



Agitate



Educate



Organise



# THE NOTTINGHAM

# WORKER

134000

NO. 4

CITY AND COUNTY

ONE PENNY

## WAR—WHAT FOR?

Explain-in side and outside the ranks-everywhere-in the shop, mine, or mill and on the farm. Explain till kings and presidents dread their own conscripted and volunteer armies

Explain till murder for board and clothes and a shilling a day looks vile. Explain till young working class men inside the ranks see the light, explain till an advertisement for military fists becomes horrible to the working class. Explain till our class becomes class conscious, till it sees itself, sees its class interest and its class power. Explain till our class clearly sees and proudly declares that we must destroy the capitalist form of society and establish society in the plan of COMMUNISM.

When the working class understand the history of the working class, a bronze monument erected in honour of a great general will look to the workers like a vote of thanks to the superintendent of hell, and a tank in a public park will look like a viper on a banquet table spread for a feast of brothers.

We do not want other people's blood and we refuse to waste our own.

For thousands of years the ruling class have bled us pale, All cannon have always been aimed at us- by us. If Winstone Churchill and his class want blood let them cut their own throats, Then R, I. P.

Now we see. Now we understand. Therefore stand erect in self respect.

Whether your shell hits the target or not,

Your cost is 600 dollars a shot. You think of noise, flame and power. We feed you, 100 barrels of flour. Each time you roar, Your flame is fed. With 20,000 loaves of bread. Silence! A million hungry men Seek bread to fill their mouths again

A day will come; when a cannon will be exhibited in the public museum just as an instrument of torture now, and people will be astonished how such things could have been,

Brother, admit this thought in your brain, The working class must be the protectors of their own class, Ever and Always,

IF CHRIST CAME TO CHELWELL



# WAR

# IS

# HELL

# WAR

# IS

# HELL

### TO CHRISTIAN MILITARISTS

Can you imagine Christ in a army uniform? Can you picture Jesus as an expert sniper? Can you see Christ lying in ambush to trap and kill those whom he died to save? Can you think of Jesus in an aeroplane or dropping bombs on cities?

Think of Christ in khaki going over the top to bayonet people made after Gods own image. Dont allow yourself to be used by the military machine. Why have you not seen that the ruling class of the world have created a new trinity the Cross the Cannon and the Cash register.

Why bow the knee to this unholy trinity. Why use the name of Christ to get young lads to take up murder as a profession. Stop it you canting hypocrites,

IYA PENN

Pass this paper on. Push the circulation

## THE WORKER

Printed and Published at  
143 Willoughby St. Lenton  
NOTTINGHAM  
The Editor James Stewart

Literary Communications, which must  
be signed, should be sent to the Editor.  
No payment is made for any literary work  
in connection with the paper.

Business communications must be  
addressed to the Business Manager

### Our Editorial

#### COMMUNISM OR THE GILDED COLLAR

We live in an age of big business. Modern industrialism has developed to such a point, that the interdependence, consolidation of kindred industries is the one essential for success, thus confirming the marxist idea of concentration in capital. Communists welcome the big trusts. With the coming of the trusts we see the last shreds of capitalist eternalism cast aside for the soul-merger with its heirarchy of officials and scientific exploitation. Thus in addition to the concentration of industry itself, the outlook of the masses assumes a class character in place of the old individualism. These two factors, -- individualism pure and simple, and proletarian class outlook -- are destined to play an important part in the forthcoming social revolution.

But while the trend of economic development makes the trust irresistible, for the smooth working of industry a docile working class is necessary. The more far seeing of our industrial magnets now realise that working class docility is no longer to be achieved by a truculent attitude of opposition at all times and under all circumstances. Rather do they prefer to rely on "reasonable compromise" as the chairman of the Ebbe Vale Steel Co. put it the other day. What this "reasonable compromise" amounts to in essence is simply the old talk of the bird in the golden cage or the slave with the gilded collar.

"We recognise that a well housed and efficient workman" Encouragement and direction are necessary in organising and facilit-

ating the pastimes, amusements and interests of the workers"

Such are the mottos of the newer capitalism, and so cricket, football, tennis, bowls' and golf teams are instituted, brass bands, orchestras, literary and scientific institutions are among the many devices of our "welfare" supervisors by which it is thought to keep the workers away from the paths of COMMUNISM. But capitalism rests upon the profit making. That portion of the profit disbursed in welfare work is an investment. It is intended to ensure the smooth operation of profit extraction, but it cannot deflect the inevitable crisis resulting from international competition which reacts upon and intensifies the very powers of industrialism that seeks to overcome competition itself.

The gilded collar or the golden cage may dope for a time the class consciousness of the workers.

It cannot arrest the growth in the desire for economic freedom as the basis of liberty.

Modern industrialism has entered upon a new stage. It is marshalling the working class more and more into industrial battalions, overriding craft and caste traditions and fitting them for the manipulation of the interdependent industries which form the basis of the trusts. The trust will make them its chattel slaves, industrial serfdom, gilded or otherwise, or social freedom, is the issue. If we are to achieve our social freedom we must organise and prepare to overthrow the present capitalist system.

We must come closer together in the factory, workshop, railway or mine. We must organise on the basis of "an injury to one worker is the concern of all workers".

We must not be afraid to take action to the point of social revolution.

The strength of our masters is measured by our own timidity and fear. Capitalism is a house of cards.

Its keystone is the confidence trick hitherto successfully worked across us. It fears the communist because we would have the workers arise and be self-reliant. If you want to be free from the night-mare of unemployment and evils of capitalism generally, Communism is our hope.

To confirm you in your wage-slavery is the intention of all "reasonable compromise".

TOM BELL

#### WHAT IS WAR?

War is wholesale, scientific suicide for the working class under orders from their political and industrial masters.

War is

For the working class homes -- emptiness,  
For working class wives - heartache,  
For working class mothers - loneliness,

For working class children - orphanage,  
For working class sweethearts -- agony,

For the nation's choicest working men -- broken health or death,  
For society -- savagery,  
For peace -- defeat,

For bull dogs -- suggestions.

For the Devil -- delight,

For death -- a harvest,

For buzzards -- a banquet,

For the grave -- victory,

For worms -- a feast,

For nations -- debts,

For justice -- nothing,

For "Thou shalt not kill" --

boisterous laughter,

For literature -- the realism of the

slaughter house,

For the painter - the immortalization

of wholesale murder,

For Christ -- contempt,

For "put up thy sword - a sneer,

For preachers, on both sides --

ferocious prayers for victory,

For bankers -- bonds and interest,

For big manufacturers -- business,

profits,

For big business men of all sorts --

"good times"

For leading business men, for leading

politicians, for leading editors. for

leading lecturers -- for all of those

windy patriots who talk bravely of

war, who talk heroically of the flag,

who talk finely of national honour

and talk and talk of the glory of battle

for all these yawping talkers -- never

positions as privates in the infantry

on the firing line up close where they

are really likely to get their delicat-

ely perfumed flesh torn to pieces.

War is hell for the working class.

G. R. Kirkpatrick

#### OUR PLEDGE

I refuse to kill your father. I refuse

to slay your mother's son. I refuse to

assassinate you and then hide my

hands in the folds of any flag.

I refuse to wet the earth with blood

and blind kind eyes with tears.

# THE WORKER

## LANGDON DAVIS ON CONFISCATION

"The worker" has asked me several questions and has given me the opportunity of replying to them in its columns. That is the kind of challenge which I always welcome, whether I am likely to win votes by accepting it or not.

First, may I say that though questions may be direct, it is not always possible without untruth to answer them in one word, I claim, therefore, the right to give the answer in my own way, I am told that, if I answer favourably, I have got to repudiate the labour party and that thereby I shall be in the support of all the rebel forces in Nottingham. Let me say right off that I am a member of the labour party, desire to assist in forming its policy and have no present intention of repudiating it. I am, however, a fairly stern critic of its present representatives, particularly those in parliament, and I hold that the I. L. P. also cannot demand unqualified allegiance until it declares itself on certain fundamental points of policy.

Nor do I accept the labour party programme as final and complete, though it is for the most part and as far as it goes on right lines. But the labour party and the I. L. P., both local and national, have selected me as prospective candidate without my concealing or abating anything of my criticism and that is sufficient for me.

Where do I stand on the question of confiscation or compensation? I believe in confiscation, that is to say in taking from people of property for which they render no adequate service, with full consideration for hard cases. But I am not for a moment prepared to pledge myself to oppose any measure with compensation in it. Why should I reject beer now because I think I ought to have and sometime mean to have champagne?

Will I declare in favour of the abolition of parliament rule and support Workers Industrial Councils?

There are two questions in this and they deserve an answer each.

Parliamentary rule is I believe on its last legs, as recent events in Russia, Italy, Germany and elsewhere shows, and I doubt its being combatible with real democracy. But I believe it has a far stronger hold on this country than on most and that the reason is its capability, in the British form, of revolutionary alteration without illegal action. I hold, therefore, that

it should be used for its own destruction or, if you prefer, its own transformation. What it is to be transformed into takes me to the next question, I imagine that some special plan is indicated by the capitals used for Workers Industrial Councils and I should have to study carefully its details, which I do not know, before I gave an answer. The ultimate system for which I stand is what is commonly known as Guild Socialism.

Is this to be a sham fight on the question of reform or will I take my stand on the Social Revolution? It is to be a real fight and I stand on the Social Revolution, but I do not pledge myself either to the methods or to the objects of any and every group. I am opposed to violence, because I think it stupid and ineffective, and I am also opposed to dictatorship by anyone.

Finally, who shall own the means of wealth production, the working class or the present owners? If I had to answer in one word, I should say "Neither". But I should like to add that I hold that the people ought to be the owners and that the people ought to be synonymous with the workers in a properly constituted community.

R N Langdon Davis

Our reply to the above will be in next issue. We invite our readers to state their views and send them in to us,

## A VISION

A vision of the future rises, I see a world where thrones have crumbled and where kings are dust. The aristocracy of idleness has perished from the earth,

I see a world without a slave. Man at last is free, Nature's forces have by science been enslaved, Lightning and light, wind and wave, frost and flame, and all the secrets subtle powers of the earth and air are the tireless toilers for the human race,

I see a world at peace, adorned with every form of art, with music's myriad voices thrilled, while lips are rich with words of love and truth; a world in which no exile sighs, no prisoner mourns: a world on which the gibbet's shadow does not fall; a world where labour reaps its full reward, where work and worth go

hand in hand, where the poor girl trying to win bread with a needle, the needle that has been called to rasp for the breast of the poor, is not driven to the desperate choice of crime or death, of suicide or shame.

I see a world without the beggar outstretched palm, the miser's heartless stony stare, the piteous wail of want, the livid lips of lies, the cruel eyes of scorn.

I see a race without disease of flesh or brain — shapely and fair married harmony of form and function, and, as I look, life lengthens, joy deepens, love canopies the earth; and over all in the great dome, shine the eternal star of human hope,

INGERSOLL

## ANVIL SPARKS

The labourin' man and labourin' woman -

Have one glory and one shame:  
Ev'ry thin' thet's done inhuman  
Ingers all on 'em the same.

Knowledge of the history of the working class, which includes the history of war, will cement the workers inseparably together, socially, industrially, and politically, and will thus many times multiply their power for self-defence.

The working class, roused to self-respect, roused to clearness of vision by the study of the facts, roused to realize the wrongs thrust into the lives of the workers past and present, roused to see their rights and realize their power as a class, such a working class will be a wholly different class from the present meek, weak, cheated grateful slaves.

Were half the power that fills the world with terror,

Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,

Given to redeem the world from error,

There would be no need for arsenals and forts.

IYA PENN

The banker calls it interest. and he winks his other eye,

The merchant calls it profit, and heaves a heavy sigh,

The landlord calls it rent, and he puts it in a bag.

But our honest friend +1 simply calls it SWAG

# THE WORKER

## EX-SERVICE MEN'S PAGE

### FROM THE TRENCHES

Ex-Service men, now you are back to civilian life, you are workers and we hope you have joined the trade union movement. You seem to get the idea that the service you rendered to the country (not our's, we have none) is all over and done with, it will be if we don't get a move on and organise ourselves into a determined, active body of men, and compel this government to give us full value for the services we gave them.

As a worker you have made your trade union officials compel the boss to pay you in money wages, twice the amount we received before the war and profits of the master class have increased, while we have nothing. It is no good saying you have finished with the government, as a worker you have a duty to do for the other men who were fighting with you and that is to give them your support by forcing the government to make our money up to 6/- per day.

Join the National Union of Ex-Service Men, the only fighting organisation for ex-service men.

The writer of these notes has the permission of this paper to invite all ex-service men to use its columns to state their case.

National Rent Strike!  
Manifesto by N. U. Ex servicemen.  
The people's only chance  
To Down Prices

The cost of living is two and a half times as high as in 1914. Average wages are only twice as high. To get back even to the standard of 1914, we must reduce prices by at least one fifth—four shillings in the pound.

The great masses of the people (men and women) have only two weapons—The Vote and The Rent Strike.

The government refuses to give them the chance to use their votes. It will not give a General Election. But the people still have the other weapon. They can bring things to a head by ceasing to pay rent.

The N. U. of Ex-Service men, realising that things cannot be allowed to drift any longer, calls upon the whole of the salaried and wage-earning people to Stop Paying Rent on a date to be proclaimed on the 27th August next,

This, and this alone, will force the government to face the facts, and to

take drastic action to reduce the cost of living.

The Rent Strike will continue until the cost of living is down 100 per cent above pre-war level (i.e., until prices are down 4/ in the £.

A million people could win the fight, and we shall have more than five millions.

Watch For The Date To Start  
All Together, Be Ready, Stand Firm

Join the N. U. of Ex-Service Men

JAMES CAST

### Queries and Answers

The Editor has asked me to reply to his correspondence, kindly note that only those who enclose stamps will be replied to by letter.

Rumph. Many thanks, it was good.

H, Wilson. Matter received, with cash, will use article, Push the sale.

Lowe, Selston, cash to hand, what about a meeting? Do your best with this issue.

Trench, Hunstanton, Poem right, will use, our little paper does find its way about. Kindly note appeal on this page.

Radfordite, The facts are, The Notts. Communist Unity Group have made our paper their official organ, but are not responsible for its finance.

Lenton, The creature is a LIAR we will prove it anywhere you like, if he is present.

Market, We know all about the little mistakes, they seem to worry you. But you made a big mistake in not sending in some cash.

The Kute Kid

Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.

Geo, Washington

Coercion is the central principal of government.

Lord Armstrong

In vain you tell me that artificial government is good, but that I fall out only with the abuse; the thing—the thing itself is the abuse.

E, Burke

PASS THIS PAPER ON

### ATTENTION

This appeal is made direct to not to anyone else. Do you know we want voluntary subscription the extent of £3 weekly.

It Only Means:

60	People	At	1/-	per	w
or 120			6d		
240			3d		
720			1d.		
1440			½d.		

We must have this money, or PAPER will have to remain at present size.

Will you become a volunt subscriber, our collector will call you, by request.

Our collectors have cards to pro that they have been appointed by Send on your address.

Do you want a SPEAKER sent your district, if so we will send O who can deliver the GOODS.

Next issue will contain

Who the hell is Winstone Church

Reply To Mr LANGDON DAVIS.

CITY FINANCE An Exposure  
C. WATTS

Other interesting items

If you are a Rebel join the Communis Group C, Goddard, Secretary

5 Northville Terrace  
Woodborough Road  
Nottingham

Will Lees City Organiser,  
James Stewart County Organiser

Arnold Labour Club Bonnington House  
High street  
Open to all Trade Unionists

Netherfield Labour Club  
Dunstan Street  
Open Daily Members Enroled

Netherfield Socialist School  
Every Sunday 11 a. m. & 2 p. m.  
Come and assist us.

National Union of Ex-Service Men  
Arnold Branch  
James Cast Secretary  
8 Morris street Daybrook  
Meets Every Sunday at 11 a.m.  
Labour Hall High Street

GET YOUR PRINTING DONE AT  
143 Willoughby Street  
LENTON NOTTINGHAM

Printed and Published by James Stewart  
At 143 Willoughby St. Lenton Nottm.