

Workers' Dreadnought

THE RIGHT TO CONSUME.

Vol. XI. No. 13

June 14th 1924

WEEKLY



The unofficial strike.

The unofficial strike is a triumph for the rank and file—however it may end. It shows that the rank and file is acting for itself, and acting with effect. This strike is the biggest rank and file effort since the Armistice.

The Labour officialdom has condemned the strike; condemned it, and opposed it, as strongly as the employers themselves.

The "Labour Press Service" gave the cue to the capitalist press by denouncing the strike as "fomented by an unofficial committee dominated by communists," as though the workers had no real cause of discontent, and as though to be unofficial and to be communist were altogether evil.

Of course, the capitalist press was delighted to follow the lead of the "Labour Press Service."

The "Labour Press Service" is an official Labour Party publication, designed to lead and inform the various local Labour newspapers. It more closely represents the views of the Labour Party Executive than the *Daily Herald* itself. The *Herald*, having an eye to circulation amongst all sections of the proletarian movement, speaks often with a dual voice.

More serious than the utterance of the Labour News Service, however, was that of Mr. Tom Shaw, the Minister of Labour. Mr. Shaw on behalf of the Government, stated that:

1. The Labour Government would give protection to men desiring to work during the strike.

2. In the event of public utilities, such as food, lighting, water and power being threatened, "the Government will maintain those public utilities."

3. The Government will not take the railways out of the hands of the companies and operate them.

The Labour Government therefore promised to act like any other Government.

Mr. Shaw further averred that it would be what it could to end the dispute, but would not recognise the strike committee. He said:

"It is impossible for any Government to attempt to recognise a body which neither the trade unions nor the railway companies will recognise."

Thus when Parliament adjourned for its holidays, the Labour Government spokesman endeavoured to crush the strike and annihilate with contempt the strike committee, whilst capitalism gloated with satisfaction.

The strike, however, continued and by the beginning of the week Mr. Shaw's department was becoming, in appearance at least, somewhat more reasonable and was willing, at least ostensibly, to lend itself to the task of bringing the N.U.R. and the strikers together.

The strike committee's attempt to negotiate with the N.U.R. revealed, nevertheless, a weakness in the strike committee. The rank and file must learn to become solely responsible for its own actions, and to hold its own apart from the Trade Unions before it can be a really powerful force.

The bitter, insulting, reply to those attempted negotiations, issued to the Press by Mr. Cramp, N.U.R. Secretary—once believed to be something of a Red—lies before us as we write.

This statement declares that the unrest of the rank and file, which is manifesting itself in every union, is a "foul disease," and that "decent workmen are being led away by persons chiefly interested in obtaining prominence, or money, or both."

Apparently the Trade Union leaders ignore the hardship that has befallen the masses through the great reductions in wages, brought about in rapid succession during recent years, and by the vast unemployment, which has cast its burden upon innumerable households, even where some members of the family have remained at work.

Apparently, too, Mr. Cramp and his colleagues are unaware, of the great hopes and desires for emancipation for the workers, which at one time they themselves helped to raise; hopes and desires which have been encouraged, as flames are fanned by the wind, both by the great upheavals through which the whole world has passed in war and in revolution, and by the recent advent to office of a Labour Government in this country.

In spite of Mr. Cramp's denunciation it is obvious that if the strike holds firm, the N.U.R. will shortly become but too anxious to negotiate with the strike committee, lest the N.U.R. hold on the workers become seriously weakened.

One of the regrettable features of the strike was the repudiation by the strike committee of the charge that it is influenced by communist ideas. We shall not have moved very far until the answer to such a charge as that will be: "Guilty, and proud of it."

Another backward feature was the protest that the strikers are loyal members of the N.U.R. Presently the cry will be: "We are the workshop councils and more competent to act than any other organisation."

The great propaganda for this strike, as for all strikes should be: **An advance of wages may secure a temporary improvement, but what is required is the permanent to the system of production for profit.**

COAL PRICES.

Pit Head price per statute ton raised—			
	1913	1923	
Britain	8/7	16/3	
Germany (Ruhr) ...	8/10	7/3 (1922)	
France	13/4	—	
Belgium	14/1	27/9 (1922)	
U.S.A.			
Anthracite	14/5	25/4 (1922)	
Bituminous Coal ...	5/5	15/3 (1922)	
Average 'Spot' prices of Bituminous Coal	5/8	13/6	

DREADNOUGHT BANNER IN INDIA.

Government officials state that there is no censorship of British newspapers sent to India, but our Indian correspondents constantly inform us that the Workers' Dreadnought is prevented from reaching them.

WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT,
152, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

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A TORY BRINGING THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT back to its Senses

Yet there is said to be a waiting list of 3,000 people desiring to rent these houses. One wonders, indeed, why the Government should thus gratuitously play into the hands of its opponents since Mr. MacDonald at York expressly stated that whilst the last Government had got some houses built for sale the Government, the Labour Government, is facing the problem of producing houses to

QUITE AMAZING was Mr. MacDonald's statement to the House of Commons on June 4th that "the Irish question has been placed outside the scope of the Government's policy."

That puts Mr. MacDonald's position very clearly. It is unmistakable to all who under-

He offers, in short, conciliation under th

If nationalisation is to mean that the existing owners of private concerns are to continue drawing their profits when the concerns have been placed under Government control, the position of the worker will be little changed and he will have no more than the conciliation Board provided for him after all.

placate the Indian movement, but the newcomers will affect little difference in the situation. Only activity by an implacable extra-Parliamentary movement will produce changes in India. It is the same with all agitations all the world over.

if, and when, the proposed daily appears. In our opinion, make for progress, the number of people who will read a paper which is not precisely a capitalist paper. It will probably force the **Daily Herald** to move further to the Left, as the co-operative paper cannot possibly be further to the Right than is the **Daily Herald**. If it were it would be indistinguishable from the capitalist papers.

Politics apart it may easily reach a higher journalistic standard than that of the **Daily Herald**, and its competition may cause the **Daily Herald** to embark on many much needed improvements.

Freedom of Education Menaced.

We ask comrades in all seriousness whether they propose to stand idly by whilst a terrorist body is allowed to practice violence with impunity and to grow until it has drawn into its ranks all the cowards who may enjoy playing at White Terrorism so long as it can be carried on without risk?

the Last of the Bushmen. He is believed to be the last pure-bred survivor of the South African Bushmen, said to be 130 years old. These unfortunate people were killed off like wild animals by the early European settlers. Now the last of them is forbidden by a paternal government to cross the seas to Wembley, lest a South African curiosity should perish overseas.

But we can't say that France is on the eve of actual changes. Herriot is not a Liberal and is not an advanced one. He supports the Rulk division and possesses a completely capitalist outlook in all respects. The French pro-Soviet movement is not advanced; it has not a strong anti-Parliamentary workshop movement. Though the Parliamentarians are, here, as everywhere, much less important than they fancy themselves, they nevertheless, still hold by far the greater part of the horizon of the awakening workers.

Time and conditions and propaganda will change that, but the task is great and the

A small illustration at the bottom of the page shows a man in a flat cap looking towards two figures in top hats. The figures in top hats are wearing coats and appear to be in conversation. The background is simple, with some vertical lines suggesting an interior setting.

RECAP

Our Parliamentary Reports and Comments are based on the official Verbatim Reports.

Austrian Armaments.

Mr. MacDonald replied to questions that when Mr. Hamilton Ryfe was called before the

Kenya Land for Lord Delamere.
Complaints were made that 60,000 acres of

passing over to Lord Dunsyre and the natives is not subject to certain special conditions are being deprived of it. Mr. Lunn (Lab.) grant will be only £6 a year for 20 years replied evasively, deterring the transfer, and 100,000 cheap houses are required annually to prevent the housing shortage from increasing; only 17,383 such houses are being

Animals slaughtered or authorised to be slaughtered, and percentage in Britain:—Cattle, 104,076—1.48 per cent.; Sheep, 49,681—0.2 per cent.; Pigs, 48,005—1.7 per cent., Goats, 128.

Total cost of outbreak to Government.

We desire not small holdings, but common ownership of the land and its products.

Mr. Clynes, on the Government's behalf, refused the request of Mr. Morel for a day to discuss the following motion:

"That in the opinion of this House, no

Mr. Wheatley said in 1900, 900 job transferred from the Trade Unions of Clyde to those of New York, and that there are now 67,000 fewer skilled machinists in the United States than in England. There are now 55,000 bricklayers; there are 100,000 twenty years ago. There are 13 plasterers; there were 247,000 20 years ago. There are 2,800 slaters, there were 8,000 20 years ago.

Sir Kingsley Wood (Cons.) obtained leave to bring in a Bill to give Government tenants the same protection against eviction as other

to help the persons concerned, but to embarrass the Labour Government. Be that as it may, the Government tenants are sorely placed as they do not benefit like other tenants from the Rent Restrictions Acts at present.

Mr. Wheatley's Housing Bill.

Mr. Wheatley's Housing Bill is to provide for the erection of more houses of the type and size provided for by the Coalition Government in the Act of 1923. One might have

Mr. Wheatley had then urged that the national exchequer should provide money for housing free of interest.

Those were Mr. Wheatley's views out of office: in office he finds himself in the midst of a complicated system with intercommunicating machinery. If he makes any radical change in the principles governing one part of the machinery he dislocates something else. Therefore he proceeds according to the old methods.

Mr. Rineas (Lab.) advocated dispensing with contractors and hiring direct labour. He spoke of his experience as a member of the Derry Corporation. The lowest contract price for a building had been £46,750. His direct labour, the Corporation had secured for £17,175. He said that he had secured a house building contract at £715 per house, and immediately by its direct labour department, built houses at £424 each under the same conditions, on an adjoining site. The contractor then offered to build for £424 per house and built two blocks of similar houses, one at a side one at the old price of £715 the other at £424 per house.

He urged the Government to build its own houses and to re-open the war-time factories for the purpose.

H.M.S. *Enchantress*, at a cost of £1,100 is to be prepared for the use during 10 days, the Board of Admiralty, and some official guest for the naval review, organised in connection with Wembley. Four other vessels are also to be used. The expenditure on the 4

chantress is defended on the ground that was the cheapest way to prepare adequate accommodation for the guests.

Strange that the old fleet does not contain a single vessel fit to take a meal on.

Viscount Curzon said H.M.S. Princess Margaret proved good enough last year; but Mr. Ammon replied that was only an inspection of a limited number of vessels not a review of the fleet.

piece work rates to be paid on the Enchantre but Mr. Hodges from the height of his position as first Lord of the Admiralty answered: "We cannot undertake to deal with any matters that do not come to us officially."

Mr. Lunn said: "The Board of Management felt there was scope for an establishment which would be comparable with the best class of restaurant in the West End."

Asked what the waiters and waitresses are paid at Wembley and what hours they work, Mr. Lunn did not know and had received "no definite complaints from either waiters or waitresses."

What about collective bargaining?

The Turkish Treaty.
There was a wrangle over the Lausanne Treaty. Mr. Lloyd George attacked the late Tory Government and complained that
(Continued on page 8).

The Unstable Basis of the Agricultural Industry.

Sir T. Davies (Gn.) opposed the Bill. He said: "You cannot put a bet on a living business or you will become bankrupt."

He urged the big co-operative societies which have got customers for everything they produce in their innumerable shops, and often only pay the usual price of the district, can not make speculative pay.

"Out of 174 socialist farming upwards of 11 acres, only 28 made a nominal profit of £3,235. The others made a combined loss of £38,284. The co-operative societies buy their farms and only charge 2½ per cent. as rent."

The Belfast Co-operative farms 188 acres, and made a loss of £831 in one year.

Of 20 farms in the Midlands every one made a loss. Long Eaton, Derby, made a loss of £7,066. Aston-on-Lyre made a loss of £12,000.

A co-operative farm six miles from where Sir T. Davies lived last year £34,865 on 3,005 acres. The wages paid were the current wages of the district, 25s. a week for ordinary day men, and 30s. 6d. for shop boys, with house included.

All this shows the terrible unsatisfactory system on which production is based.

WHAT WE STAND FOR.

The abolition of the capitalist or private property system.

Common ownership of the land, the means of production and distribution. The earth, the seas and their riches, the industrial plant, the railways and ships, aircraft, and so on, shall belong to the whole people.

Production for use, not for profit. Under modern conditions more can be produced than can be consumed of all necessities if production is not artificially checked. The community must set itself to provide all the requirements of its members in order that their wants may be met without stint and according to their own measure and desire. The people will satisfy their requirements, and the district and country, the world must co-operate to supply them.

Production for use means that there will be neither barter nor sale, and consequently no money. An immense amount of labour in buying, selling and advertising will therefore be saved.

Plenty for all. Thus there will be no insurance, no poor and no poor law, no State or private charity of any kind. Humiliation, officialdom and medals too, which impose ruling parasites on the backs of the producers, will be abolished thereby.

No class distinctions, because there will be no economic distinctions. Everyone will be a worker, everyone will be of the educated class, for education will be free to all, and since the hours of labour are relatively meaningless tasks will be short, everyone will be able to make use of educational facilities, not merely in early youth, but throughout life.

No patents, no "trade secrets," scientific knowledge will be widely diffused. Since no class war will be no more, the newspapers will be largely filled with scientific information, art, literature and historical research.

Society will be organized to supply its own needs. Today the essential needs of the people are supplied by private enterprise. Obviously we are under a democratic Government, but the most outstanding fact in the average man's life is that he is largely at the disposal of his employer. The government, if the system where he spends the greater part of his time and energy is despotic.

Under Communism industry will be managed by those at work in it. The workshop will contain no employees, subject to the dis-

THE WORKERS' DREAM.

tation of the employers and their managers, but groups of co-workers.

We stand for the workshop councils in industry, agriculture and all the services of the community. We stand for the autonomous organization of the workshops and their co-ordinated co-ordination, in order that the needs of all may be supplied.

Parliament and the local governing bodies will disappear. Parliament and the monarch, the Privy Council, the Cabinet, the House of Lords and Commons, provided no true democracy. "Self-government is better than good government" is to be found in a society in which free individuals willingly associate themselves in a common effort for the common good. On the basis of co-workers in the workshop co-operating with co-workers.

Under workshop efficiency of production and distribution, which means plenty for all, can go hand in hand with personal freedom. Fictitious or a hereditary basis. Parliament could not manage efficiently the industries and services of the community. The workshop at present controlled by it are managed by salaried permanent officials. The condition of the workers employed in such services is the same as in privately owned industry.

Contrasted Government cannot give freedom to the individual in industries, industries and progress. In the struggle to abolish capitalism the workshop councils are essential. The trade unions are not based on the workshop, and are bureaucratically governed. There they are not able efficiently to manage the industries. They are ineffective implements in the effort to take industry from the management of the employers and vest it in the workers at the point of production.

Therefore we stand for:

The abolition of the private property system.
Production for use, not profit.
The free supply of the people's needs.
The organization of production and distribution on a workshop basis.

Our Bookshop.

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PARLIAMENT continued from page 5

the Dominion Governments had had no share in the making of the Treaty. He attacked the provisions committing Britain and her allies to intervene if the neutral zones are invaded and the acquisition of the dominions which put foreigners in Turkish territory above the Turkish law. He said there is no justice in Turkey and Italy would attack her.

Atkinson it was a highly bellicose speech. The Labour Prime Minister answered it with contemptuous reserve, but incidentally revealed that he is on very friendly terms with Conservative foreign policy.

The debate ended in smoke.

OUT-DOOR MEETINGS.

Plymouth.

Saturday, June 14th, 7.30 p.m., Catherine Street, Devonport, Sylvia Pankhurst, J. Drayton.

Sunday, June 15th, 11 a.m., North Quay, Plymouth, Sylvia Pankhurst.

Sunday, June 15th, 6.30 p.m., Behind the market, Plymouth, Sylvia Pankhurst, J. Drayton.

Hyde Park.

Sunday afternoons at 3.30, North Smyth and others.

Sunday, 7.30 p.m., Obolski, Blackfriars Road, N. Smyth and others.

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