Labour leaders take power to put it into action, we can open the eyes of the masses to the real role of these scoundrels. On the one hand, if they refuse to fight for power it will become obvious, especially as the conditions of the toilers become more and more intolerable during the course of the war, that they do not reflect the interests of the workers. On the other hand, if, owing to the pressure of the masses, (and it could only be realised through this pressure) the Labour leaders are pushed into power, so much the better! We do not take the slightest responsibility for their actions. But on the contrary, ruthlessly expose their shortcomings and inadequacy to meet the situation. The possibility will then be present, with an aroused and conscious working class, to organise the workers for the conquest of power.

Simultaneously with the demand for Labour to take power, we advocate through the Shop Stewards Committees, Consumers Committees, etc., the independent mobilisation of the working class round their own organisations. The two are not at all contradictory. We never cease to point out that only by reliance on our own strength and organisations can we achieve our emancipation from the shackles of capitalism.

To turn our backs towards the unclear feelings and aspirations of the masses by placing an ultimatum that they accept our leadership, would be sheer sectarianism. Our aim is to establish a revolutionary party in Britain which will lead to the establishment of a Soviet government. But before the workers accept this, they must be convinced, and we must prove, that no other road is possible.