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DIRECT ACTION

ANARCHIST FEDERATION OF BRITAIN

MAY, 1948.

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"Wherever there
is a man who
exercises authority
there is a man who
resists authority"
OSCAR WILDE

TWOPENCE

HAS RUSSIA THE ATOM BOMB?

A Critical Survey of Official Evidence

WHAT THE U.S. SCIENTISTS SAY

Some Americans believe that the atom bomb is the exclusive secret of the U.S.A. Responsible U.S. scientists, however, doubt this. Science, like music, is international, and much of the knowledge gained is discussed internationally. Further, even in secret work, it is often afterwards discovered that the scientists of several nations, even when separated by war, have been experimenting along identical or parallel lines.

This is so in the case of nuclear physics and the atom bomb, the idea of which did not even originate in America. Much of the evidence in this article is taken from official U.S. documents, particularly the Senate Atomic Energy Committee reports, ignored by the American public and press. The author of the Smyth Report to the latter committee, said in November, 1946:

"The greatest discoveries in nuclear physics between 1920 and 1940, the discoveries on which the atomic bomb is based, came more from Europe than from the United States."

The principle of the neutron was discovered by the English scientist, James Chadwick, in 1932. From then until 1940 English physicists carried out much fruitful work on uranium fission, although somewhat handicapped by slender resources. Germany, too, of course, with several other European countries, was working on the development of fission technique.

How Good is Russian Science?

Many persons believe that Russian science and technique are so backward as to be unworthy of serious consideration. This popular belief has been further developed by the mass propaganda of the Communists, who always portray pre-1917 Russia as being entirely backward, ignorant, barbarous and without culture. It is true, of course, that most of the country was backward, but there was a lively intelligent minority, hardly second in quality to any Western group.

One has only to consider literature to recall that in the field of the novel, short story and stage, Russian thinkers had no need to hide their origin. What is not so well known is that Tsarist Russia had also given birth to many talented scientists. Not so many as Germany or Britain, not so numerous or eminent as her imaginative writers, but sufficient to merit respect.

When the Bolsheviks gained power, they put an end to Russian literature and art, only retaining Gorki as a museum relic. But Russian science did not suffer the same unkind fate. Chemists and physicists were needed by the Bolshevik industrial and war machine, and, after some initial neglect, were encouraged to continue their work.

It is known that, as long ago as 1920, Russian scientists were studying the energy of nuclear particles, basis research work ultimately needed for the discovery of the atomic bomb. Since then it is evident that much work in Russia has been devoted to this line of research, principally at the Ukrainian Physico-Technical Institute, Kharkov, and the State Radium Institute and Physico-Technical Institute, Leningrad. Soviet scientific journals regularly discuss these problems. Many of these journals reach England and the U.S.A. in exchange for English-language scientific magazines. From English translations of articles on uranium fission, made from these Soviet publications, it would seem that Russian scientists are not so far behind the West as many wish to believe. It must also be remembered that Russia borrows freely from Western Europe, and has been helped in that by the much freer condition of Western scientists.

You Can't Keep a Secret

Britain and America agreed that the U.S. should undertake the task of developing the atom bomb and that British knowledge would be handed to America for that purpose. In spite of that agreement, America tried to keep the new processes secret from the British. Dr. L. Szilard, one of the U.S. atom physicists, made this statement before a Senate Committee (n.b., the U.S. atomic bomb project was officially known as the "Manhattan Project.")

"The Manhattan District gave us orders not to discuss with the joint British and Canadian project set up in Canada the chemical separation of plutonium. We had a good method, of which we were justly proud, and we were not supposed to explain this method to the Canadian project."

"This annoyed our British friends because it compelled them to duplicate our work, which they thought an unnecessary waste of time."

"The result, however, as I have been told by two reliable scientists, was that they have worked out a method for separating plutonium, which is superior to the one we are using."

"You see, here is an example of how easy it is to believe that what we have done and what seems so difficult to us is something that others cannot do or cannot improve upon."

U.S. Senate Atomic Energy Committee, Dec. 10, 1945.

American opinion is hiding behind the youthful belief that scientific secrets can remain secrets. Dr. Szilard's statement was made two-and-a-half years ago, but nothing has since happened to contradict it.

The world war has already destroyed not only the reserve stocks, but much that has taken hundreds of years of human effort to create.

The reformists call for a strengthening of Government power. They do not hesitate, especially to the Communists, to call upon the workers to submit to national and economic recovery plans. They get brain-fever working out better techniques of wage-slavery, by sponsoring new methods of piece-work and bonus incentive payments. This is nothing more than the rationalisation of production for the exclusive benefit of the employing class, and a return to the methods that led to over-production and unemployment, particularly of the most militant workers.

On this first of May, every conscious worker must demand:

INTERNATIONAL WORKING-MEN'S ASSOCIATION

May Day Manifesto to the Workers of the World

On this first of May, which the Socialists, Communists and Democrats, by their treacherous political and governmental activity, have transformed from a day of revolutionary significance and struggle into a day of harmless speedmailing, we say to you—

Whole generations of workers by hand and brain have helped to raise the condition and social well-being of men, but capitalism and its instruments of rule persist in refusing us, the producers, the right to live in peace and enjoy the wealth we have created throughout the world.

By the constant action of the Revolutionary Syndicalists of the International Working Men's Association, the cracks and fissures which have appeared in the structure of capitalism have been wedged and widened, and its entire edifice is threatened with total collapse.

The Socialist states, including Russia, are attempting to safeguard privilege and they are absorbing and incorporating the trade-unions into the state machine. The leaders of the World Trade Union Federation are conscious of their role, and rush to the aid of capitalism, propping it up by sharing the planning of state economy and control. Fortunately, even this does not give the state added stability, and the props which the workers are forced to unconsciously provide are slipping from beneath it.

We are witnessing today the death struggle of capitalism, which, from its inception, was doomed to destruction; we must not help it in any way, but joyfully watch it die, yes, and at the same time undermine ever more deeply the structure which sustains it, the State.

Faced with the imminence of war, that may be unleashed at any time by the imperialist rivals of the two opposing blocs seeking to dominate the world, each according to their own dictatorial ambitions, the workers must be prepared to fight against war, refusing to manufacture weapons of destruction.

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On this first of May, every conscious worker must demand:

The suppression of piece-work and all methods of payment by results.

An end to overtime.

The thirty-hour week.

Wages based on the cost of living.

Homes for all workers—equipped with modern sanitation and labour-saving devices.

Freedom of the Press.

A cessation of the need for passports.

Immediate freedom of all those imprisoned for working-class activity.

The abolition of concentration camps and prisons.

These demands, which must be on the agenda of the meetings and demonstrations of all workers who are fighting for their emancipation, can be realised only by direct action.

Beware then, workers, of the lying speech-making politicians on this May Day.

In opposition to the socialist and communist masquerades, we appeal to you to make this first of May a day of General Strike. Leave all the points of production, but do so as an action of protest and revolutionary claim.

Do this, and the true ideals of social emancipation will be reborn and arise from the ruins left by the world war throughout the world. They will arise with more strength, vigour and depth than ever before, as the incarnation of the elements that will destroy violence; as the basis of a new culture and a free civilisation, before which the military hierarchy, power and Government will cringe and fall, thus making possible an emancipated humanity.

FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF THE WORKERS, OUR ALL FOR THE REST NOT ONE DROP OF BLOOD MUST BE SHED!

THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEN'S ASSOCIATION WILL NOT BETRAY THE CONFIDENCE WHICH THE WORKERS PLACE IN IT!

FORWARD FOR THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION!

FOR THE BROTHERHOOD OF HUMANITY, UNITED IN A FREE WORKERS' FEDERATION!

LONG LIVE REVOLUTIONARY SYNDICALISM!

I.W.M.A. Sub-secretariat for Western Europe.

WILL WAR COME? U.S.A. Stalls Communist Coup in Italy

IT seems only yesterday that the Communists of Russia and the world were cheering the politicians of the West and denouncing as traitors the opponents of Churchill and de Gaulle, but we were as little deceived by their blab as we are by the oaths of undying friendship that drunken men swear to each other. While they were hailing each other, they were preparing the throat-slitting. Now we are living on the edge of war. The Italian election was one issue among many others that brought us near to it.

The Italian Communists had, on orders from Russia, already prepared a coup d'état if the election of April 18 went against them, or rather if it appeared to be going against them. The U.S.A. countered this by preparing to land marines and soldiers and send aircraft and warships to aid the Italian Government and allowing its intentions to be seen. This cooled the ardour of the Italian C.P. considerably.

Less obviously, but just as actively, American and British diplomats were busy in Scandinavia, trying to organise Danish, Swedish, Icelandic and Norwegian resistance to a new Stalinist push there.

Even less obvious were American activities in the Iberian Peninsula. Portugal is, as ever, tied to Britain, so the allies found an easy task there. More complicated was the case of Spain. It is quite clear that America has come to some arrangement with Franco, and that Britain, too, is in the bargain. But Bevin and Attlee are worried about it. They have no objection in principle to an arrangement with Franco, but to have it made public would be embarrassing to a couple of "anti-fascist democrats." Marshall and Truman are not so bothered.

Behind these mountain ranges, America will build aerodromes to service her "Super-Fortress" long-range bombers, now slowly coming into production. In a year's time their power will be felt.

If Italy is lost, the West will hang on to Greece and Spain; even if all of Europe were lost, America would bomb the Russians from England, North Africa, Asia Minor and Japan. America is taking no chances, these areas are to be the locals of her greatest air bases in any case. In

Bernard Shaw
Upsets the ILP
Says "Workers'
Control" Means
Syndicalism

"GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, the "Grand Old Man" of British Drama, is now ninety-one years old. Despite which he wears remarkably well and seems, in fact, to have a bit of the evergreen in his physical as well as mental makeup."

These, and many more like them, are the men who cry "Up the Republic!" and evict the workers of Dublin on to the cold streets.

In the Six Counties conditions are no more satisfactory. There are large numbers on the dole—as in the South—who are forced to travel to England to find the employment denied them at home, and there are many instances where men are refused employment because of a particular religious belief.

The police here are empowered to do practically anything. They may visit your home at any hour to the day or night, enter without a warrant, ransack the whole house, question and terrorise the inmates, and arrest anyone on suspicion.

It is a "suspicious action" to travel to Dublin on a Sunday from the Six Counties to see an "All Ireland Football Final." This is a fact to which I can testify personally. It is a "suspicious act" to have any Irish books on your person, or to carry Irish songs of a revolutionary character.

The police are an armed body, openly displaying their might in the form of a large revolver strapped to their sides in the real Gestapo tradition. In addition there are the "B" men, who parade the roads at night armed with rifles, and who are notorious for holding up Catholics, searching them, and ridiculing their religious emblems.

As for ourselves, the militant workers, we are watched continuously. Our every move is checked, and our public meetings attended by the Constabulary. We are the greatest danger, because we alone know who and what we are fighting, and there is always the possibility that we may succeed in uniting the workers, outside their religious beliefs.

J.M.H.

The VOICE of the PEOPLE

Marshall Tito went to the Belgrade radio to address the people, taking with him a "deputation" of peasants to supply the "spontaneous" applause. At the end of his address an old peasant came forward and asked that he might be allowed to speak to the people.

"Certainly not," replied Tito, "only I, the Leader, am allowed to speak to the free people of Yugoslavia."

"Just a few words," pleaded the old man.

"No!"

"Just three words."

"Certainly not!"

"Just two words, please."

"No, no."

"One word then, just one little word."

Tito thought—one word—that couldn't do any harm. "Very well," he said, "you may say one word."

The old peasant looked at him gratefully, went to the microphone, took a deep breath and yelled: "HELP!"

POLITICAL MORALITY and the ROPE

Europe will not be the only battlefield of World War III, not even the decisive battleground. That will be in the Middle East, including Greece, of course. In Asia Minor, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Syria and the Suez area is ground that will be fought for, if not over.

Slowly, even reluctantly, the American generals and politicians have come to recognise this. Yet it should have been obvious to any not blinded by post-war propaganda. More than two years ago the Anarchist Federation of Britain pointed to this as the great prize of the next world war.

American policy on the Palestine issue at the end of 1947 showed Washington still unaware. The sudden change of Washington's Palestine policy in March, 1948, showed that the U.S.A. was alive to its Middle East danger. At the end of March the Press of America had the idea.

"Time" (29) spoke of it as "The Area that Counts", admitting that "Not long ago, some U.S. strategists were talking about a World War III, fought across the Polar icecap." Other news magazines speak similarly.

The Middle East is important to Britain and the U.S. for its oil, but even more so because of its strategic worth. It is this knowledge, which is coming more to American official thought. "Time" says:

"Middle East oil, essential as it is to a war effort, is second in importance to the strategic position of the Middle East countries." It has taken the smart alecks a few years to find that out.

Although hanging is abolished for murder, capital punishment is retained for "Crimes against the State." To the Government, Labour or Tory, the State machine of repression is far more important than human life.

The attitude of Ministers like Cripps, Shinwell, Bevan, Noel Baker, who "refrained" from voting for hanging, was even worse. In public he has represented himself as a life-long abolitionist with firm convictions. Unlike Chuter Ede, he didn't even say in the debate that he'd changed his mind. His position was unequivocal. He had to vote for hanging or resign and lose a fat salary. He voted for hanging.

The Tories presented an almost unbroken front. For them Quinton Hogg said:

"I do not believe that I am constituted very differently from criminals." You said it Mr. Hogg, a

((Continued on Page 2, Column 6.)

American Letter**DOWN IN THE DEEP SOUTH**

By "Direct Action" Special Correspondent.

To sail into New York Harbour on a sunny afternoon must be the most memorable way to visit any city or country. There is no approach to any city equal to the sight of the mighty skyscrapers viewed from the deck of a Cunard liner. The city looked like some dream of a 21st century metropolis. I am certain some of the passengers expected to find crocks of gold at the foot of those eighty-storey buildings.

The luxury of the ship's tables had been in startling contrast to hungry Britain: several of the passengers became ill after one day of rich food, and the wealth and beauty of the goods displayed in the shops aboard helped to build up the illusion of a promised life of luxury in the New World.

Going ashore soon deflated the Golden City illusion. Moving through the crowded streets of Manhattan one is given an impression of a city even more grubby than London. A descent into the subway (underground railway) confirms the impression.

Before making my journey south I looked around me carefully, and was pleased to note the apparent lack of a colour bar. True, negroes seemed to be largely confined to the lower paid jobs, but there was none of the obvious colour bar that makes the visitor to the South feel ashamed. In that respect, New York was nearer to London than to the Southland. White and coloured sat side by side in train and bus, stood shoulder to shoulder at the numberless snack bars and were served by white and negro attendants working together. There were no "White" or "Coloured" signs on the public lavatories or waiting rooms. Could the colour bar have been exaggerated? At least there was not much for the visitor to see.

"The Negroes live there"

But when I travelled south the colour bar was thrust upon my sight at every corner. Not the slightest trouble was taken to conceal it. While in the northern states the coloured people had seemed alert, bright and well clad, many negroes

in the Southland looked shabby and depressed. Of course others in the South are very well dressed and look bright and happy, but one cannot help but notice the large number who look poor and depressed. Many of them live in most appalling slums. "I have never before, anywhere, in all of my life, seen such horrible slums as those of East St. Louis on the bank of the Mississippi. It was explained to me that "of course, the negroes live there."

What I did not expect was that the colour-bar would be openly accepted outside of Dixie, but I found it just as obvious in certain Western states such as Oklahoma and Missouri. Coloured people ride in the back of the bus, have separate lavatories and waiting rooms. In one town of Missouri in which I stayed, of six cinemas only one accepted negro patronage, and even there it was "balcony only."

Tax on Voting

I travelled next to Oklahoma, one of the younger states, last of the Indian territories and the "bad lands" of Jesse James and other famous outlaws. But there was nothing modern about that state's attitude to race; we might have been in Dixie here. While I was there the University of Oklahoma was fighting to keep out negroes. There is a state university for negroes in Langston, Oklahoma, but the educational opportunities there are very limited.

The University of Oklahoma was challenged by Mrs. Ada Sipuel Fisher, a coloured scholar who wished to study law. The University refused to allow her to study or attend its lectures, and Mrs. Fisher appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld her appeal. The University replied by setting up a Jim Crow law school for one person—Mrs. Fisher—refusing her permission to sit in the established Law School. Ada Fisher refuses to accept this Jim Crow ruling, and points out that a one-person class does not offer the equal opportunity of education demanded by the Supreme Court.

A few days later, three young Coloured men presented themselves to the University, at Norman, Oklahoma, and demanded to be enrolled as undergraduates in engineering, social sciences and business administration. They were soon followed by three others. So far neither side has given way.

My next stay was in Texas, one of the States which fought on the Confederate side in the Civil War, a state which combines Southern cotton fields with Wild West cowpunching. As I arrived the authorities were running a campaign to persuade citizens to pay their "Poll Tax". This

"Undesirable"

The poll tax is a device used by the ruling class of certain Southern states to prevent negroes voting, it being considered that the negroes would be too poor to pay. Of course, it also keeps out Mexicans and poor Americans who are also considered "undesirable" in Texas and certain other states. The states imposing a poll tax are South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Virginia, Texas, Alabama and Arkansas. Georgia abolished the tax in 1945.

About the middle of last year, President Truman appointed a committee to study and report on the denial of civil rights to negroes and others in the United States. The committee has just published its report, under the title: **"To Secure These Rights."** This volume shows that coloured people, with poor Americans and Mexican immigrants to U.S.A., are denied civil rights. It tells us that in the poll tax states only 18 per cent of the electors ever vote. The poll tax puts power in the hands of a well-to-do minority.

The Report also shows that negroes receive lower wages than any other group, suffer more from unemployment, are largely barred from professional jobs, and are more overcrowded than whites. It also shows that negro schools are poorly equipped and badly crowded as are the hospitals for coloured folk. **"To Secure These Rights"** condemns in popular and graphic language the oppression of one-tenth of the population of the U.S.A. by another tenth.

Phoney Revolt?

Just recently, President Truman, in a public speech, declared his intention to fulfil the recommendations of the Report. How far he will go in that direction remains to be seen, but the very mention of it was enough for the South. Led by the Governors of North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas and Texas, the Democratic Party in the South is threatening to vote against Truman in this year's presidential election. This could make certain Truman's defeat, for the "Democrats" rely on the vote of the "solid South." Many in the South, however, do not take the revolt too seriously.

Communists Still Worship Roosevelt

An echo of the hysterical wartime adulation of Roosevelt and Churchill by the Communist Party found its way into the "Daily Worker" for April 13th. Commenting on the unveiling of the Roosevelt memorial in London, a leading article stated:

"...he was a great democrat who played a noble and inspiring part in the fight of the people. . . . the statesmen who are now paying tribute to him and posing as his successors, but trampling his doctrines in the mud, would indeed treat him as a revolutionary and subject to the purge for 'Un-American Activities' were he alive today. . . . the real Roosevelt lives in the hearts of the people and the example of his untiring efforts for peace will spur on the millions who are today menaced by the threat of war."

Roosevelt's "doctrines"—like Churchill's—are capitalist exploitation, economic imperialism and militarism. His virtue, to Communists, lies in the appeasement policy that he and Churchill adopted towards Stalin during the war. This nonsense is a measure of the complete lack of integrity, for which "Communist" propaganda is rightly held in contempt.

Had "Comrade" Churchill performed a similar, long-overdue, service in 1945, we should doubtless now be hearing Harry Pollitt tell how Attlee and Bevin are betraying Winston's sacred heritage.

"The OLDEST PAPER of the LEFT"

In the issue of **"Freedom"** dated April 3rd, 1948, appears an article under the above title. After mentioning the fact that Peter Kropotkin and Mrs. C. M. Wilson published **"Freedom"** in October, 1886, the rest of the article is mainly devoted to laudatory references to the late T. H. Keell.

But the writer does not mention that the London Freedom Group was re-established in 1929, with T. H. Keell's full concurrence. Nor that the group actively worked to clear off a debt of £100 which remained on the cessation of publication of **"Freedom"**, nor of its other activities. Then follows, to speak mildly, a most ungenerous and pettish attitude.

The Freedom Group wishes to make full use of literature for the benefit of the movement. But Keell removed the whole of it from London. This caused some very bitter feelings.

The Freedom Group restarted **"Freedom"** in May, 1930. They had full right to do so, as among other things the Group had in its membership comrades like the late William Wess and John Turner, who worked on and for **"Freedom"** years before Keell probably even heard of the paper. Some friends of T. H. Keell wished him to be appointed editor, but in the last issue of **"Freedom"** which he published, he had said: "I lay down my pen for the last time as editor." And the group appointed Ambrose G. Barker editor, a post which he held until a serious illness, which might have been fatal, compelled him to relinquish the post.

Unfortunately, the issue of May, 1930, contained publication of the dispute with Keell. But the paper was carried on until September, 1936, during a depressing period so far as Anarchism in this country was concerned. No mention is made in the article of these facts.

The publishers of the present **"Freedom"** did not help in any way during that period. They now wish, evidently, to obscure it altogether. They will fail.

It is true that some of them were responsible for the publication of **"Spain and the World"** (from 1936-1938), and, as members of the Anarchist Federation, helped in the publication of **"War Commentary"** during the war years. We don't want to detract from any credit due to them for that.

John Syme said that the British police force was the most corrupt in the world. What would he now say about the Police State?

STATE PERSECUTES JOHN SYME'S WIDOW

The arrest of two drunkards in the early hours of a summer morning forty years ago was the trivial occurrence which led to a life of acute suffering for two people with a strong sense of justice—ex-Inspector and Mrs. John Syme. It was in 1909 that John Syme was dismissed as an Inspector in the Metropolitan Police.

We do not have to repeat the whole tragic story now, as it is all preserved in documentary form as a result of the 1924 enquiry. John Syme's crime was that he insisted on his case being the subject of a public enquiry, and that he publicly exposed the corruption of the police force.

By 25 years of public agitation, which covered Hyde Park activity, many gaol sentences, hunger-striking and incarceration in Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Syme was able, more than two decades after his dismissal, to secure the pension which was his legal due.

But ex-Inspector Syme, his life's end hastened by privation and food-poisoning, passed away almost unnoticed—even to the Press who used to sneer at the funny little Scotsman!—In 1945, his pension died with him.

Today, bedridden, ill and destitute in a suburban London home, the innocent victim of these circumstances lies dying—Syme's 79-year-old widow. The State refuses to grant her a penny of what could only be brief, compassionate subsistence, in spite of the many pleas raised on her behalf—notably by the Labour M.P. for Norwood, Mr. Chamberlain, by the Labour M.P. for Norwood, Mr. Chamberlain.

The intensely destructive character of World War II succeeded in destroying the real wealth produced by centuries of human effort. All productive effort was totally mobilised by the state and concentrated on the production of modern weapons of destruction. Agriculture was neglected, and the granaries became empty. Real scarcity of the necessities of life became a fact.

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R.U.

Towards the Free Society**Agricultural Collectives**

TODAY, in spite of being hampered by antiquated methods and insufficient farm workers and mechanical equipment, British farmers have higher yields per acre than do many of the countries from which we purchase agricultural products. Yet, our whole system of agriculture would have to undergo vast changes in organisation, and vast improvements in methods, to achieve the high productive level necessary to the functioning of a free society.

certain tasks and at different periods of the year.

The option of working on his own would be open to each worker. With the abolition of the wage system the farm worker will be on the same level as any other worker, but he will not be able to exploit his fellow man. According to their needs these workers would be able to use the material of the collective. There is ample reason to believe that these cases would be rare, and would gradually decrease in number, eventually disappearing. Labour in isolation, in addition to bringing no real advantage, would be harder and more complicated than work in the collectives.

We have the example of Spain where, when the agricultural collectives were formed between 1936 and 1939, the "isolates" soon joined the collective organisation, for they could clearly see that their work was thus lightened.

Before finishing with the question of small properties we should be wise to study, with understanding and justice, the case of the small peasant farmer, attached to the land that he works—sometimes by bonds of real affection. Without envisaging the continuity of property in land, we can admit, without diverging from our principles, that the son may work the soil where he was born. This faculty of cultivating the natal soil is not to be misunderstood as constituting "property rights."

INTEGRATION

Following the process already outlined for production co-operatives the representatives of the co-operatives and collectives would constitute local sections of agricultural production; these local sections, in their turn, would unite with the locals of the syndicates to constitute the local union of production.

Finally, the local unions, regional federations would form inter-regional production councils; thus the agricultural workers and technicians will participate in the organisation of production with the same rights as, and in complete equality with, the industrial workers.

In this way, the delegates of the agricultural workers would also participate in the work of the economic councils, co-operating fully in the all-over production scheme. In this way, they will be acquainted with the needs of the canteens, hostels and communes, and will be able to register their own needs in nitrates, fertilisers, tools, clothing, materials and the thousand and one other items and services needed.

SOME POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

Here we can only touch on a few of the many improvements and modernisations that can be envisaged. The institution of mechanical equipment depots, where the collectives and co-ops can borrow such items as bulldozers, scrapers, etc. Servicing and repair stations, where the equipment of the farm units could be repaired and overhauled. Trained agronomists, experts, who could help the farmers solve production problems; a service for artificial insemination of livestock. Then research centres for studying the development of new methods, fertilisers, etc. A specialised branch of the

International Anarchism

BULGARIA : A Committee of Aid for Bulgarian Anti-Fascists persecuted by the Stalinist authorities has been formed in France by the International Working Men's Association. The Committee is collecting economic aid to send to the Bulgarian comrades now in concentration camps. To this end it has published a 30-page pamphlet, "Bulgaria—Nouvelle Espérance" ("Bulgaria—A New Spain"), which gives the militant history of our Bulgarian movement. The committee is in urgent need of money, clothing, medical supplies—above all penicillin and other concentrated products. These should be sent to: Aid Commission for Bulgarian Anti-Fascists, 47, rue de la Victoire, Paris (9e), France.

SWITZERLAND : A national congress of the Swiss anarchist groups was held in Berne on the 17/18 April, with the aim of constituting the Swiss Anarchist Federation. At the same time, a monument to Louis Bertoni, founder of "Le Reveil Anarchiste", who died early last year, was inaugurated in the Berne cemetery where his ashes lie. The monument has been made by the Anarchist marble workers of Carrara in Italy. A report of the Congress will appear next month.

* * *

CUBA : Fifty delegates from all parts of the country were present at the recent National Congress of the Libertarian Association of Cuba. The Cuban movement, which publishes the fortnightly paper **"Solidaridad"**, is rapidly gaining a mass basis among the workers and peasants, and Communist influence is on the decrease. Last year two Anarchist militants were assassinated by Stalinist thugs.

There is no fixed time for tea-break. When the tea is brought from a local cafe it goes on the gas to strew, should there be lorries in to load or unload. The reason given is that lorry drivers, that is the few who own their own lorries—have to be paid extra if they are kept waiting. The foreman did suggest that the men stopped having a tea break altogether.

This firm, whose managing directors attend church and call themselves "religious" have a "bonus" scheme. They stop five shillings a week from the men's wages, give it back to them yearly less tax—and call it bonus. This is doubtless the way to become millionaires, which the owners of this firm are.

They also have a strange system of overtime, rewarding you to work anything from five minutes to half-an-hour for nothing.

There is no fixed time for tea-break. When the tea is brought from a local cafe it goes on the gas to strew, should there be lorries in to load or unload. The reason given is that lorry drivers, that is the few who own their own lorries—have to be paid extra if they are kept waiting. The foreman did suggest that the men stopped having a tea break altogether.

The publishers of the present **"Freedom"** did not help in any way during that period. They now wish, evidently, to obscure it altogether. They will fail.

It is true that some of them were responsible for the publication of **"Spain and the World"** (from 1936-1938), and, as members of the Anarchist Federation, helped in the publication of **"War Commentary"** during the war years. We don't want to detract from any credit due to them for that.

John Syme said that the British police force was the most corrupt in the world. What would he now say about the Police State?

With types like this one certainly believes "that power corrupts."

Yours fraternally,

RUBY H.

London, S.E.1.

G.C.

distributive workers syndicate, which would enable farm and market garden produce to be distributed to urban populations with minimum deterioration and nutrition loss.

A recent article by J. B. S. Haldane sketched many ways in which biologists could, in fact, revolutionise agriculture, among them selective breeding of live stock, determination of the sex of calves to be born, and the development of new hybridised trees.

As a final point, let us mention the agro-biologists, the new schemes for dirtless farming, hydroponic science. Perhaps, in a free society, we would even see vast tank farms on the outskirts of heavily populated urban areas—where science would take over from nature, and perform a terrific service by producing fresh fruits and vegetables in vast hydroponic plants.

AMBROSE BARKER

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On April 20th our comrade, Ambrose G. Barker, now living in Walthamstow with his companion, Comrade Ella Twynam, attained his ninetieth birthday.

Two of us visited these two old Anarchist stalwarts on the evening of that day. We found Comrade Barker in reasonably good health, his one regret being that he was not able to get to meetings any longer. "If only I was thirty years younger," he said, "I should be out speaking on the street corners."

We asked him what he thought of the present Labour Government. "£1,000 a year men—all of them," he replied, "they're doing the Tories' work well."

It was a great tonic for us to find our old comrade's faith in our movement undimmed, his mental faculties as alert as ever. May he live to see the realisation of the ideas to which his life has been devoted.

Will War Come?

(Continued from Page 1, Column 5)

over their Palestine policy, as much as vote-hungry Harry disliked doing so.

Neither American nor British generals believe that the atom bomb alone will win the war for them. It will play a big part, but much more will be needed to defeat Russia. America's chief weapon is large-scale bombing, with high explosive, as used against Germany. Russia's weakest link, transport, will be struck at by ever-increasing numbers of giant bombers. In Russia, railways and rolling stock are few, the