

"There is no greater force in the world than an idea whose time has come."
VICTOR HUGO

TWOPENCE

VOL. 3, No. 7, (No. 32).

JULY, 1948.

LAST TRAIN TO BERLIN

East-West Tension Grows WORLD FACES DISASTER

EVENTS are moving fast towards an armed clash between Russian and Anglo-American forces in Europe. The recent crisis in Berlin, in which the land blockade of the three Western Powers in the old German capital by the Russian authorities, succeeded the introduction of currency reform in the sectors of the city under Western control, has been yet one more development in the sharpening tension between East and West.

The contents of the Notes exchanged between the rival Powers are becoming increasingly outspoken. Hostility is no longer concealed beneath the veneer of diplomatic phraseology. The phrases employed by Clay, Robertson and Sokolovsky are as clear in their intention as those used by Truman, Bevin and Stalin. The stage is being set for the third world war.

The strategic importance of Berlin is one reason for the impasse which has developed. It has obviously been increasingly irksome for the Soviet authorities to tolerate the passage behind the Iron Curtain, through Russian-occupied Germany, of Western supplies and military personnel. The opportunities for military intelligence alone which this provides, together with the maintenance of the Western zones of Berlin as a Western bridgehead inside Soviet-occupied Europe, have created an untenable position during the period of preparation for war. A parallel situation exists in Vienna, and a similar crisis is to be anticipated there.

The attitude now adopted in the British and American capitalist press is one of open preparation for armed conflict. The line-up that we forecast in May, 1946, has come out in the open. According to an article by R. H. Crossman, M.P., in the "New Statesman" (3.6.48), Churchill has already forecast war for August this year, and has stated that he expects to be back in Downing Street, leading a War Cabinet, next month. Churchill's policy of appeasement to Stalin during the last war has rendered the next almost inevitable. The insatiable lust for power of this arch-enemy of the working-class encourages him now to hope that he will again be able to offer us more "blood, toil, tears and sweat."

It is, of course, impossible to forecast when and how armed hostilities will begin. What is clear is that war will mean the end of such civilisation as we possess. The destruction that will be inevitable in an atomic age war is almost beyond imagination.

That this situation has arisen at all, is not the responsibility of capitalist governments and rapacious imperialism alone. It is also the result of the inertia of the working-class both in Britain and throughout the world in permitting the continuance of regimes of capitalist and State exploitation.

We are facing the greatest catastrophe in history. It should be recognised that war will mean the probable extermination of every living being in these islands, the wholesale devastation of Europe and a great part of Asia. This is not irresponsible rhetoric, it is fact.

At this eleventh hour, the Anarchist Federation appeals to every worker, to every conscious individual. Only your direct action, on both sides of the Iron Curtain, can avert the threat of war. Only in the universal Social Revolution lies the last hope of humanity.

Novel Strikes in Japan

General MacArthur, U.S. military dictator of Japan, has made a law prohibiting strikes in Japanese industry. This law, in its working, prohibits a general walk-out in an industry or factory in the sense that we understand or practise strikes in England or America. The Japanese workers soon found ways of getting around the law, by developing new strike methods. Most noteworthy is the "piston strike." A group of workers in a factory walk out for one day. When they return another group takes a day off. On the third day a third group go home. This may go on for months in one factory or throughout an industry. Groups of workers go in and out like a battery of pistons. The result is to throw out of gear the undertaking concerned.

Then there is the "clean up." Workers come to work alright, but decide that the factory is too dirty for health and efficiency (most factories are in any country). So they clean up the works, indeed they polish them, but it's all strictly legal. There's the 'belly-ache' strike too. Groups of workers develop mysterious and acute stomach pains. There's nothing in MacArthur's law against that, even if another group belly-ache the following day.

The "traffic strike" is another Japanese novelty. Workers arrive on the job an hour or two late, explaining that the trains were crowded (they always are in any case). They also leave an hour or two earlier in order to get home without riding on the buffers.

One way or another the Japanese workers are still using the strike weapon, and MacArthur's legal advisers are thinking out a new plan.

ANARCHIST WAR RESISTER GETS 12 MONTHS Widespread Protests

Our young comrade Peter Green, of Plaistow, London, was sentenced to three years in Borstal, at Chelmsford Assize Court on June 3rd, as a result of his refusal to submit to medical examination for military service. He was released from the Surrey Borstal Institution on June 16th, pending the hearing of his appeal against conviction at the London Law Courts. His case is being handled by the Central Board for C.O.'s.

Peter Green, an eighteen-year-old student, was committed for trial by the Stratford Magistrates' Court after his refusal to obey an order for medical examination, made out by the Stratford magistrate. Comrade Green is well-known in East London, through his active anti-militarist activity, and through his active participation in the work of the No Conscription Council. The logic of his opposition to militarism brought him to accept the Anarchist position during recent months, and on May Day he was at Hyde Park, with other comrades, selling "Direct Action."

His sentence has already provoked widespread protest. A number of trade-union, local Labour Party and Co-op branches have passed resolutions of protest, and "Reynolds News," "Socialist Leader," "News Chronicle," and "Peace News" are among papers that have carried articles or letters on the case.

At a big "End Conscription" meeting, organised by the Anarchist Federation in Hyde Park on Tuesday, June 15th, well over a thousand people gave a sympathetic reception to speeches by Guy Aldred, Fred Read, Raymond Upton and Ken Hawkes, in which Comrade Green's case was fully dealt with.

It is to be hoped that our comrade's challenge to peace-time conscription under a Labour Government will evoke the solidarity and support of all who oppose the increasingly fascist tendency of the British ruling class—a tendency which has manifested itself in the imposition of peace-time conscription, in the use of troops for strike-breaking, and in a three-year Borstal sentence on an eighteen-year-old upholder of human rights.

LATE FLASH:

Before Lord Chief Justice of England at Law Courts on July 12th, sentence reduced to 12 months' imprisonment. Judge summing up stated that: "This is one of clearest and most deliberate acts of defiance to Parliament there has been."

U.S. DOCKERS ACT AGAINST DICTATORS

While dockers were loading a ship at a Brooklyn, New York, pier, one of them, looking into the dining-room, saw what he believed to be a portrait of Goering. That anti-fascist dockers was indignant at first, and went inside for a closer look. The picture proved to be that of Tito, hanging alongside one of Stalin. (Tito bears a strong resemblance to Goering, wears similar uniforms and decorations, and seems to have copied the "Marshall's" pose as well as his title.) However, one dictator was very much the same as another, in any case, to this worker. He brought his mates to see the sort of ship they were loading. Equally indignant as the first, they at once decided to refuse to work the ship—the Yugoslav vessel "Radnick." Officials of the longshoremen's union tried to persuade the men to work, but were booed from the platform by the strikers.

On the third day of the strike a gang of Communists, with some human dock refuse they had swept up, arrived at the pier to break the strike. Large police reinforcements arrived behind the Communists, saved them from a ducking, and covered their retreat.

On the fourth day the captain ordered his crew to load the cargo. When he ordered them to use the dock cranes, motor "runabouts" and equipment, the dockers refused to allow these to be touched.

The captain then ordered the crew to load the ship with the ship's winches and hoists, and by a hand-truck and manhandling. Eventually the ship sailed.

Newspaper writers and politicians, led by Mrs. Roosevelt (whose husband acted as midwife at the birth of the Tito dictatorship) have expressed horror and indignation at this act of the longshoremen. These same writers have condemned Tito's dictatorship, but wish to see no action against it.

Lambeth Clerics Please Note
"We want more Pigs and Less Parsons."
—Chartist Slogan

Communist Anti-Semitism in Europe

ECHOES OF NAZI-BOLSHEVIK PACT

OFFICIAL anti-semitism is growing in many European Communist Parties. This may be surprising to those who are deluded into believing that the C.P. here opposes the anti-semitic Fascist movement. Communist opposition has taken the form of attending fascists' meetings and howling, usually providing free advertisement for Mosley's men. On the other hand, they have opposed those who successfully used violence on the Blackshirts, calling such workers "gangsters," and asking for "dignified demonstrations." In the name of such spurious anti-fascism the Communists have cashed in on Jewish sympathy with "bumper collections."

In Europe too, the Communist attitude to the problems created by persecution of Jewish people is just as opportunist, and always, like every other "Party line" liable to sudden change. Such a change seems to have been developing since the beginning of the year.

In France

In France, the Communist Party has made many attacks, akin to the fascist attacks, on Jewish political opponents, because of their Jewish birth. The French Communist Party paper, "Action", in its issue of January 7th, 1948, published a bitter hate article against Jules Moch, Socialist Minister of the Interior. Alluding to Moch's racial origin, the article refers to his "Messianic arrogance" a phrase often used by fascists, and speaks of him walking down the steps of the Ministry "wrapped in his prayer shawl."

On January 10th, "L'Aisne Libre," organ of the Communist "National Front" carried an article by Professor Roger Biard, College of Science, a C.P. candidate at the last Parliamentary Election. Biard said the names of Moch, Leon Blum, Premier Robert Schuman and Finance Minister René Mayer (all names used by Jewish folk) do not have the good honest odour of the land of France ("ne sentent ni la Beauce, ni le Berry").

On January 14th, "La Vie Ouvrière," a Communist trade-union weekly, carried an article attacking Leon Blum. In this article Gaston Monmousseau sneers: "Blum in Yiddish means flower."

On January 15th, "L'Humanite," official organ of the French C.P., displayed a cartoon, which is an exact pattern of the cartoons carried by Julius Streicher's "Der Stuermer." The cartoon shows Moch, Schuman and Mayer, with big hooked noses. They are in the Chamber of Deputies, and the "Marseillaise" is being played. "Do you know this song," asks one. "No, it must be one of those French songs," replies another.

In an interview with newsmen, the Communist M.P., Deputy Ramette said: "We Communists have only real French noses."

In Czechoslovakia

In Czechoslovakia, too, Communist anti-semitism is developing. During the war the Nazis confiscated 16,000 Jewish properties—mostly small-holdings—in pursuit of racial persecution alone. Naturally, it was expected that these properties would be returned without condition. In fact, only a small fraction have been returned. The Communist Vaclav Nosek, formerly Minister of the Interior, takes the view, with other Communists, that all Jews, even those with proven and outstanding anti-Nazi records, if they are of German origin (which usually means having German names) or have sought to use the German language, should be treated as Germans. These victims compose a considerable part of Czech Jewish folk.

On March 5th, 1948, the Communist Minister of Information, M. Kopecky, in a speech at Tellice, attacked the Jews, calling them "Jewish rabble."

On April 13th, the Communist M.P., Deputy Kapoun, said that, under the Republic, "the Jews ran away for 'racial reasons'" and that there could be no confidence in their patriotism.

In Poland, General Rola-Zymierski and other notorious anti-Semites have been welcomed into the Communist ranks. In that country, too, mob attacks upon Jews, and even massacres, have been permitted by the Communist police. The police chiefs have said that they were unable to prevent the massacre of Jews, but the Polish police force, a heavily armed body,

is stronger now than it ever was. With the whole country held in Communist subjection, it is impossible for any such acts to be worked up (it usually takes professional anti-semitic agitators many days, and even weeks, to work up mob outbursts; such attacks are never spontaneous) without the passive assistance of the Communist-controlled police.

The history of Stalinism shows that the Communists are capable of using one line or set of persons, dropping them, adopting their opposites, then reverting to the former and even of developing two opposite party lines at one time in order to choose the most useful at a future date. Communism has no principle but the conquest of power.

Stalin and Hitler

Stalin gained his present position by this method. He used Zinoviev against Trotsky, then murdered Zinoviev, one section of the Bolshevik Party against another, then liquidated his allies. He sought an alliance with the Social-Democrats, then (1929) attacked them as "Social Fascists." By 1936 he was seeking a "People's Front" with them, now he is liquidating them in Eastern Europe. Stalin sought an alliance with the "democracies" while also negotiating with Hitler. Then he made his treaty of friendship with Hitler (August, 1939) and denounced the "democracies" as warmongers. The party line is very flexible and can, if it suits Stalin's schemes, change from pro-semitism to anti-semitism and back again, or be both at once.

Remember, too, that Stalin-Hitler pact of 1939. By that pact Hitler received Stalin's all-clear signal for his war on Poland. That war included the deliberate, planned extermination of the majority of Polish Jews by the Nazis. When that pact was signed, Polish Jews knew their tragic fate.

Remember the photographs of Stalin smilingly looking on Ribbentrop and Molotov signing the Nazi-Bolshevik pact? They were signing more than a "treaty of friendship." They were signing the death warrants of 3,000,000 Polish Jews, men, women and children.

RED POPE UNFROCKS TITO Heresy in the Balkans

THE Cominform's sudden excommunication of Marshal Tito, Communist dictator of Yugoslavia, and the mass of charges levelled against him and his two chief aides, Kardelj and Aleksander Rankovich, has been causing deep heart-searchings among the rank-and-file members of the 'brotherly' communist parties in other countries. The threat of possible moves by the Red Army, in connection with this sudden change in the Balkan political set-up has given rise to a new crop of fears and rumours, particularly in the areas adjacent to the Iron Curtain.

It has been apparent for some time that all was not well in the Communist galaxy of satellites. First came the internal fight in the Yugoslav Party, culminating in the disgrace of two prominent members of the old guard, General Zhujovich and Comrade Hebrang. At the same time Tito, Kardelj and other ministers have been showing that they did not consider what was best for Russia was also best for Yugoslavia, particularly from the economic and commercial aspects. The Yugoslav Party has also gradually built up a reputation for being unnecessarily mysterious. Since the end of the war there have been no elections to the Central Committee, and the names of the component members of the politbureau and general secretary have never been made public.

"Shameful Turkish Terror"

This has been mirrored by the strange reticence shown by communist papers and party mouthpieces in other countries. Perhaps the main charge levelled at Tito's head is that of "nationalism," and what is tantamount to being undisciplined and refusing to accept Soviet orders, plus a few knocks on inordinate ambition, grandeur and "displaying conceit bordering on megalomania." As was to be expected under such circumstances, the

Port Workers Set Example

Movement for Workers' Control Spreads

ONCE again the port-workers have demonstrated their militancy and solidarity by protesting and fighting for their interests in a 16-day strike of over 31,000 dockers, stevedores and lightermen in London and Liverpool.

Since 1945, despite the election of a Labour Government and the consequent illusions as to its socialist nature, the port-workers in a series of strikes, have staked their claim as the front-rank fighters in the class struggle against the capitalist system and its agents of Labourism and Stalinism.

During the strike, the port-workers were faced with attacks from the whole capitalist propaganda machine—from the B.B.C. to the "Daily Graphic"—that successfully turned a large section of the public against the strikers. They had to fight against the bitter and subtle attacks of Deakin and Company. They had to face the Labour Government's strike-breaking policy of drafting raw army recruits into the docks, and their own serious, economic position. Nevertheless, in complete solidarity, the overwhelming majority of dockers, stevedores and lightermen—many who could not work but could have drawn their guaranteed wage if they had reported for work—remained solidly on strike. A glorious example of a spirit so lacking in other industries.

Was the Strike Justified?

"Right from the start we say that the strike is entirely justified," writes the port-workers' rank-and-file paper, "Struggle." Every conscious worker who knew the reasons for the strike agreed that it deserved full working-class support.

The strike was caused through severe disciplinary measures being enforced upon eleven men. They were suspended from work, and so deprived of income from any source for seven days, and suspended from drawing their guaranteed wage for 13 weeks, their income thus being left to the tender mercies of the employers who could give them work only if they thought fit.

Discipline was imposed because the eleven men refused to unload zinc oxide until the extra rates of pay had been settled by the tribunal. Instead they worked upon another ship only after they were refused the right to work the zinc oxide cargo on "day work" instead of "piece work." The refusal was contrary to the men's trade union ruling, which stated that in the event of an un-

satisfactory award being granted for a disputed cargo, the men may work "day work." Port-workers thus struck in defence of a trade union ruling. In face of this, how do Deakin and the Tory M.P. for Hornsey, Mr. Gammans, justify their statements that the strike, if persisted in, would undermine and destroy the trade-union movement?

It was recognised by the strike leadership that only by the repeal of the disciplinary clause could T.U. principles be preserved. The strike then assumed the form of a direct struggle between the vanguard of the working-class and the capitalist state, upon a class issue. That is why the opposition to the strike exceeded the bitterness shown in previous strikes since 1945. That is why the Emergency Powers Act was invoked.

Object of the Disciplinary Clauses

The Docks Scheme, for the decasualisation of labour, like schemes introduced into other industries, for five-day weeks, 44-hour weeks, etc., carries clauses providing for harsh disciplinary measures, with dictatorial scope, that give the employers a wedge into the workers' conditions, ready to be prised open at any time.

The object of these industrial schemes was to appease the workers' immediate demands, as an incentive to increased production and profits—the object of all reforms. But world conditions have changed, the "sellers' markets" have dried up (as Cripps has told us) and "buyers' markets" have taken their place. If British Imperialism is to sell upon the world markets, in competition with American Imperialism, the workers must—in the words of the "Daily Mail" (21.6.48)—"Work a few more hours a week for no more money"; or, in other words, face wage-cuts.

That was the object of the National Dock Labour Board's to enforce the chapter "turn round" of ships by refusing the eleven men their justified demand for extra money for unloading noxious zinc oxide, as the rule in industry.

As "Struggle" points out, the "old" weapon of starvation is continued today by the bosses. This weapon is a threat to the conditions of the whole working class. That is what the port-workers fought! Through barring men from work, during a period of suspension from drawing their guaranteed wage, the employers could create a reserve pool of unemployed workers, deprived of all income—even unemployment pay—which could be used, as in the "good old days" to cut wages, withdraw reform measures, etc.

The Labour Government, through Isaacs, was mainly responsible for these disciplinary clauses. That was why the extreme Tories united with "our" Labour Government to smash the strike, because the port-workers had struck directly against the Government and the capitalist system it represents.

The Further Struggle

Despite lack of organisation, and the presence of vacillating elements on the strike committee, the port-workers' main leadership proved consistent and militant.

Capitalist propaganda attributed leadership of the strike to the Stalinists, in an attempt to scare workers into condemning the strike without seeking its causes. The strike was not led by the Stalinists, although some party members were on the strike committee. At the same time R. Barrett, a C.P. member and official of the N.A.S.D., was trying to get the dockers back to work. C.P. support for the strike was in an attempt to regain lost prestige and leadership. But dockers remember the C.P. role of strike-breaking in past struggles. At Liverpool, Jack Jones, a C.P. member was ordered off the platform while Harry Constable, London delegate—who is not a C.P. member—successfully called on the men to strike. The Stalinists isolate strikes as was the case at the Savoy, but the port-workers' leadership spread the strike. The C.P. tried to break the 1945 strike, but, as the "Daily Express" pointed out, the old leaders of the 1945 strike were leading the struggle again—such names as Aylward (editor of "Struggle"), Constable and Van Loo were again prominent.

The lessons of the strike must be drawn. There are, firstly, the necessity of a better co-ordinated strike committee and the strengthening of the embryonic rank-and-file committee. The organisation of picket lines and demonstrations through working-class quarters. The publicising of demands through public meetings before, during and after strike action. The rallying of working-class support to the struggle by public appeals for financial aid and sympathetic action.

The port-workers are back at work. They have retreated, but are not defeated. The retreat is to reorganise and consolidate for the struggle that must be for the Port-workers Charter.

In preparation for the coming struggle, port-workers must—

CONSOLIDATE AND ORGANISE THE RANK AND FILE COMMITTEES.

LINK UP WITH MILITANT GROUPINGS IN OTHER PORTS, IN TRANSPORT, IN CATERING, ETC.

FIGHT AGAINST THE EMPLOYERS' OPPRESSIVE SCHEMES, AND FOR THE CHARTER.

CONSISTENTLY EXPOSE THE EMPLOYERS' AND LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S REACTIONARY MEASURES.

ESTABLISH THE RIGHT OF RECALL OF ALL DELEGATES.

FIGHT WITH OTHER PORTS AND INDUSTRIES AGAINST THE T.U. OFFICIALS, THE EMPLOYERS AND THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED AND REPRESENTATIVE NATIONAL RANK AND FILE ORGANISATION, FOR WORKERS' CONTROL OF INDUSTRY, AND THE OVERTHROW OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5.)

American Letter

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING IN IOWA

AFTER travelling nearly 3,000 miles in the U.S.A., I have arrived in Iowa, the greatest agricultural producing state in the Union. At the moment I am in Des Moines, the state capital city. Like all visitors, I went to the State Capitol.

"You're from England?" asked an attendant, and when I told him I was from London he insisted on showing me the House of Representatives and the Senate Chamber, and pointed out the paintings and mosaics on the great staircase. He also told me how many dollars each of these cost, obviously expecting some expression of admiration. At his urging I then ascended to the top of the great gold-plated dome, (yes, real gold, so many dollars' worth) and from there saw the city in its exact geometrical checker-board pattern, like most other American cities: not a curve anywhere, except the Des Moines and Racon Rivers—I am surprised they did not have them straightened out to fit the pattern.

On descending, they loaded me with statistics showing that Iowa produced 25 per cent. of the nation's corn, 25 per cent. of its hogs, and many other impressive farming figures. I listened attentively, while noting from the corner of my eye the inevitable automatic peanut machine, between the chambers of the Senate and Representatives. Someone had spilled some of his pennyworth of peanuts on the floor—could it be a senator?

I was soon afraid that I would find little in Iowa to interest readers of "Direct Action," or myself, then I learned of a German settlement in the state where real Communism had been practised, then abandoned. I felt I must learn more of this colony.

All Things in Common

The Pietists, for such they were, are an offshoot of the German Lutheran Church, less materialistic, more scriptural, more working-class and less respectful of hierarchy than the parent church. A colony of them came to America in 1843, and in 1855 finally settled in Iowa. From the first setting they practised communism (by communism I do not mean anything doctrinal to the Communist Party—that has as much to do with Communism as the Freemasons have with bricklaying, or the Dean of Canterbury has with Christianity).

Their communism was not the result of political doctrine, but of an attempt to live according to the New Testament. In the "Acts of the Apostles" they read:

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common."

"Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold."

"And laid them down at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."

Acts, Chapter IV, Verses 32, 34, 35.

They remembered that Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for withholding a portion from the common pool after declaring they had given all, and each gave his all to the commune, money, tools and labour. (I have known a modern Ananias and Sapphira who went further and walked off with the whole community chest. Alas! I waited in vain to see them carried out.) They abandoned personal gain and ambition. Each lived in and for the commune. Others arrived from Germany and a fairly large community was built.

After many years, much of the old religious fervour died down with the passing of the original elders. When the commune was almost isolated it was easier to practise pure communism, but as the surrounding land filled up, and motor cars and new roads broke down the Pietists' isolation, they were beset by the problems of their capitalist surroundings. To succeed it would have been necessary to live in a social vacuum. In 1932 a crisis occurred in the society's affairs. Debts were being incurred, not enough work was being done. The society decided to change from a purely communistic basis to a co-operative foundation.

All the property was valued by official appraisers: the houses, factories, land, cattle and machinery. The church and the society were separated, and the society became a producers' and consumers' co-operative. Members were given shares in the society, men one share for every year worked after they became 21, women one share for each year after 18. The shares were valued at 65 dollars (that's about £16) each. Some persons received 3,000 dollars' worth of shares (some of the present members are between 80 and 90 years of age, and are still working, tilling their own large gardens).

The New System

Families were permitted to buy their own houses from the society using the bonds for purchase. The huge dining rooms, where communal meals had been served were used for other purposes, and families ate in their own homes. The land is still held in common, as are the animals and farm buildings. So also are the factories, the main shops, grocery, meat, provisions, etc. Most of the small shops, chiefly shoe shops and inns, are privately owned, although small sandwich shops which supply motorists are society-owned. Workers employed on the farms, in the factories and in the stores are engaged, paid a wage, and may be dismissed by the society.

The society is by no means tiny. It occupies seven villages with a total population of 1,400. Its farms cover 26,000 acres. It owns and operates a cabinet making factory, a woollen mill

and a factory turning out refrigerators which compete on the American market with goods made by capitalist firms. The turn-over is about a million dollars a year, but, as many goods are home-produced, the real value of the turn-over is probably above a million.

Free medical care is given to members. Medicine is free at the society's pharmacy and if a member must go to hospital, 20 miles away, his member and hospital fees are paid for him. Dental care is free, and if false teeth are needed, the patient pays for materials only. Death brings a free burial.

For the old folk, firewood is cut and delivered free. The medical benefits may not seem as great to British readers as they are to Americans, for in America there is practically no "socialised medicine," a few free hospitals are run by charity, and practically none by the cities. To the people of Iowa, then, these benefits are large.

Altogether, the society seems well run and prosperous, its members well fed, comfortable and secure. Many of them are sending their children through college.

A Comparison

A word of warning. Be careful about comparing the Iowa commune with the "communities" set up by middle-class groups of pacifists and such in England, as an escape from machinery. The Pietists have been successful just because of certain factors which are lacking in the case of the English petit-bourgeois groups.

The commune was large enough, 1,400 persons and 26,000 acres of fertile land, to be effective. Half-a-dozen shopkeepers, wearing sandals and living on lettuce don't make a commune. The religious fervour of the Pietists was a strong factor in holding together and building up the commune in its most difficult days. The jealous egotism of the neurotics who form so many of the 'community groups' in England is an ineffective substitute for that.

More important yet, the Iowan commune did not have any fancy notions about the "mystical nature of man's contact with the earth." Soil is soil to them, clay, sand, loam and horse muck—so they are not disappointed. Nor do they regard machines as evil things if they lighten and make fruitful man's labour. (Strange, that the simplifiers who write against machines do not recognise typewriters, motor cars, electric fires, linotypes or tin-openers as machines or the products of machines.) The Iowa Commune is well equipped with machines, power and modern tools.

Most important of all the Pietists are workers—not the misfits of a capitalist educational system. From the beginning they were farm labourers, cabinet-makers and carpenters. They regarded work, especially manual work, as a social and religious duty. They did not go to the land to escape social responsibilities, but to work in what they believed to be Christian conditions. And from the beginning they earned their own living, paid their own way. They were not, as are so many pacifist communities in England, subsidised by large doses of middle-class conscience money. Their social salvation lay in their own hands, caloused by hard labour.

War Threatens Scandinavia

Something is happening in Scandinavian governmental circles which is not being reported in the British or American press. Russia has certainly threatened Sweden, Norway and Denmark, as she has already threatened Finland. Nor is this threat just a war of nerves. Quite large Russian armed forces are being assembled in the Gulf of Finland and on the Baltic coast. Even more threatening is the fortress Russia has been building on the Letts promontory threatening Sweden. At Baldisai, on the Gulf of Finland, and about 30 miles from Tallin, capital of Estonia, the Russians are building one of the most formidable fortresses ever known to military science.

When Estonia was recaptured by the Bolsheviks in 1944, the Red Army began at once the building of this stronghold. The labour used is mainly German prisoners-of-war, local Estonian slave-labour and soldiers of General Vlassov's Russian Army. (Vlassov was a Russian general who went over to the Germans, taking with him a Russian army which then fought fiercely on the side of the Nazis against the Red Army. They surrendered to the Western allies, who handed them over to the Russians.)

At Porkkala on the Finnish coast, another modern fortress is being built to hold Finland in subjection and threaten Sweden.

All this, and much else, has alarmed Scandinavian military and political leaders. In Sweden, something like a crisis has taken place in the Government. Many of the leaders of the Socialist Party and most of the generals and staff officers were in favour of refusing Russian demands and of resisting Russian military attacks with arms. In this resistance they hoped to have the assistance of Norway and Denmark, Britain and the U.S.A. Some members of the Swedish cabinet, however, wished to capitulate. Their hands were strengthened by the apparent collapse of Finnish resistance to Russian aggression. The resisters, on the other hand, were encouraged by representatives of Britain and America. The crisis is by no means over.

"Scandinavian Union"

Norway and Denmark, quietly, and without publicity, made their choice. Political feeling is strongly pro-British and the governments will seek the protection of British and the U.S.A. America has been asked to re-arm the two nations, Britain is already training the Danish Army as a northern wing of the British Army, and will probably build, train and organise a Norwegian Navy.

The authors of the Western Union of Nations have high hopes of a "Scandinavian Union" to act as the northern outpost of the Western powers. It is hoped that this will include Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland (small, but useful as a naval and bomber base). Even Finland is not written off as lost, by the Western military and political strategists.

Finland is being encouraged to throw off her pessimism and fatalism, and build up a gradual resistance to the Communist fifth column in that country. We shall see more of this as months go by. A little at a time, if possible, will be the Finnish resisters' method.

If all else fails, a Finnish underground resistance movement will be organised. Experience of the late war shows, however, that an effective resistance movement cannot be organised by the Western Allies, or even by native politicians, that most such movements come from the spontaneous action of the workers and peasants. To such a movement the Western powers will be reluctant to give adequate arms, but only such a movement can free Finland.

Meanwhile, keep your eyes on Scandinavia, you'll need to look very sharply, for the press won't be telling you too much.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

All communications to the National Committee of the Anarchist Federation should be addressed to:

National Committee, A.F.B.,
15, Parliament Hill,
London, N.W.3.

Those desiring further information regarding the Federation, or interested in becoming members, should write to the above address.

Letter from Germany

Dear Comrades,

As you may know a Conference of Anti-Militarist friends from different countries is to take place on July 24th here in Hamburg.

There is great panic as a result of the currency reform which, of course, will never work. Hamburg is like a madhouse—everyone expecting famine to come again. One German cigarette costs twelve roubles and one English up to twenty-five roubles. One pound of butter 600-900 roubles. Practically nothing is obtainable.

Hamburg, 15.16.48.

C.L.

DEATH OF GLASGOW ANARCHIST

Our comrade, Bill Borland, died in Knightswood Hospital, Glasgow, on Tuesday, June 29th. His death was a result of that curse of the working-class—galloping consumption—from which he had been suffering for more than eighteen months.

Comrade Borland will be remembered for his whole-hearted enthusiasm and devotion to the Federation. He joined the Glasgow Group, soon after his demobilisation from the Army in 1945. His experience in the Eighth Army in North Africa, Sicily and Italy had taught him, the hard but effective way, the results of capitalism. Bill Borland soon became one of our best open-air propagandists, and his enthusiasm gave encouragement to others during a difficult period for our movement.

When Adolfo Caltabiano was framed as "insane", and subjected to the cheap jeers of Clutter Ede in Parliament, Bill Borland, together with Tom Reilly, came down from Glasgow to London, and took an active part in the campaign that eventually brought about Caltabiano's release from Colney Hatch. Death has now claimed both these comrades.

Borland, like Reilly, was an indefatigable propagandist. His tireless street-corner work in Glasgow, in all weathers, combined with physical weakness resulting from his war-time experiences, undoubtedly contributed to the causes of his contracting T.B. But we cannot help asking whether our comrade's life—with those of so many others—would not have been saved, if the hospital doctor who first examined him in Glasgow, had correctly diagnosed his condition, instead of sending him away to wait until T.B. had gained an unbreakable grip on his constitution before his admittance to hospital.

Hitler Youth of Britain

In the years from 1941-1944 we in Britain read much in the capitalist press of the Hitler Youth. If you went to the cinema you saw propaganda films showing the gallant youth of Germany betraying their own fathers and mothers and killing and murdering the human race to which they belonged. These barbarous youths were taught how to blow up bridges and to wreck homes. You came away disgusted with the evil which was shown on these films; you came away with still more hatred against Hitler and his deeds.

But it is time for you to sit back in your chairs and think. Look in your own backyard, look at your son, and when you go through the streets of your town stop and look round, see if you can see these Hitler Youth walking about you. Instead of a black shirt you will see khaki, and on the top of the sleeve you will find "Cadet Force."

You told yourself it would not happen here, but it has. But what have you done about it? Nothing. Instead you watch them parade about the streets like mechanical toys, you watch them carrying rifles, and if you go out into the country you see them throwing bombs, shooting at targets, charging with fixed bayonets at dummy figures, blowing up dummy bridges and homes.

Contrast them with the Hitler Youth and what do you get? No difference whatever, because they are drilled on the same lines. Only you do not stop to think about it, or you do not take the trouble to. You sit back and let it develop around you until it will be too late to stop it.

Wake up and think a bit! Don't you see where all this is leading? It's leading to war. Don't think the Government is spending all this money on them for nothing, preparing them (and your son maybe) for the third and last world war. They are getting them ready to kill the so-called enemy. To kill working class people who are driven to war, and the leaders will again cry "Fight the war to defend the peace!"

NORMAN ASHTON

LIBERTARIAN FILM CLUB

Sunday, June 13th, was probably one of the hottest days we can expect this year, with a temperature in the eighties. The fact that over 300 people came along to Denison House for the Libertarian Film Club's inaugural show ("Metropolis" and "L'Idée") proves that there is a ready response to the kind of film that's usually withheld from the local Odeon.

Writing in the "Socialist Leader" the following week, George Stone, after welcoming the Club's formation, went on to criticise the two films, saying that "Metropolis" had not stood the test of time, and that he could not understand "L'Idée," although a number of the audience had done so, judging from their applause.

I personally am prepared to go half-way with the Editor of the "Socialist Leader." "Metropolis" has many faults, its ideas for example, that of the Tower of Babel sequence, are never fully developed, and tend to fall off into clichés. While bearing in mind the more elaborate miming necessary in the silent cinema, "Metropolis" shows the influence of the earlier German films ("Caligari," "Mabuse") in the note of hysteria ever-present in the individual scenes. Nevertheless the crowd scenes (a speciality of Fritz Lang's direction) made revival of "Metropolis" worthwhile.

The theme of "L'Idée"—the final success of the revolutionary idea—was, I thought, well expressed in the wood cuts, cartoons and music.

Rene Clair

Rene Clair, the director of "The Italian Straw Hat", was once asked if he would like to make a film with Chaplin. "How could I?" he replied.

LIBERTARIAN FILM CLUB

SUNDAY, 8th AUGUST at 6.50 p.m.

Karl Dreyer's Greatest Film

"La Passion De Jeanne D'Arc"

Together with:—

"PAPAGENO"

A silhouette fantasy by Lotte Reiniger

At DENISON HOUSE,
Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1

(Two minutes from Victoria Station)

ADMISSION 2-

(Includes Provisional Membership)

TITO

(Continued from Page 1, Column 5.)

At the time Grol wrote: "The Constituent Assembly is reduced from a sovereign institution to an ordinary business organisation, whose duty is to register accomplished facts..." Shortly after this, both Subasic and Shutey resigned, completing the dissolution of the government established as a consequence of the Yalta Agreement.

As to the accusation that Soviet military and civil technicians were followed and spied upon, is one to be surprised at this occurring in a police state? Remember the case of Milachich, a chief of the Secret Police of the third district of Belgrade, who wound up in a concentration camp in 1945.

If one discounts the meaningless verbiage from the time-honoured communist vocabulary of jargon—ignores the camouflage of "marxist-leninism", "imperialism", "deviationism" and "all-the-other isms" the truth becomes more apparent.

The Marshal and his aides are nationalists to an advanced degree, but they are men in power, and power corrupts its users and abusers. For years the propaganda machine has been going the whole works on Tito and his motley crew—posters, slogans, pictures in every house, every street, meeting place and school; well-drilled masses chanting "Ti-to, Ti-to, Ti-to," like the hypnotic beat of primitive tom-toms. This cult of hysterical veneration is bearing its fruit. Tito regards himself as being as great as his machine tells him he is ten thousand times a day. So great is becoming his personal pride and vanity that he considers himself capable of running Yugoslavia without orders from Moscow.

In other words, the superman Tito has had the ordinary human complaint of an over-swelled head, and hasn't been doing what he has been told to do. So the big stick of the Cominform is wagged at the naughty conceited Balkan boy. "Toe the line—or be thrown out." This is what lays behind the froth and bubble of the Cominform excommunication.

DIRECT ACTION

Monthly Organ of the Anarchist Federation of Britain.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

United Kingdom - 12 issues 3/-
U.S.A. - 12 issues 60 cents.

From: Administration "Direct Action,"

15, Parliament Hill, London, N.W.3.

EUROPEAN ANARCHIST CONFERENCE

A Conference of European Anarchists was held in Paris on May 15-16-17 last. Delegates of organisations and groups in France, Spain, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Portugal, Austria, Germany and Britain were present. It was decided, after a long—and often lively—discussion that, for the present, it was not practicable to set up an European Anarchist Federation, as proposed by the A.F.B. The position put forward by our delegate had the support of the Dutch League of Free Socialists (N.B.V.S.), the League of Anti-Authoritarian Socialists of Austria (B.H.S.O.) and the Swiss Anarchist Federation, and our position was in complete conformity with that already proposed by the Bulgarian Anarchist-Communist Federation, whose delegate at this conference was only present in an informative capacity.

After further discussion, the Conference constituted a Commission for International Relations between Anarchists. This Commission (C.R.I.A.), whose seat is in Paris, has the task of preparing an International Anarchist Congress early next year, according to the proposals received from the different organisations, groups and isolated militants throughout the world. It will issue an information bulletin in several languages and will be responsible for the collection of international Anarchist archives.

LITERATURE

We have received a limited number of copies from Modern Publishers, Indore, India, of:

"GOD AND THE STATE"
By Michael Bakunin 1/6, post 3d.

"ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM"
By Rudolf Rocker 2/6, post 4d.

By TOM BROWN
BRITISH GENERAL STRIKE 2d. (post 1d.)

SOCIAL GENERAL STRIKE 2d. (post 1d.)

By GUY A. ALDRED
AT GRIPS WITH WAR 1/6 (post 2d.)

From: "Direct Action" Administration,
15, Parliament Hill,
London, N.W.3.

Published by "Direct Action" Administration,
15, Parliament Hill, London, N.W.3, and printed
by C. A. Brock & Co. Ltd., (T.U.), 79, Southern
Row, London, W.10.

TEA BREAK

The United Nations Organisation is not a failure, at they are thinking of changing the name of its headquarters to Lake Unsuccess.

HOME IS THE WANDERER

In Bad Homburg, near Wiesbaden, Germany, they tell this story. A family received a food parcel from relatives in America. They ate everything, even a grey powder of poor flavour, which they took to be a desiccated soup. That they didn't like, but then they didn't like American cornflakes either.

A few days later they received a delayed letter. "We have posted you a food parcel," said the letter, "and in the parcel we also sent you grand-mother's ashes. She always said she wanted to be buried in Bad Homburg."

THAT'S WASHINGTON, THAT WAS

Overheard during a U.S. Senate debate: "But surely the Senator is confused. That's last week's foreign policy he's criticising."

YOU MAY GIVE BIRTH

Henry Wallace, Communist nominee for the U.S. Presidential election, recently spoke on rural electrification at Salem, U.S. Electricity should go to all farms, except those on submarginal land, he said. Such land should be bought by the Government and the population moved. Then, reports James Wechsler in the "New York Post"—Home News, he added vigorously:

"If the people insist on living on such land, then the Government should not let them have children. People who want to live on that kind of land have no right to have children."

Later, in Portland, when challenged, Wallace said he didn't remember saying that, but "If I did, I shouldn't have," then added: "I have no idea of interfering with anyone's desire to procreate."

Thank you, Mr. Wallace, thank you.

PROGRESS

Says the report of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission: "The successful tests of our super-weapons are a milestone in atomic development."

Milestone? Tombstone!

DEFINITION

An international conference is a gathering of important persons who, singly, can do nothing, but, collectively, decide that nothing can be done.

TOBY

Press Fund

(Up to June 30th, 1948.)

London: W.O. 2/6, 2/-; K.H. 2/6; M.H. 2/6;
R.U. 10/-, 1/-; E.I. M.H. 1/-; London Group
£6 18s. 8d.; A.G.B. E.T. 5/-, 5/-; Anon £6;
Glasgow: J.D. 2/-; Belfast: H.C. 2/-, G.W. 2/-;
Gosport: F.G. 5/-; Bombay: R.B. £6; U.S.A.:
"Toby" £1 5s., 10/-, £2 10s.

Total £26 9 2

Previously acknowledged 71 10 2

£97 19 4

The Dole Racket

Everyone knows what insurance is—protection against risk. Almost anything can be insured with perfect freedom, for whatever length of time, and with the company of our choice. We can take it or leave it.

We can have a contract, a definite understanding, and an agreed scale of compensation, in every insurance policy. It means something, it makes sense, we know where we stand. But when the State interferes and forcibly insures our bread and butter (or marg), it means nothing, and we are all at sea on a sinking ship.

For Unemployment Insurance is not run by a Company, nor by a Management Committee, nor even by the Treasury. It is coupled in some wily manner with the National Debt Fund. This latter is another of those examples of vacuums which never explode. We own the burden of the wars of the last two and a half centuries in the National Debt Fund. We haven't yet settled up for the Napoleonic wars.

As a matter of logic, all these stamps we pay for every week are nothing to do with Insurance at all. They are a Scheme—not an Insurance as understood by that word.

The writer knew of a case recently where a catering worker left his job because of the extortionate hours. Not aware that there was a slump in the industry, he did not bother to "sign on." After a couple of unsuccessful weeks' search for work, he applied for dole. He was immediately suspended from benefit for six weeks. He received his 4s. 4d. a day as from 3 days after his next signing-on day, making a further week without money—nine weeks in all. As he lost his lodgings in the meantime (being without rent) he could not obtain Unemployment Assistance as he was "of no fixed abode." They would not take him in at Marylebone Workhouse and sent him to Gordon Road, Peckham, where he received the lot of three bummy blankets and a "Pass Out" each day. These cases are quite common.

So that, as far as the period of ineligibility to receive dole was concerned, this man had been soaked of compulsory insurance for 15 years under false pretences.

The amusing point is that he would have been a happy dole-waller had he thrown something at his last employer, for in that case he would have been sacked and, therefore, eligible for benefit!

But why worry, the New Insurance Act is going to make a change. Almost before the writer lays down his pen, compulsory insurance will jump another two bob. What a racket.

RAY UFTON

U.S. MEAT STRIKE SEQUEL

At the small town of Rome, Georgia, U.S.A., within a few weeks, 32 permits to carry loaded pistols had been given to blacklegs who wanted to help break the recent meat-packing strike.

Following this, a car pulled up outside a blackleg's house, and men in the car sprayed the house with bullets. The blackleg had one eye shot out. Strikers witnessed the attack, and, not wishing to be blamed for what they guessed was a frame-up, they gave chase in two cars. They caught the gunmen, who themselves turned out to be blacklegs, and not union men. No prominence is being given to this case by press, radio or senators, who are framing new anti-labour laws on the excuse of strike violence.