

Freedom

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY

"Society exists for the benefit of its members; not its members for the benefit of society. It has to be remembered that great as may be the efforts made for the prosperity of the body politic, yet the claims of the body politic are nothing in themselves, and become something only in so far as they embody the claims of its component individuals."
—HERBERT SPENCER.

TEDDY BOYS IN HIGH PLACES

THE League of Empire Loyalists is a small group of neo-fascists who have been described as 'right-wing, upper crust Teddy boys and girls'. That they are upper crust is, in our opinion and without much biographical detail to go on, very unlikely, for the publicity-seeking pranks which have brought the League into the public eye are out of character for young ladies who might be debutantes and young gents who might be officers in the Guards.

No, the social levels from which an outfit like this draws its goon squad are much lower than upper. They are from the frustrated middle middle and lower middle classes who are jealous of workers who earn as much or more than they, who can no longer afford private education or domestic servants or who take as a personal affront (because they have no personality of their own) the decline of Britain's power in the world and the complementary rise of nationhood among Asians, Africans, and Arabs.

In their frustration, it is true, they have something in common with the Teddy boys, and in their urge for action. But the channels into which they divert their frustrated energies are very different. The Teddy boy proper has no time for militarism or patriotism; he is a rebel without a cause. The essentially middle class members of the League of Empire Loyalists have found in their organisation an acceptable cause, an ideology which is respectable and is, after all, only a somewhat militant Toryism. And the compulsive need to do something is provided by the

Tory Party's vote-catching new look whereby they appear to be flabby welfare-statists instead of rugged empire-defending individualists.

Respectable Meetings

The League has won its notoriety by stunting at respectable gatherings where the maximum publicity may be expected: at Tory meetings particularly and at the Lambeth Conference last summer when some of its members donned bishop's garb and got in on a gathering in order to protest against the Archbishop of Canterbury's invitation to Makarios to come to this country for the Conference.

In choosing this respectable type of meeting they have shown wisdom. They presumably knew better than to try their tricks at say—a Communist meetings. Communists are no gentlemen and an Empire Loyalist, being from the Communist point of view loyal to the wrong empire, could expect short shrift at the hands of the comrades. But the Conservative Party is the party of ladies and gentlemen—or so the Empire Loyalists thought.

They certainly know better now. In an attempt to draw attention to what they consider to be the betrayal of the empire they staged an organised interruption during the Prime Minister's final speech at the Party Conference at Blackpool, and got the surprise of their mis-spent lives.

For instead of politely shushing them, or leaving the speaker to quiet the opposition, the Tories went mad. Instead of ejecting the interrupters with a minimum of violence they

were most savagely set upon, in a manner described by eyewitnesses as criminal (see the letter from a Dutch reporter reprinted in FREEDOM last week).

The Savages

Now in this incident it was not the Empire Loyalists who behaved like Teddy boys at their worst—it was the Tories. The Conservative gentleman who smashed his fist into a League member's face while two others held his arms; the Conservative lady who struck another interrupter 'in his vital parts' while he was being carried out stretcher-fashion from the hall—these were the upper crust Teddy boys and girls whose mask of restraint and good breeding slipped more than somewhat, and showed better than anything else could possibly have the basis of frustrated hate and violence upon which their ideology rests.

These were the same Tories who but a few days before had been howling for the return of flogging and the rope, but who had been cleverly restrained by Mr. Butler. The bloodthirsty rank and file Tories were concerned, they said, to remove violence from our society—i.e., to stamp it out by the violence of the state. But by their immediate reaction to the Empire Loyalists' interruption of their leader, by the blind fury of their savage assaults—for which the stewards were congratulated from the platform—they demonstrated plainly enough that for them violence is more than an expediency or an accident: it is a way of settling differences, a way of life, part of their hateful being.

As one of the Empire Loyalists said: 'Communists, Socialists, Liberals—they're nothing by comparison. Them Tories, they're bloody savages!'

TOO MUCH COAL TO BURN?

HOW is the Coal Board going to get out of the mess it is in at the moment? The latest report is that unsold stocks amount to a value of £67 million, and the storage of these costs about £5 million per year. Demand is falling even now, and the problem is therefore likely to be aggravated.

There are two courses open to the financial and economic experts. The first is to obtain more credit from the government, and the second involves closing down many pits, causing widespread unemployment, and cutting down production of coal. Naturally, it would like to be able to pursue the former course, and for their electoral interests, the political parties would like to be able to urge it along. The arguments presented for this approach are that at least part of the fall off in the demand for coal may be temporary, and that the increase in oil consumption, which is to a large extent responsible for it, is politically uncertain. Just about as convincing from the economic point of view, that is, as the arguments for keeping trolley buses.

The solution being advocated by the political parties and trade unions would result in the prolonging and worsening of the economic unreliability of the mining industry. It does not require much imagination to realise that such unwieldiness will not last for ever. Later on, perhaps just after an election, and it will not make much difference which party has won, the whole problem will arise again in an even more aggravated form, and the unemployment which has been avoided now will hit us then—unless of course a little war can be devised in some corner of the earth to take care of it.

The economy of state capitalism has a quality of inflexibility about it. There is obviously going to be a trend away from coal consumption in the future, and the Board and the Union have made some plans to meet it, but according to the *Manchester Guardian* 8/10/58:

"At the beginning of the year the situation did not look too grim, and the board presumably hoped that even with more and more of its working capital

being frozen in unsaleable stocks of coal it would still be able to pay its way by forcing its annual overdraft with the Ministry up to the hilt. It would appear now however, that the full £75 million for this year has been already drawn, or nearly so."

In an editorial for the same day, the *Guardian* lays its finger, although lightly, on the central issue, in saying

"... this is not a matter of trading policy, but one of great political moment. For years the Coal Board has been instructed to produce coal at almost any cost. It has done so—at great cost—and now there is more coal than can be sold."

The crisis has arisen, not as an act of God, but because coal production has been treated, not as a question of producing needs, or even as a 'trading policy', but as one of 'great political moment'. Notice that even so, the Coal Board could not correctly anticipate the position seven months in advance. Where does it lead the miners? Under the ground doing overtime when the 'great political moment' calls for high production, and on the dole when it does not. No wonder the industrial psychologists find it a problem to convince workers that hard work will not work them out of a job. Looking back, the men at the South Wales pits who fought against the voluntary Saturday shifts were right all the time. They knew more about where their interests lay, and as it turns out the interests of their fellow miners and many more workers as well, than the Coal Board. The next step is for them to gain enough confidence in their judgment to get into a position where they can put their knowledge into practice.

At the same time, a change-over from high coal production to a lesser level can only be accomplished without hardship in a society where production on a national scale is concerned solely with the needs of consumers, and where the livelihood of each individual or community is not tied up with the actual amount of work he is doing at that particular time.

SYNDICALIST.

Australia

Nuclear Hazards

KRUSHCHEV has now announced that Russian nuclear weapon tests will be continued, since (as he clearly foresaw) the U.S. and Britain did not stop exploding their bombs. Meanwhile, a recent article in *The Australian Journal of Biological Sciences* (Aug. 1958, p. 382) gives further information on the dissemination of radio-active elements from nuclear explosions. The author, H. R. Marston, shows that radio-active iodine collects in the thyroid glands of pastured sheep and cattle.

A few days after the first nuclear explosion at Monte Bello (May 16, 1956), activity due to radio-iodine was detected in thyroid glands collected from sheep and cattle over a wide area. After the second explosion (June 19, 1956), these concentrations of radio-iodine increased a hundredfold or more showing the speed with which grazing animals assimilate and concentrate radio-iodine from fall-out. Some of the areas most heavily contaminated by this second explosion were 1500-2000 miles away, and its subsequent effects could be detected in the thyroid glands of these animals in territory about a thousand miles wide, stretching west to east across the Australian continent. There were indications that many areas received repeated contaminations of radio-active debris, the hazards from which are cumulative.

Since sheep fed in pens, on covered hay, had little radio-iodine in their thyroids, the radio-iodine must be absorbed from the pasture, not via the lungs. It thus follows that the concentration of radio-iodine indicates the rate

at which the grazing animal gathers other radio-active material, such as radio-strontium. The rapid accumulation of radio-iodine points to an equally rapid gathering of radio-strontium and other bone-seeking isotopes, and a speedy launching via milk, into human food-stuffs, thence to the skeleton, where they attack the bone marrow. The ensuing risk of leukaemia and other diseases is particularly great in the very young, e.g. the unborn child and the baby, since bone-formation is then particularly intensive.

Measurements of the radio-activity of the air in Adelaide indicated that the plume from the third Maralinga explosion (Oct. 11, 1956) passed close to the city, and contaminated it and the surrounding country with radio-active fission products.

One can only hope that children in Adelaide were not significantly affected by this contamination. What are their parents doing about it?

FREEDOM IS LOSING MONEY

Deficit List on p. 4

Political Realism and the Bomb

A CORRESPONDENT in our "Letters to the Editors" column this week ("Doing something about the Bomb") gently pours scorn on those pacifists and anarchists whose "beautifully rational theories" are all very fine, and may well "point the way out of the chaos", but which, she maintains, are useless, in fact, in a world in which the majority of people are not "beautifully rational". And she therefore welcomes any and every attempt to do something to save mankind from the annihilation which will almost undoubtedly result from the unleashing of nuclear war.

The strength of the Nuclear Disarmament Campaign lies, in her opinion, in its appeal to mankind's fundamental desire "to go on living" which, she maintains, has nothing to do with reason, or enlightenment. It's something which is there in all of us. Three times in her short letter does our correspondent refer to "the basic desire for survival [coming] to the fore" or to "enlightened or unenlightened we want to go on living".

We are glad to read of one young person for whom the will to live is so strong (especially since one hears

so many theories about young people being cynics and defeatists as a result of having grown up first in a war and then in a permanent cold war!), but if we are to be realistic we must look at things as they are and not as we feel or experience them personally.

Unlike the lesser animals Man is guided by the intellect and not by instinct. Animals are equipped for survival (within limits) because only those so equipped survived in the evolutionary process, and reproduce themselves because they have no alternative! For Man, on the other hand, death or survival depends on social customs, economic conditions and other Man-determined factors. And the reproduction of the human race, too, is Man-determined.

We enter the world unequipped intellectually, and virtually without instincts; we are therefore, entirely at the mercy of our fellow-men. At a certain stage we are left to our own devices, with our physical inheritance, and the knowledge and prejudices acquired in those so-called "formative years". If the "desire for survival" were so strongly ingrained in us—either by our education or by our inheritance—it

should manifest itself universally in the human race, rather in the same way as every nightingale from Communist China to the B.B.C.'s stars in the Surrey woods all sing the same song. But it is (fortunately) only too clear that this is not the case. The millionaire who commits suicide because he is bored with life, and the man obsessed with money who risks the hangman's rope in a desperate effort to achieve his goal; the passenger who scrambles into the first lifeboat, and the captain who calmly stands on the bridge as his ship goes down; the swimmers who watch a child being carried out to sea, and the non-swimmer who gets drowned in a vain attempt to save it... these are all members of the human race, but their attitudes to survival in any particular situation are as diverse as is their approach to life.

★

IS it not significant that the family-security-, pensioned-minded city clerk who shuffles over London Bridge every morning, and whose most adventurous thought has been to spend a night in a low dive in Soho, should be the backbone of the

Continued on p. 3

