

# FREEDOM

## BULLETIN.

No 3.

JULY, 1928.

Price 1d.

### “UNCEASING WAR AGAINST CAPITALISM.”

#### THE MAXTON AND COOK MANIFESTO.

The compromising and conciliatory tendencies of Labour leaders in Parliament and in the Trade Union movement have caused much discontent amongst the more revolutionary rank and file, who have seen principles and policies, once a deep red, watered down to a delicate pink. This discontent has been brought to a head by the manifesto of James Maxton and A. J. Cook, published in the *New Leader* for June 22nd. They say that the basic principles of the British Labour movement are: “(1) An unceasing war against poverty and working-class servitude. This means an unceasing war against Capitalism. (2) That only by their own efforts can the workers obtain the full product of their labour.” To-day the workers are asked to believe that the Labour Party is no longer a working-class party, but a party representing all sections of the community. “As Socialists we feel that we cannot represent the views of Capitalism. Socialism and Capitalism can have nothing in common.”

There are two reasons for the appearance of this manifesto at the present moment. One is the Mond and Trades Union Congress conferences on industrial peace, which have caused Mr. Cook to fume with rage. The other, with which Mr. Maxton as Chairman of the I.L.P. is more concerned, is the election programme of the Labour Party, draft copies of which have been distributed amongst the affiliated bodies. In this draft programme, if we are to believe rumours as to its contents, the spirit of compromise has found free play. With an eye on the vast multitude of voters, new and old, to whom the Labour Party programme must appeal at the next General Election, the idea of “Socialism in Our Time,” advocated by the I.L.P., is not even hinted at. The great change is to be brought about without hurting the feelings or disturbing the privileges of anyone. There will be a higher super-tax for the rich, but as the money will be devoted to improving the physical and technical efficiency of the workers who produce their wealth they will be none the worse off in the end. The landlords will receive the market value of their land, and the workers will provide the wherewithal to buy them out. The Labour Government will provide an army of inspectors to see that the workers and their children—not forgetting their mothers—are housed and fed and clothed in accordance with the standard of

life fixed by bureaucrats in Whitehall. The workers may even be represented on the Industrial Councils which are to regulate the great industries. But the working class as a working class will remain as before. Of course, in the dim and distant future, after a few generations of State Socialism or State Capitalism, a condition of universal equality and co-operation may arise; but “the inevitability of gradualness,” so strongly stressed by the Fabian wing of the Labour Party, has gained the upper hand, and only by smashing the Party can Maxton and his friends prevent MacDonalld, Henderson and Co. from adopting it as the official programme.

At a special meeting of the National Administrative Council of the I.L.P., held on June 30th, agreement was expressed with the spirit and intention of the manifesto, and it was decided to proceed vigorously with its campaign for the incorporation in the Labour Party programme of the “Socialism in Our Time” proposal.

Maxton and his friends are now realising the truth of our oft-repeated contention that the “machine” of the Labour Party is in the hands of men who can defy the people who helped to build it. Although the majority of Labour M.P.’s are members of the I.L.P., their adhesion is only a formality, for they frequently vote against the official I.L.P. proposals. The atmosphere of Parliament has smothered any revolutionary spirit they may have had, and now they are only concerned with getting into office again. They have discovered the truth of Lord Salisbury’s remark in the House of Lords during the war, that Parliamentary procedure had been designed for the special purpose of hindering, not helping, legislation. But they have not the courage to tell the truth to the workers who have elected them. The workers’ emancipation can never come through Parliament, but they keep up the illusion that it can by making promises they know they can never fulfil. If the workers do not learn their lesson soon, we wonder if they will ever learn it.

The wage system is a slave system, and until it is abolished and the workers obtain free access to the land they must submit to the rules and regulations of those who pay them their wages, whether private employers or the bureaucrats of a Labour or Socialist Government. Surely Maxton and his friends know this.

**WE APPEAL AGAIN.**

DEAR COMRADE,

Seven months ago we had to suspend publication of "Freedom," which had appeared almost without a break for forty years. Debts had accumulated, and it did not seem that the conditions responsible for this accumulation of debts were likely to improve in the future.

Many comrades, at home and abroad, begged us to recontinue publication. They said, when those who had supported the paper in the past knew the real state of affairs, money would be forthcoming to pay off the debt and restart the paper.

Two "Bulletins" have been issued this year, in addition to this one. In each of these an urgent appeal was made for the necessary funds. The appeal met with a limited response, and we thank those who contributed; but the response was not nearly big enough to fulfil the purpose of the appeal. Unless friends will help us more generously there is no possibility of "Freedom" being published again, except perhaps in the form of a very occasional "Bulletin"—and even a "Bulletin" costs money to produce.

When "Freedom" stopped it was the only Anarchist paper published in England. Every month, every week, every day almost, the printing presses send out a flood of political and social literature representative of every shade of thought except Anarchism, the very memory of which is being smothered under the deluge of State-inspired, State-worshipping prints.

Do you, comrade, want an Anarchist journal? If you do, you must help us to produce it. And if you are willing to help, send the money soon. There is a grave possibility of this being a last appeal.

**"FREEDOM" GUARANTEE FUND.**

The following donations have been received to date (June 30th) since our May issue:—Mr. S. 2s., Mr. Dowling 2s. 6d., A. F. Olson 2s., G. Cores 1s., G. Lawrence 5s., A. Lawrence 5s., C. Blandy 8s., E. M. 5s., D. Dent 2s. 6d., M. Potashnik 6s., A. G. Barker 5s., Ella Twynam 5s., B. Harvey-James 1s., R. Pesticcio 2s. 3d., A. T. Rogers 2s. 6d., G. P. 6s., S. Fabijanovic 8s. 2d., J. Wearing 6d., J. H. Naylor 5s., H. M. 2s., D. H. S. 5s., J. Scarceriaux 8s., N. W. Robinson 2s. 6d., E. E. Williams 5s., L. Rivera 4s., F. Vettorel 8s., A. Smith 2s. 3d., J. S. R. 2s. 6d., B. B. Williams 5s., E. Goldman £1, T. Lane 2s., R. B. Garcia 4s., J. Hulley-Rawlins £1, W. Douglas £1 1s., A. J. R. £1, S. Needle 5s., J. A. Osborne £1, H. F. B. 10s., B. Ward 5s., J. Turner 10s., Mrs. J. B. Robinson £1 0s. 5d., Elizabeth £2 0s. 10d., Libertarian Group (Cleveland, Ohio) £1 0s. 5d., R. Jones 8s. 2d., J. Myers 4s., T. K. Wolfe 2s., G. W. Brooks 2s., S. Llewellyn 5s., M. Greenfield 5s., W. B. Carter £2 2s., G. Senior 2s. 6d., collected at Picnic of Italian Comrades (Chelsea, Mass.) £3 11s. 5d., W. Pratt 2s. 6d., W. M. S. 2s. 6d.

**NOTICE OF MEETING.**

The next meeting of the FREEDOM Group will be held at the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. (entrance at rear of building), on Saturday, July 21st, at 7.30 p.m. Future Group Meetings will be held at the same time and place on the last Saturday in each month.

**WEST LONDON ANARCHIST-COMMUNIST GROUP****OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.**

THE GROVE (near Railway Bridge), HAMMERSMITH,  
LONDON, W.1.

Wednesdays, 8 p.m.      Sundays, 7.30 p.m.

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