



# The League

WORKERS AT ALAN WESTS were surprised to find three very respectable-looking people handing them leaflets just before Christmas. The leaflet warned them against "left-wing extremists" doing exactly the same thing - handing out leaflets. These subversive elements, the leaflet went on to say, sought to wreck the economy by misleading workers about the facts of life. One of the facts stated was that shareholders only receive 4d in the £ for their brave efforts.

Other figures that the Economic League did not include in their piece were things like:

- 1) 10% of the population owns over 80% of the wealth.
- 2) One million children in this county are living below the poverty line.
- 3) Most workers are doing longer hours than they were 10 years ago to earn a living wage.

## our worst enemies

Of course this organisation would not, could not, mention such things. These people are financed by industry and the ruling class to cover up for deficiencies of our social system. It is really the Economic League and its sister-organisations like Common Cause and Aims of Industry who should be stopped from doing their dirty work. Such people are concerned with one thing and one thing only - the defence of economic privilege. The lies and illusions that they propagate in order to fool workers, to drug them with a false sense of security and well being, are the kind of things that this paper hopes it is able to expose. We would be gratified if the Economic League considered us amongst its worst enemies.

## EQUAL PAY

## NOW

CRAWLEY TRADES COUNCIL HAS announced that it intends to set up an equal pay for women committee. This follows reports that as many as 12,000 women in the area were being used as cheap labour; often receiving only half the men's rate for the job.

If the need for such a committee exists in Crawley then surely the Brighton Trades Council must do the same here. The proportion of women workers in Brighton is well over the national average, and with many employed in the service industries, where pay is appallingly low, there is obvious cause for the local Labour Movement to start a similar campaign. If such a committee is set up then they could begin by investigating women's pay at Metal Box or Wilson's Laundry in Kemptown....

# read all about it

## ARGUS NEWS

THE LAST DECADE has seen the final stages of the monopolization of the newspaper industry: nearly all of the previously independent country newspapers have been forced by financial strains to sell out to London-based combines.

The Evening Argus, formerly a family concern, was swallowed up by the Westminster Press Group. Yet the Argus, no doubt clinging to the last shreds of its strange brand of pride, always tried to keep its own "identity". It is fast losing this identity and is being pulled much closer into the orbit of the Westminster Press Group. The reason for this is mainly financial: the Argus has never been a commercial success, and now it is suffering from the need of its parent body for increased profits.

## price increase

Drastic steps were taken to remedy this situation - the price went up by 1d, and despite this it held and even increased its circulation. (Latest figures show a daily average of 100,000, but these were issued in June - the next statistics are due to be released this month, and are expected to show a considerable increase). This will more than cover the increases in the cost of typesetting and the recent wage rises, which amount to an extra £500 a week.

## advertising up

Advertising rates have also gone up, with a full page now costing £160 in black and white, and £400 in colour. One glance at the Argus will show that there is an immense amount of advertising; the

revenue from this must now be very substantial.

## independence

These three factors - increased price, increased sales and increased advertising rates - should boost the profits of the Westminster Press Group - which incidentally owns 54 daily, evening and weekly papers throughout Britain. However, it is unlikely that this will help the Argus regain its "independence". It now takes the direct political line of the Group. On any scale newspaper combines possess great power to influence public opinion, and this power is always used in a reactionary way. But what is particularly alarming about the Group is that it is beginning to link up with the giant Thompson Organization - both ideologically and commercially. (The Thompson Organization controls, amongst others, the Times and the Sunday Times.) Already each new paper the Westminster Press Group gets works in partnership with the Thompson Organization, and there is growing speculation that it will be added to Thompson's huge empire. The implications for Brighton are disturbing: it is almost certain that the Herald will close down, and this will leave the Argus with the absolute monopoly of local papers.

## rubbish

The recent vicious attacks on Council Housing etc. are only the tip of the iceberg for 1970. We will see the Argus, never anything but conservative, linking up with hundreds of newspapers throughout the country to produce a co-ordinated output of right-wing rubbish.

## SLOANE ST.

THE BRIGHTON HOUSING COMMITTEE is in trouble again. According to a report in the Argus (Jan 6) its plan to pinch the Sloane St development area for housing is being met with fierce opposition not only from those sections of the Council who wish the original scheme for industrial development to go through, but also from the Trades Council and large sections of Brighton commerce. But as we stated in an earlier issue of the MOLE, this scheme of the Housing Committee to build 144 pensioner's flats was to be the face-saver of its pathetic building programme. The Committee is £17m in debt. Its decision to build only 230 new houses in 1970 (of which the 144 flats constitute over half) was an obvious attempt to cut future costs and protect the interests of the money lenders.

## council to blame

Peter Daly, the Press Officer for the Kemptown Tories, has of late been using the pages of the Argus to attack the Brighton

## FACE SAVER

Rents Project as agitators who manufacture problems to aid their own political ends. It is becoming clear, however, that it is the Brighton Council and Alderman Theobald who are manufacturing the real problems, creating unnecessary hardship for their own ends. Their task has always been to shield the iniquities of a housing policy geared to the needs of private enterprise and not people. That task is being made harder as the economic crisis in Brighton gets nearer and the local business interests compete

## CRYPT

FALMER HOUSE, U. of S.

Reopens Monday 12th.

5.30 p.m. to 10.00

Food-Music-Good Company

# BEAGLE

## A STORY IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

THE BEAGLE AFFAIR is a story that seems to have been ignored by the national press. Possibly, this is because of the light it so revealingly throws on the "special relationship" between government and big business - a relationship that exists to the detriment of the workers whose very loyalty provides the basis of its existence; a relationship that is merely a stage in the consolidation of rulers and capitalists into one class that exists by virtue of and in order to exploit the labour of the working class.

### chairman's career

Mr. Peter Masefield, the Chairman of Beagle, came to the company through the ranks. Before the war an aviation journalist, personal aeronautical adviser to the Lord Privy Seal, Lord Beaverbrook. In 1953 Masefield was chief executive of BEA, two years later he left BEA to become managing director of Bristol Aircraft Ltd, 5 years later he left Bristol and formed the Beagle Aircraft Company as a subsidiary of Pressed Steel of Cowley, Oxford, (since taken over by the giant British Leyland-BMC concern) by taking over and amalgamating Auster Aircraft of Rearsby (Leics.) and E.G.Miles of Shoreram. Thus the two most successful British firms combined in an attempt to fight American domination of the market (notably by Cessnas and Pipers).

### basset's failure

Beagle concentrated at first on producing the relatively big (2 engined) B206 Bassett aircraft and in 1963 Mr. Julian Amery, (then Aviation Minister in the Tory Government, now M.P. for Brighton Pavillion) announced that the RAF would buy 22 of these "to support the development of a new light aircraft type" even though the RAF preferred the aircraft they were already using.

In 1964 the RAF refused to order any more Bassetts, but it was only 4 years later, when the Commons public accounts committee investigated the performance of the aircraft, that the reason became clear. Two types of Bassetts were available, the five seater with a specified range of 1000 nautical miles and the seven seater (400 nautical miles). When filled with the required safety equipment the 5 seater could only fly 380 miles and the 7 seater could not fly at all. Back in '64 Mr. Masefield announced that 50 Bassetts had been produced - even today (5 years later) only "40 are in civil use" with "17 to be delivered" (Eve Argus Jan 3rd) apart from the RAF ones. Home sales have not increased - '67: 6, '68: 4, '69 (to Sept.): 1.

### government circles

In 1965, Mr. Masefield, apparently spurned by Pressed Steel, was having discussions with the Government about aid for Beagle - its chances in the export stakes were, it seems, "tremendously attractive" (Mr. M. in the



Peter Masefield

Financial Times 7.8.65). At the beginning of the next year the Labour Govt agreed to a loan of £600,000 as an "export boost" (making a total of £3.3m in grants and loans before 1967). A couple of months later, our gallant hero was appointed "part-time chairman" of the British Airports Authority which controls all public airports in the country. For this he received £6,000 per annum (since raised to £6,600) on top of his £2,000 as part time chairman of Beagle. Mr. Masefield, obviously in favour with Government circles, retained his Beagle job when the firm was sold to the Government, lock, stock & barrel, by Pressed Steel who had been merged into British Leylands; the price? A mere £1m of government money.

### pup, another failure

Since then, with the aid of Mr. Masefield's son Charles as sales manager, sales have, as we have noted, fallen. The introduction of a new model Bassett did not improve matters and it was only in 1967 that Beagle finally fulfilled their promise by producing a real competitor to the American single engine light aircraft, the Pup. The Government grants and loans (now totalling £6m of the taxpayer's money) at last looked like paying off. But no! Suffice it to say that 2 customers (Shoreham and Biggin Hill flying schools) had discovered that not only were the planes totally mechanically unreliable, but the company "find it physically impossible to take any action".

The Pup cost anything up to twice its selling price in repairs and spare costs, "cowlings had broken, doors had flung open in the air, wheels, brakes and axles had failed, undercarriages had collapsed...".

Under continued pressure Captain Henry Kirby, M.P. finally brought it to the attention of the Government that the company they owned couldn't produce anything but a fat salary for Mr. Masefield and his family. All talk of "long term expansion of Beagle Aircraft Co." (Commons reply Nov. 5th 1969) ceased and Mr.

Wedgwood Benn announced, on Dec 2nd, that the Government withdrew all financial support and that the company was going to the Official Receiver.

### workers' wages

Mr. Peter Masefield retains his job as chairman of the British Airports Authority (where he tenders contracts to his old chums from Bristol Aviation now running General Aviation Services), but the workers of Beagle were suddenly faced with the possibility of losing their (only) jobs. As it happened, Mr. Kenneth Cork, at present the receiver and manager of the company, decided to attempt to rescue the company at the cost of 11% of the work force, or around 100 redundancies.

At this point it was discovered that £58,000 of the firm's pension fund was inexplicably missing. £33,000 of employers' contributions and £25,000 of contributions deducted from worker's wages were not where they should have been. Without this money the men's pension fund payment upon Redundancy could not be paid. After negotiations the redundancy notices on 66 Shoreham workers were accepted and their annuity was guaranteed to be paid, presumably by the Government.

Meanwhile, the obvious mismanagement and incompetence of Mr. Masefield and his cronies goes unchecked - a new company has been formed with a nominal share capital, called Beagle 1969 Ltd. This company, inheriting all the assets of the old company but not liable for any of its debts is waiting, under the direction of Mr. Cork, for some enterprising capitalist to take it over and enable the name of Beagle to shine once more. If somebody is willing to put up the £1.5m purchase price and £6m backing estimated to be needed to put the company back on its feet, Mr. Masefield and his "dedicated and now experienced... management team" will undoubtedly be willing to lend a hand.

### bad management

The most likely outcome is that Beagle will be taken over by an America Company (American companies now control 55% of the world market in light aircraft) in which case Mr. Masefield will have failed to pull the British light aircraft industry out of the mud, making a considerable amount of money for himself and costing the taxpayer over £6m, but at least the workers will probably keep their jobs. The other alternative is that Beagle will be forced to close, the workers will lose their livelihood, and the man responsible will not even have to pay the debts incurred by his bad management.

It is not an isolated case: Mr. Masefield's dedication as a public servant" (as Antony Crosland described him) is a thin cover for his own greed, at the expense of the workers of his factories and the people of this country in general.



# moletalk:

## ABSENTEEISM

THE PRESS OFTEN HAS TROUBLE filling up between advertisements and strip cartoons. On certain days, however, editor can relax, for at these times, every year, they know that they can plaster the front page with "traditional" news. Budget Day, for instance, then they can report the Chancellor's latest measures, or on the day after Boxing Day they can rely on road accidents. The most recent such day was January 2nd, when absenteeism made its annual appearance. This year's "news" added little to last year's, or the year before that - except for the recent report from the Confederation of British Industry dealing with the problem of the "stay-away workers" (D. Telegraph) and the "absent friends" (E. Argus).

The report comes out with the amazing discovery that 'sickness' is now used as an excuse for absenteeism and that 'sickness' tends to start on the first day of the working week. Much of the absenteeism, the report says, is due to the ease with which sickness certificates can be obtained, and it recommends that these be more thoroughly checked. The report, all 14 pages of it, does recognise certain "underlying causes" for absenteeism. The main one, it proclaims, is higher wages. The captains of industry clearly think that, with their higher wages, the workers feel they can afford to take a day off and that higher earnings for women (!) are to blame for absenteeism amongst women being 30% higher than men. They probably get this idea from the fact that absenteeism is highest amongst the highest paid workers - dockers, car workers etc.

### all work - no play

The CBI's report obviously had no room for some other facts. For a start, work is getting tougher. In 1966 the average working week was 45 hrs. In 1969 it was 45.7. But people are not just working harder, they are working more in the same time. Rationalisation, i.e. making one man do the work of two, has meant that in the car industry or docks production has increased faster than wages. In many firms productivity deals have abolished the tea break; and in some cases the men eat their dinner by their machines. Also, among manual workers two weeks holiday is more common than three - although in Europe four weeks is common.

In England there are only six national holidays - in Italy there are 17. With work getting longer and harder no wonder some workers like the odd break - especially round New Year. And they don't do it because of "high wages" - for every 1% rise they usually find themselves working 2 or 3% more. Women are paid incredibly low wages: they work because they have to, because if they didn't the standard of living of their families would be lower than in 1939. But on some days of the year they like to spend some time with their families, and who can blame them?

university of sussex union  
**DANCE**  
friday jan.16  
**The Nite People**  
**Writing on the Wall**  
**Pretty Things**  
starts 8.30

# market



MOST PEOPLE IN BRIGHTON KNOW OF THE OPEN MARKET-WHAT THEY MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT IS THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE CORPORATION AND THE STALLHOLDERS? WHICH HAS BEEN RAGING ALL YEAR. THE MARKET WAS ESTABLISHED IN ITS PRESENT FORM IN 1960, HEIR TO THE OLD CANVAS MKT. BETWEEN LONDON RD. AND THE LEVEL THAT HAD EXISTED SINCE 1900. IT CONTAINS 42 STALLS RUN BY LOCAL PEOPLE AND IS A MAJOR CENTRE FOR THE IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY, THE NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT OF BRIGHTON

The market is owned by Brighton Corporation who rebuilt it in order to provide some employment for old soldiers. Yet since 1968 the Stallholders have been under pressure from the Corporation a pressure taking the form of greatly increased rents.

### more money

Until the spring of last year the Stallholders of the Open Market paid rent in the form of standard charges of £5 5s 0d weekly, inclusive of rate with the corporation responsible for repairs, insurance cleaning and removal of refuse. In March 1968, the Town Clerk sent notice to all the Stallholders that they must either sign three year leases or quit within one month. The new leases meant rent increases of 100%. With a licence system the Stallholders were protected by the Housing Ministry - it even needed the Prices and Incomes Board before any rent increases could be so sanctioned. Although the existing rents paid for the market, the Corporation was worried by the fact that it was not getting a return on the land it owned; in other words, it was not getting a regular profit. This motive, set out in the Market's Committee report, appeared as the element in their policy.

Since the "considerable annual value" of the land and the "increased building cost" were not accounted for, the licence fees "actually represent a loss". It proposed to switch to a basis of leasing because- "having a regard to the act of 1931 the Corporation has the choice of of continuing to licence the stalls with little prospect of securing the minister's consent to increase the fees or granting tenancies or leases not exceeding 3 years at rents which would not be subject to the minister's control."

To this end the rents were to be raised from £276 per year to between £367 and £523 depending on the stall size- and rates were to be paid in addition: a total of £2,500 i.e. a further £55 for each Stallholder.

### apology

OWING TO FLU THERE WAS NO EDITION OF MOLE LAST WEEK.....HOPE YOU MISSED US!  
NEXT EDITION JAN 21st.

# to be axed

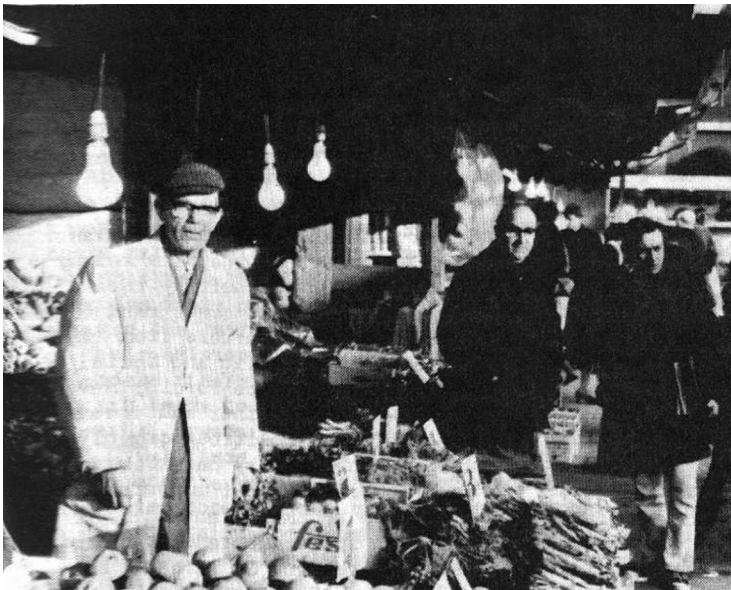
## arbitrary authority

The notices to Quit were sent out before the Council as a whole had agreed to them, The reaction of the Stallholders was to demand 4 or 7 year leases as conditions for accepting the leases, and a market association was set up to pressurise the Council which a majority of the Stallholders joined. After 3 years the tenants could be given 6 months to quit, whereas a 7 year lease has to be renewed or compensation paid to the tenant. On the Markets Committee (now absorbed into the Corporate Estates Committee) were George Stiles, who owns a shop near the market, and Dan Sheldon. When a motion was introduced in April favourable to the Open Market people, Sheldon ensured that the voting was grouped, the Council equivalent of a three-line whip in the Commons, so that despite support the motion was defeated by Tory majority. Alderman Nichols, the only member of the Markets Committee who supported the Open Market people was censured by the Tories in Council.

The Council refused to grant more than three year leases because they maintained that such are the provisions of the Brighton Corporation Act of 1931, this was reiterated on numerous occasions by the Borough Surveyor. The Market Association engaged a lawyer to contest this ruling.

## behind closed doors

Under the terms of the three year lease the Borough Surveyor would be completely free to increase the rents at the end of the three year period. Letters were sent by the Market Association lawyer stating that it was not the case that the three-year lease was alone valid- in fact that this was merely the Borough Surveyor's opinion of what



was "adequate". A further motion was put by Ray Blackwood to the Council which sought to withdraw the notice to terminate the licence "until the Council had sought the Council's opinion of the length of lease that could be offered". This was item 551 of the Market Committee report of January. But at their meeting that month the Council took the decision to consider this behind closed doors, having passed a motion "That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of item 551 publicity of which would be prejudicial to the public interest". The Town Clerk & Borough Surveyor having once more reiterated their unchanging viewpoint, A Negotiating Committee was established.-

## negotiation

But such a negotiating committee has never been seen before. Its aim was not negotiating with the Marketing Association. According to the amendment setting it up, the Committee was to settle the Market Association.



At the first meeting of the Negotiating Committee with the Market Association, the borough Surveyor again set out his views with no explanation. The Stallholders could only state their case. There was no discussion of the decision by the Committee. In a letter to the Market Association on the 19th Feb. the Town Clerk said in justification.. "My letter of the 3rd. February inviting you to the meeting made it entirely clear that as is the usual practice, the Committee members would not be undertaking the job of negotiating any more than the members of the Planning Committee draw plans (sic.)"

The new leases were imposed without negotiation and they have been signed...but other hassles have been going on. From November 17th 1969 lorries were allowed in for 1 hour to load and unload. The spaces previously rented out as car-parks have been withdrawn, so that the Stallholders now have to use the nearest N.C.P. site for their cars and trucks. The access to London Rd. has been stopped since the decision to lock the gates there. Gates have been put up all round the site including that facing the Level which according to the Council "is not for use".

## a new development

The Planning Committee refused to deny or confirm that there is to be redevelopment of the site but proposals are germinating. The whole process started off by the Council would then be a preliminary to closing the Open Market as it now exists and emasculating the position of the existing users well before.

A decision to develop the Open Market would resemble what happened in Cambridge, where a new market was designed without any consultation of the Market people themselves. After 1972 anything may happen to the Open Market site. The Technical College needs new annexes; N.C.P. would probably like another site in the Town Centre. But the experience of 1968-1969 does not leave much likelihood that any decisions taken will be discussed or 'negotiated' with the people most vitally concerned.

# THE ITALIAN CRISIS

1969 WILL GO DOWN as the beginning of a new era for the European working class. In Britain and Germany we have seen the re-awakening of industrial militancy on a massive scale after the soporific years of boom. In Italy, where class struggle has traditionally been more prominent, things have gone a hell of a lot further.

Half a dozen General Strikes, involving as many as 20,000,000 workers at one time; the emergence of a new rank and file movement to lead the struggle and free it from the Communist Party's reformist grip; violent confrontations between strikers and the police and threats of an impending rightist coup by the army - all this has made Italy the chief European arena of events for both Left and Right.

#### THE CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE:

1969 was the year when the majority of wage contracts came up for renewal, and, unluckily for Italian capitalism, it was also the year that a deep economic depression set in. It is not surprising then that such a coincidence, aggravated by the extreme militancy of workers in places like Fiat (where they virtually wrecked the whole plant at one stage) has shaken the bourgeois state to its very foundations. The strikes were allegedly called to re-negotiate wage settlements, but behind many of them were more fundamental and revolutionary issues. 1) Recognition of the newly set up factory committees.

2) The right of these rank and file, democratically established organisations to negotiate wages on a local basis.

3) The introduction of a 40 hour week.

Given the present state of the economy such demands cannot be met by Italian Capitalism, or rather can only be met by police violence and the jailing of Communists such as Francesco Tolin, the editor of WORKER'S POWER. As the crisis for Italian Capitalism deepens, so, logically, the struggle

"WE SUFFER HUNGER, WE CANNOT STRIKE, WE CANNOT ASK FOR OUR HUMAN RIGHTS, WE ARE WORSE THAN SLAVES. . . . WE ARE THE FIRST TO HOPE FOR A REVOLUTION. THESE YOUTHS ARE DOING TOO LITTLE. THEY SHOULD BURN EVERYTHING IN THIS ITALY OF PRIVILEGE." (Extract from a letter written by an Italian policeman to the weekly paper 'ABC'.)

widens. Protests, now include the increases in the cost of living, high rents, the chaos of urban transport and inadequacies in the



welfare state (plus government corruption). The resistance could go to the lengths of demanding a withdrawal of rent, gas, electricity charges and transport fares. It is now just as much a struggle against the state as the bosses.

The state has replied to what amounts to a threat to its very existence by raising the spectre or "red violence". They cite as examples of this the killing of a policeman in Milan and the recent bomb explosions (probably the work of either fascist or police provocateurs). And yet a look at the photograph on this page is enough to point the finger at the real source of violence. Fascist gangs have been active in red witch hunts in a number of towns and the policeman's funeral nearly resulted in a mass slaughter of the left by the frightened and confused police force.

#### THREAT FROM THE RIGHT:

Will we see a repeat of 1922? Certainly there are many similarities between the two. An economic depression; a terrified middle class willing to employ any force against the communist threat; a profound weakness in the fabric of bourgeois democracy and large scale industrial action by the mass of workers - a mass lacking in leadership... And yet despite fears of a right wing takeover, here the similarities end. For there is not at the moment a force on the right capable of saving the Italian bourgeoisie - certainly it is not the army. There is no Mussolini. What is more - unlike the past the future of the Italian working class is not going to be one of

disorganisation or betrayal at the hands of the C.P. New forms of leadership are emerging amongst the workers themselves independent of this bankrupt reformist party.

#### THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND RECENT EVENTS:

Unlike the C.P. in this country its counterparts in France and Italy have been the traditional organisations of the workers. Like the CPGB both have played a thoroughly reformist role seeking power through parliament, but because of their powerful hold on the Trade Union movement they have acted as a buffer between their members and the capitalist state. Their fates are thus closely linked. As we are witnessing Italy, and as almost occurred in France in May 68, they are being outflanked on the Left by their own rank and file. That rank and file along with workers from the Christian Democratic and Social Democrat unions are forging new links with each other and creating a new kind of political organisation - the Unitary Base Committees (CUB). The most important of these are in AMT Milan and Fiat where in spite of tremendous opposition from the CP, bureaucrats and other reformist Trade Union leaders they are now established and recognised as the representatives of the workers in their factory.

These committees are spreading throughout Italian factories. They are an expression of the revolutionary state of the Italian working class. If leadership comes from anywhere it will be from these committees. The future is with them and the working class.

## THREEPENNY NOVEL/OPERA

BERTOLT BRECHT is, without doubt, the most well known Communist author since the Russian Revolution. Whether he is the best, or even a proper Marxist is a complex problem that should not involve us at the moment. For to analyse Brecht's Marxism would require a lengthy, and in this context abstract discussion of art in general. (Probably leading to an even more abstract discussion of Socialism in general.) This reviewer sees his major task, however, as an introductory one. To bring before those Mole readers who have not previously encountered him one of the greatest writers of the century; and to do it through one of his better known works.

The Threepenny Novel is the prose version of the author's own Threepenny Opera. It is fair to say that, as such, it does not survive the transference. The merits of the Opera are neither heightened nor diminished in the Novel - they become different. The theme of both works remains basically the same. It follows the mercantile battles of a number of totally pragmatic capitalists in a decadent and thoroughly corrupted England at the time of the Boer War. Here the rat race becomes one of devil-take-the-hindmost with even the cleverest of merchant-crooks (MacHeath - Mac the Knife) struggling for air in the swamp that the whole history of free enterprise has created.

The fantastic proportions (and distortions) of a society without morality, without compassion or humanity lends itself perfectly to the Theatre of Alienation, of which the Opera is an example. It is a brutal extravagance, where there are no real people - just grotesque caricatures; even the oppressed become mutilations answering back with a futile hate and nothing more (Brecht was no sentimentalist). It is an extreme but faithful picture of what capitalism does to Man.

However, one should take issue with Brecht's pessimism in both the Opera and the Novel. He offers

no way out for history. The workers are seen not as a class, as a social force that will eventually overthrow this rotten society, but only as individuals whose reply to capitalist exploitation can be nothing but a hopeless gesture or dream.

Because it is the prose version, the Novel's treatment of the theme is bound to offer something else. In it Brecht gives a highly developed kind of insight into the characters - their motives and rationalisations. He, in fact, makes them more human; there is room in the Novel for something like an interest in MacHeath or Polly as actual people, an empathy (almost sympathy) between them and the reader. The Opera never tries this; for it to create this effect would mean that it fails. But in the book the reader is often carried along by the capitalist spirit of the characters as they attempt to put one over on the government or each other.

Brecht is, in the Novel, being very clever. For at the moment when the reader is almost won over to the side of one of these crooks by their brilliance, the author reminds him just what kind of disgusting and shabby men they really are, and now their brilliance is responsible for countless deaths and horrors amongst the mass of the people. Responsible for workers starving or being beaten up on the picket lines. Responsible for the deaths of hundreds of soldiers who are packed off to war in leaking ships. What Brecht is doing is to remind us what reality under capitalism really is.

The book, more than the Opera, is a training ground for our actual responses in life. So that whenever we read about a fight between Rupert Murdoch and Maxwell, or between Murdoch and the rest of the British press, this book will remind us that there are no goodies and baddies amongst capitalists. Only the successful and the failed.

M.C.

## TV OR NOT TV..

"Aladdin, you're a new man !"

"No, just the old one dressed up a bit."

Bernie Winters in a television pantomime on Christmas day... The same could be said of television itself.

Amidst much ballyhoo all channel colour TV. was introduced into England just in time for Christmas. Seasonal festivities are traditionally preoccupied with the favourite sport of television watching and we might reasonably have assumed that colour television would have provided the programme planners with the perfect opportunity to elevate their usual abysmal standard. We should, of course, have thought otherwise .....last year we had somebody go round the moon, this year we had colour - what we were actually offered was the same as ever, what had changed was the way it looked alone.

It is easy to understand the reason why British television is so bad. Television is today what cinema and before that Music-hall was in the past, the popular theatre, an art form for the masses. A working man comes home from a hard days work, of course the sort of relaxation he takes is governed by the fact that he has spent the large part of his day (and week and year) working. He wants entertainment that is cheap, informal and light. Television provides that, but television can only work at that level because the market it caters for are, by the necessities of their existence under capitalism, in no position to want to choose otherwise. Moreover, one myth of competition is that it leads to a greater variety in the products offered--clearly, however, the reverse is true; when one producer (eg. ITV.) finds a successful formula the others will follow (BBC.) and the result is greater standardisation. The myth of greater choice under capitalism is exposed by the capitalist entertainment industry, most obviously of all by television, most obviously at that great festival of excess consumption Christmas.

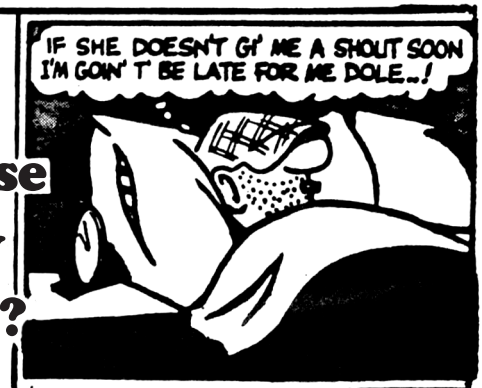
Thus whilst "Aladdin" was playing on "ITV.", "Cinderella" (with equally mediocre performers and equally bad jokes - see above) was leaping around on BBC.1. And the highlight of Christmas day was, on ITV., ALL STAR COMEDY CARNIVAL featuring comedy shows and stars of the past year, on BBC., CHRISTMAS NIGHT WITH THE STARS featuring the stars and comedy shows of the past year -- Des O'Connor or Val Doonican, what's the odds? BBC.2 was too bad to mention and anyway, most of the shows have either been or will be shown on 1. A sudden spate of colour films was the only compensation of the new innovation, and to cap it all even the regulation religious progresses were indistinguishable.

Christmas TV. is the low-point of a year of bad entertainment because Christmas is the high point of capitalism; a festival that has become dedicated to making money in a society dedicated to the same end; a festival

that continues in all its aspects to offer the worst there is to offer, not least of all in television. Under the present no more can be expected, but technological innovations cannot long hold back the realisation, that whilst we are exploited at work we are being deadened by an excess of rubbish when we relax at home.

G.H.

whose  
andy  
capp?



THAT BASTION of the English working class, the Daily Mirror, has featured Andy Capp for some ten years now and each year's end sees the publishing of yet another Andy Capp cartoon book. The collected works of Reg Smythe (nee Smith) now extend to some twenty three volumes... in the meantime Andy has grown progressively younger looking, has become internationally renowned and has not yet paid his rent.

Of course, the Mirror is merely another mouthpiece of the establishment aimed to appeal to a 'lower' class - those whose work prevents the consumption of the detailed and lengthy reports in the 'serious' papers. Its message is clear and forceful - banner headlines and Andy Capp go together. But the message forsakes accuracy (as with any caricature) for the sake of clarity. The caricature becomes witless and boring; Andy Capp is a one-dimensional character precisely because he is not taken from real life. The working class man cannot afford to live like that, and he is not fooled by the lies that say he does.

# MOLE'S DIARY

## cinema

B.F.T. (29562)

Thur. Jan. 8 (2 days): Brief Encounter. (GB.45), D. Lean.  
Sat. Jan. 10 (preview) Oedipus Rex at 11pm. then Mon. 12 to Sat. 17. Jan.  
Sun. Jan. 11 (only) at 2.30pm. JUDEX  
Sat. Jan. 17 (preview) Playtime.  
at 11. then Mon 19 to Sat 24. Jan.  
Sun. Jan. 18 (only) Miss Julie  
(Sw. '50)  
Sat. Jan. 24: Don't Look Back. at 11pm.

CLASSIC. (29414)

Sun. Jan. 18. Rosemary's Baby. (US. 69)  
Sun. Jan. 25. Prudence and the Pill/ Millionairess.  
Thur. Jan. 29. Henry V. (one day only)

CONTINENTALE (681348)

Mon. Jan. 5. (for 6 days) Hey there Yogi Bear. 2.30pm / A Man called Flint-Stone. 4.04pm. Lord Jim. 7.45pm / Golden Fish. 7.25pm.  
Sun. Jan. 11. The Naked World of Harrison Marks/Of a Thousand Delights  
Sun. Jan. 18. If (Anderson) / War of the Worlds.  
Thur. Jan. 22. Cul de Sac/ Repulsion (Polanski)

DUKE OF YORKS. (62503)

Wed. Jan. 7. Don't Look Now, we're being shot at / Shenandoah.  
Sun. Jan. 11. One Million Years BC. / She ..  
Wed. Jan. 14. Carry on Cleo/Carry on Screaming.  
Sun. Jan. 18. Heaven with a gun/A Place for lovers.  
Wed. Jan. 21. 5 Card Stud/ Barbarella

EMBASSY (735124)

Sun Jan. 4. The Dam Busters.  
Thur. Jan. 8. Massacre at Fort Grant/ Abbot + Costello meet the mummy.  
Sun. Jan. 11. The Wrecking Crew/ The Big Gun Down.  
Thur. Jan. 15. No Way to treat a Lady/Penthouse.  
Sun. Jan. 18. If/War of the Worlds  
Thur. Jan. 22. Up the Junction/ Albert Carter.OOSO.

VOGUE.

Lewes RD. opens Jan. 15th with EASY RIDER

U.O.S. (film society)

Jan. 14. Hour of the Wolf.

**the mole**  
**is on sale at:**  
**book'tique** The Lanes  
**forum** 16, Market St  
**millie smile** Grand Parade  
**unicorn** 50, Gloucester Rd

Jan. 15.. The Man from Laramie  
Jan. 21.. Ivan the Terrible. (I)  
Jan. 22.. The Naked and the Dead

Co. of ED.

Jan. 8. Belle de Jour or Accident  
Jan. 13. Repulsion. (Polanski)  
Jan 20. Through a Glass Darkly.  
Jan. 21 The Silence.

B.B.C.2.

Fri. Jan 9. Banditi a Orgosolo  
(It 61)  
" Jan. 16. Une Storia Milanese.  
(It 62)  
" Jan. 23. L'Amiche. (It. 55)

## theatre

THEATRE ROYAL.

'Play on Love' by Francois Dorin. with Dorothy Tutin, Dinsdale Landen. + Lana Morris.  
Jan. 12 (for 1 week); 'Sleuth' by Anthony Shaffer, with Anthony Quayle + Keith Baxter.  
Jan. 19 (for 2 weeks); 'Battle or Shrivings' by Peter Shaffer with John Gielgud.

CONNAUGHT THEATRE (WORTHING).

Sinbad the Sailor --- Pantomime.

GARDNER CENTRE.

Jan. 23... 'The Doll's House', by Ibsen, with Fenelia Fielding + Pat-Wymark

## noise

Fr. Jan. 9.. Don Rendall, Rhythm Section. Imperial Hotel, Queen's Rd. 8

Fr. Jan. 9.. Terry Masterson: Springfield Hotel, Springfield Rd.  
Mon. Jan. 12. John Hiseman's Colosseum + Juicy Lucy: Dome. 8pm.  
Thur. Jan. 15, Air Force. Royal Albert Hall. 7.30pm.

Fri. Jan. 16. The Residents, Springfield Hotel.

Mon. Jan. 19. Pink Floyd, Dome, 7.45pm.

Fri. Jan. 23. Alan Taylor, Springfield Hotel.

Sat. Jan. 24.. Julie Felix, Dome.

## sports

Sat Jan 10: Greyhound Racing. Neville Rd, Stadium, Hove.

Football: Btn. & Hove Albion v. Barrow (away).

Rugby: Btn. ex. 1st. XV v Beckenham. Hove 'A' XV v Crawley...

Wed. Jan. 14: Plumpton Races

Sat. Jan. 17: Greyhound Racing

Football: Btn. & Hove Albion v Bradford City (home).

Rugby: Hove 'A' XV v East Grinstead.

Wed. Jan. 21: Football. Btn. & Hove Albion Res v Colchester United res.

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26, Southover St., Brighton.

## art

GARDNER CENTRE.. Jan. 17. exhibition of work of all last years artists in residence;;; for 3 weeks.  
Jan. 27-31, exhibition by Clive Wright--Langford's Hotel, Hove.

## politics

MARCH AGAINST MURDER

Pinkville: 500 massacred.  
Black Panthers: 28 shot.  
SUN. JAN. 11.  
Assemble at speakers corner..

MAYDAY MANIFESTO GP. 11.  
Fitzroy Sq Ldn. W.1. Tel.. 01.387.6073.

1st. meeting of Mayday Man. Group.  
Royal Exchange pub.  
Southover St.  
Mon. Jan. 12th at 8pm.

**grants...**  
**are almost sufficient for beer**  
**if you eat at GERRY'S**  
**64, Queens Rd**  
**6/- for 3 courses**

## addresses

Citizens Advice Bureau: 17, Ditchling Rise.. tel. 61664  
Combination: 76, West St. tel. 24596

I.S.: 2, Montpelier Rd.  
Kempton Labour Party: 176, Lewes Rd.

N.C.C.L.: 37, Park Crescent, tel. 6570

Rent Tribunal: Anston House, 137, Preston Rd.

S.C.C. (M-L): 7, Portland Place.  
Unicorn Bookshop: 50, Gloucester Rd.

Last Trains: to London from Btn. 23.10 & back 23.59 (Victoria).



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