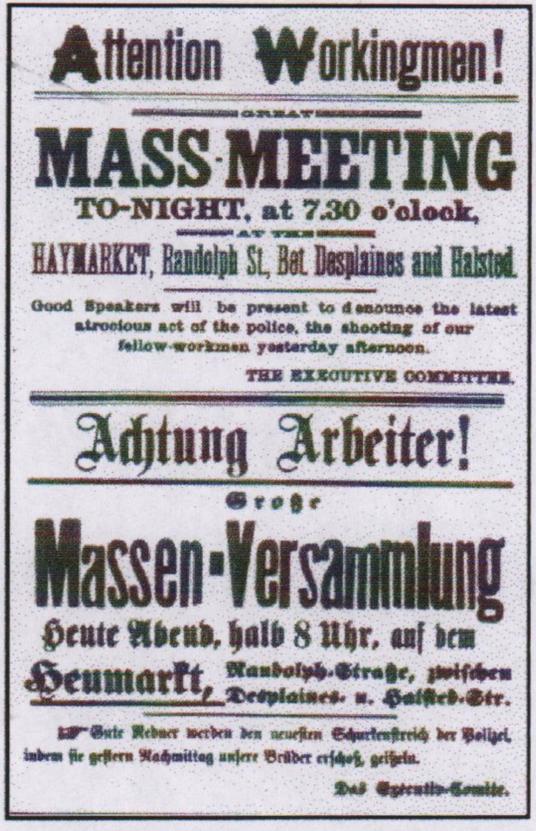


resistance

the anarchist bulletin

In this issue:
We explain the origins of the International Workers Day as commemorating framed anarchists and call for support for an anarchist currently imprisoned.

MAYDAY IS OUR DAY



their counterparts in the Labour Party. But Mayday had revolutionary origins. It has become an empty gesture of workers strength. Nevertheless there is an element that is still alive and relevant despite these things. This can be found in the struggles that surrounded it in the past, periods of intense activity of workers organising for specific gains, and in some cases for revolutionary gains.

They were periods of collective action and collective experience and it is only in this that working class solidarity has any meaning for now and the future.

To understand this we must look back to the events that turned Mayday into an important date in working class history. May 1 1886 saw 340,000 workers striking all over the United States demanding an 8-hour day.

In Chicago alone, 80,000 came out and there a number of anarchist militants agitated inside the movement.

The following Monday, the police fired on strikers at the McCormick Harvester works and six workers were killed. The next day a protest meeting at Haymarket Square was broken up by the police. In the following confusion, a bomb was thrown at the police, killing one outright and fatally wounding 7 others.

Evidence came to light later that the bomb had been thrown by a police agent.

Frame-up

The bosses, however, used this incident to victimise leading working class militants and attempt to break the movement.

After a farcical trial, with a jury made up of businessmen, their clerks, and a relative of a dead policeman, four anarchists were hanged (some of whom hadn't even been at the protest meeting!) whilst another anarchist escaped the noose by taking his own life the day before execution.

At the funeral, an estimated 500,000 people lined the route and up to 25,000 saw the burial.

Seven years after the execution, an inquiry found those executed innocent of all charges and 3 anarchists serving life sentences were released. Workers organisations from then on made May 1st a celebration of the Haymarket Martyrs. Over a century later, where are we? The murder of 5 anarchist workers is conveniently forgotten.

But the real revolutionary Mayday should be seen as important because 'once upon a time' there were massive shows of strength by workers on an international level. It is a day to remember the thousands of workers who have died fighting the class struggle all over the world. It is a day to celebrate the spirit of solidarity and resistance, to continue to fight capitalism and the State in all their forms and to rebuild those revolutionary mass movements.

Mayday is What? A day of working class solidarity all over the world? Just another Bank Holiday in a year of toil?

Traditionally, the workers' movement the world over has considered May 1st to be of special significance. A day of world wide solidarity, a time to remember, and demonstrate our international links, common interests and common goal-the emancipation of the working class and social justice for those who produce the wealth of the world

But does Mayday really mean anything of the sort nowadays, any more than Christmas means peace on earth? Is it just another institution, just another great yawn?

Trade union leaders (less and less of them) and a shrinking number of Labour Party MPs-the so called 'lefts'- make the usual empty and meaningless speeches about 'socialism'. Mayday is now just a sentimental ritual to disguise the real actions of the union leaders and

What You Can Do

Celebrate May Day
by coming to a benefit night the **ACF and Solidarity Federation** are holding for Czech anarchist prisoner Michal Patera, imprisoned for defending himself against fascist attackers.

Fascist gangs, both inside and outside the police force, are determined to destroy the the Czech anarchist movement. Show your solidarity by coming to the benefit and raising money to support our anarchist comrades.

Sat 1st May, 8pm, Arsenal Tavern, Blackstock Road.