



Vol. XI. No. 5.

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WEEKLY.

# Shall Unemployment be a National Charge?

The Evictions Bill Fiasco. Government Refuses to Use National Funds to Prevent the Eviction of the Unemployed. You know, fellow worker, that the organised unemployed make one demand. It is that work for the unemployed or maintenance for unemployed shall be made a national duty a national charge.

You know, fellow worker, that the Labour arty has adopted the same demand. You now that the Labour Party claimed your vote in that account. You voted for the Labour last election for that very reason; did

not, fellow worker?

Some people told you that the Labour Party yent too far, some that it did not go far nough; but you decided to vote for the Labour Party because it promised to make the work or maintenance of the unemployed a national

You expected when the Labour Government book office that great schemes of work for the unemployed would be started.

You were disappointed in that, fellow work-

rou were disappointed in that, tellow work-rait for trade to revive, and you thought to ourself it was because the Labour Govern-nent had not got a majority that it had not in hand the employment schemes you ex-

Failing the employment schemes you would ave liked to see improved maintenance for

be unemployed. You considered the Labour Party was quite ight to advocate that the maintenance hould be made a national charge; were you of, fellow worker? You saw plainly enough hat the local rates would not bear any further aising in working class districts. They are are too high as it is in your opinion; are they were fellow meeters.

You waited with confidence for unemployent to be made a national charge. Some ople told you, fellow worker, that the Laur Government would not be able to do it cause it had not got a majority. You said were sure the Labour Government would to to the country on that issue if it could not a majority in Parliament for making un-

mployment a national charge.

So people grumbled that the Labour arty was slow in making a beginning, but you answered: "give them time."

When the Government introduced its Evic-ons Bill you were enthusiastic. You had wit-

essed a few evictions, fellow worker.
Perhaps you had been yourself through that ad and cruel experience. As child, or as alan, perhaps you had known the suffering and the indignation, the tears and the curses that rise when a family is thrust out of its

You were pleased that the Government was ing to tackle the evictions question. You be glad, fellow worker, when you heard at the Labour Government had decided to the eviction of people who cannot pay rent because the breadwinner is unem-

disappointed in the terms of ictions Bill when you heard them, fellow rker. You knew that in a large number cases the unemployed worker is purely the b-tenant of another worker who cannot aford to pay the rent of the whole house. In ach cases the court would most likely decide hat it would cause more hardship to allow the unemployed to live in the house without

paying rent than to evict the unemployed, and so the eviction would take place just the same.

That solution did not seem at all a practical Wheatley's assurance that the individual landlord was not to be made to suffer and that what the Government desired was to let the unemployed stay in their homes, you thought to yourself that the Labour Government had another card up its sleeve, and that at least it was going to make the payment of the unemployed rents a national charge.

You were greatly surprised; were you not, fellow worker, when you discovered that the Labour Government had no such intention.

You were annoyed when the Prime Minister

announced that the charge would fall on the local rates

Mr. MacDonald said it would play havoc with the honesty of the Poor Law Guardians if the Government were to recoup them for

paying rent to stop evictions.

That might be all very fine, you thought, fellow worker; but that sort of talk would not bring down the rates. You said to yourself that you would be one of the evicted too if the

rates should go up any higher.

You grumbled a bit, fellow worker, but at least you thought a stop might be put to evicting poor people who cannot pay their

nt through being unemployed.

Some of us were a bit sceptical even of

that, fellow worker.

We do not forget that even Mr. Wheatley has given Poplar to understand it must cut to understand it must cut ure. We did not see how, has given Poplar to understand it must cut down its expenditure. We did not see how, in necessitous areas, the Guardians would be got to find more money for the unemployed, since even the Labour Government is complaining that they have been finding too much.

Some of us were sceptical, and you also became sceptical, fellow worker, when Mr. Wheatley distinctly stated that the Guardians have no power to pay arrears of rent and that the Government Bill would give no power to compel either English Boards of Guardians or Scottish Parish Councils even to pay the current rent.

that the Government Bill did was to and that the Government bill did was to say that an eviction order could not be granted until time had been given for the unemployed to apply to the Poor Law Authorities for help, and for the Poor Law Authorities to consider the application.

Between ourselves, fellow worker, there is

generally plenty of time for the tenant to apply to the Boards of Guardians. The business of to the Boards of Guardians. The business of falling into arrears and getting turned out is a long and painful one, like a slow dry rot, in which the spirit is bended until it breaks and the energies are benumbed.

The Court will in most cases be quite satisfied that the unfortunate tenant has had time,

and time to spare to apply to the Poor Law

Then, fellow worker, says Mr. Wheatley, the court will know that the Guardians have

considered the case of the applicant and adjudged him unworthy to receive relief.

Mr. Wheatley said many poor people do not know how kind-hearted the Guardians are and that it would be a good thing to have the peo-ple who are in arrears with their rent sifted by the Guardians, in order that the deserving may be divided from the undeserving. You have heard that before; have you not,

fellow worker?

It was not from a Labour Government that you expected to hear that sort of talk.

The well-to-do may think it a very proper thing that the characters of the poor should be investigated by the Guardians, but the poor have naturally a very different view of such investigations.

such investigations.

You were astonished, fellow worker, when the Labour Government refused to bring the National Exchequer to the relief of the unemployed breadwinner who is facing eviction.

You would have thought the refusal due to the pressure of Liberals and Tories, fellow worker; but there was the curious spectacle of both Liberals and Tories taunting the Labour Government because it had put no money in its Bill to save the evicted. You had Mr. Asquith declaring that the Government should have the Second Reading of its ment should have the Second Reading of its Bill if it would make the payment of those rents a charge on public funds.

You had Mr. MacDonald expressly replying

that he would not make the payments a charge on the national exchequer.

You had Mr. Wheatley adding that the Government would not compel the local authority.

orities to pay.

Why did the Labour Government refuse to make this help for the unemployed a national

charge?

Because the Labour Government did not want to alter the Budget.

An extra £2,000,000 for the air force, but this little aid is refused to the unemployed.

It is a strange situation, fellow worker.
Some people will say the Labour Government is right. The landlord ought not to be able to come to the national funds to secure

payment of his rent. But what about those unemployed comrades the Labour Government has pledged itself to help? There has been a great big noise about those evictions, fellow worker. We have been told by the Labour Government that they are very numerous and very serious, but all the promised help for the evicted seems to have ended in smoke.

Mr. MacDonald said the Bill was an emergency Bill, and asked the Liberals and Tories to help the Labour Government to make a

to help the Labour Government to make a workman-like measure of it. That is not what you expected of the Labour Party when you voted for it last election, fellow worker.

You thought, fellow worker, that the Labour Party was going in to knock spots off the Liberals and Tories and to show the way in matters affecting the interests of the workers.

You are disappointed with the Labour Government, fellow worker; but you ought not

to be disappointed.

You ought to realise that the system is at

Inside the capitalist private property system no government can do much. So long as the system lasts we shall always have rich and poor and the Haves will always be stingy, superior, and censorious towards the Have

Moreover, fellow worker, do not leave your affairs to the mercy of any government what-ever it calls itself. Get busy and attend to your own affairs.

No one else can do it for you

THE SEARCHLIGHT.

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# Our Diew.

The following members of the Labour Party and I. L. P. are circulating the attached petition :

Rose Witcop. (Mrs. Guy Aldred); Marjory Allen (Mrs. Clifford Allen) Frida Laski (Mrs. H. J. Laski); Joan Malleson (Mrs. Miles Malleson)
L. L'Estrange Malone (Mrs. Cecil

Dora Russell (Mrs. Bertrand Russell). We, the undersigned, believing the limitation of population to be a matter of vital importance to the community, hereby bring to your notice the large and ing demand among working mothers information as to the methods of birth control be frankly, and decently given by public authority. We hold the opinion that our social system, however we seek to improve it, will remain unstable and exposed to the menace of desease, so long as the problem of population is not

honestly faced. We therefore most earnestly request:—
(1) That the Ministry of Health should permit Public Health Authorities to provide, for those who desire it, information subject of birth control;

(2) That, in cases where local Health Authorities desire to give such information, the Ministry of Health should not, on that account, withhold the usual grants.

'Our social system, however we seek to improve it, will remain unstable and to the menace of disease, so long as the problem of population is not That phrase reveals a sad lack of faith in Socialism.

For our part, we stand for the widest distribution of knowledge. We desire that every man and woman have the benefit of all the facts, all the advice, all the skilled assistance that is forthcoming. We regard knowledge as power and desire everyone to have free choice as to how to use it.

We are sensible of the hardship of poor parents, and especially of poor mothers, under economic pressure. We desire people to have all the aid in their struggle that

Yet those words about the problem of population honestly arouse our hostility. The world has no problem of population which cannot be met by mutual aid and production for use

We refuse to give any countenance to the view that the growth of population is the cause of the poverty from which the masses are suffering. We refuse to give any countenance to the view that poverty, unemployment and other social

ills, arising from the production for profit sian Bonds. system can be dealt with by reducing the population or by checking its growth.

That view is the anti-Socialist view. That view is the view of the apologist for capitalism who would have us believe it unnecessary to strike at the root of the system, and who argues that, after all, the system is a very tolerable one, and that all we need do is to introduce a few adjustments, here or there.

That is the view we must altogether break down before Communism will be accepted. We must establish the belief that capitalism must go, that Communism full and complete must take its place.

It is depressing to see only the relatively few who belong to the proletarian movement willing to work steadily for the abolition of capitalism, whilst the many are going their several ways in quest of this or that palliative reform.

The reason of this is obvious. The struggle to secure a fundamental change is more difficult than to obtain some adjustment that makes little or no challenge to vested interests.

Yet once the necessary impetus can be given to the movement to destroy capitalism, it will receive a far wider measure of support than any of these piecemeal palliatives which will make no great fundamental sifference to any of us.

The problem is how to obtain for the fundamental movement the necessary momentum, when Anarchists, are found chasing single tax and birth control, Communists concentrate on wages movements, and I.L.P. Socialists place their faith in the Capital Levy and Government guarantees to aid capitalist trading.

Once a movement gains a certain impetus its momentum rapidly increases. How is the necessary impetus to be given to the movement for Communism?

This can only be given in the first instance by the right sort of educational propaganda, by creating in the minds of the average person a vision of Commuvision desirable.

For this purpose no better books can be found than Kropotkin's Conquest of Bread and William Morris's News from Nowhere. Deluge the Socialist-Labour movement with these two works; see that every man, woman and young person in movement has read them, and you will have built up a vision of Communism in the movement which will provide a basis on which to build.

Add also the production of new literature, both in theory, fact and imaginative fiction, in which the Communist vision shall be manifest. Then we shall have a living creative impulse from which will germinate great and far-reaching results.

Strike at the root of the system, comrades, and fix your ideal upon the great

The spring is come. The summer lies before us. Let us work with a glad confidence and a sure faith in the new movement which to-day is needing its pioneers. Let us be out in the parks the streets with our message. Let us take the news to the workshop.

# THE ANGLO-SOVIET CONFERENCE

The speech of Mr. MacDonald to the Russian delegates was made as the representative of the British Government a capitalist institution, As such it meets with our unqualified disapproval, save for some general expressions of pacific intent.
Mr. MacDonald said the British Delegation desired consideration of the following

(1) Claims of British holders of Rus-

(2) Claims of British subjects who Russian property has been taken away (3) Claims of British subjects wh

have suffered personal injury. The first and second claims cannot viewed with sympathy by the oppor of capitalism who wishes the land, to means of production, distribution as

transport to be held in common. insist on returning the proper which have been socialised or their eq valent, is to erect a barrier to Socialis Mr. MacDonald and his Government acting as the mouthpiece of the priva property claimants are taking the capi

list side in the contest.

Mr. MacDonadl further stated that treaties contracted between the Ts overnments and Britain are still bindi on Russia and on this country. The m of treaties must now be put into shape, said, and those which are no longer plicable must be pruned out.

A Commercial Treaty must replace Trade Agreement.

Propaganda by Russia in British terr tory must be stopped, said Mr. MacDo nald, and insisted that Russia must de

'Anything that smacks of an atter to carry on among the people of country, either at home or abroad propaganda which, when internally spired, may be legitimate, but w controlled and even financed abroad is not legitimate. It is my to make it plain that the people country will require more on this I than formal undertakings, and, as I mysef have too intimate knowledge of international movem to be deceived by false distinct This will have to be discussed fir but I hope in the most amicable sp and, I also hope, settled in the se spirit.

The phrase "false distinctions" course refers to the contention that Third International and the Red Inte tional are independent of the Soviet vernment. Mr. MacDonald will seek prevent Russian funds reaching the ches of those bodies in this country. he will endeavour to prevent Russian paganda in any shape or form rethis country, or other parts of the B Empire, we have also no doubt. In attempt Mr. MacDonald will be p the capitalist game. The great internal capitalist and Church organis carry on their operations in all and the governments, including the tish, have also their agents and their paganda everywhere.

At the same time we must observe the Russian propaganda carried on country is so futile and ineffective character, that even should Mr. M nald succeed in suppressing it, the su sion would be of very slight imp indeed. It is purely a propaganda for creased wages and for Russian trade not a propaganda for the aboliti

capitalism, national and internationa Mr. MacDonald, always taking hi from capitalist propaganda went of declare that the Russians during the volution had resorted to "methods aroused the utmost fears and resen The Russian method government, he added, are not the as the British. He was anxious to en

sise that point particularly.

Mr. Rakovsky's reply was couched a loftier strain than the nationalistic mercenary speech of the British Pren He referred to the solidarity with the rich people which the Congress of Soviets had expressed. He urged the need for nternational disarmament, and, whilst indicating that Russian does not view the League of Nations as the British Governsires to associate herself with "a plan of international organisation which lude measures of coercion and reprisal."

Such a desire as the last may be utopian under capitalism, but it is an objective towards which we all should be working. Mr. Rakovsky was right in giving promi-nence to it. He further urged the revision of the Treaty of Versailles and the other reaties connected with it, and the revision of frontiers on ethnographic principles,

most important of all, Mr. Rakovsky urged that "the elimination of war is only possible on condition of a Socialist orga-misation of economic life." The Soviet Go-

vernment shares, he added,
"the view of the British Government that mutual non-intervention in internal affairs is one of the indispensable conditions for the creation of confidence between the two States, The principle of non-intervention is for us a guarantee against attempts which night be made in another form to make us give up the basis of our Socialist organisation the nationalising of land, the natio--nalisation of large-scale industry, the monopoly of foreign trade—and also to make us renounce our Socialist legisla-

The peoples constituting the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are determined to hold fast to the conquests of the revolution—conquests which constitute the raison d'être of the existence of the Soviet Government, and for which the toiling masses of the entire Union have fought against the coalition between the internal enemy and foreign Governments. With that frankness which must characterise our relations, I must remind you, Mr. Prime Minister, that British Governments also took part in that foreign intervention in Rus-

The speech of Mr. Rakovsky was, in short, a rebuke to the Prime Minister who had inferred that the British Government has substantial grievances against Russia, whilst ignoring the war which the Government of this country made on the Russian

Unfortunately we fear that Mr. MacDonald has neither the perspicacity not the humility to profit by Mr. Rakovsky's most timely correction.

# THE SHIP YARD LOCK OUT

The Ship Yard Lock Out again reveals the urgent need for the Workshop Coun-Once again the workers find themselves opposed by their union officials. The hipwright's Society has even gone so far as to expel its Southampton members. The only possible retort is the formation a new organisation by the expelled members. Let us hope that those me will not follow the unwise course taken by a new union on the old lines, but that a Workshop Council will be set up.

The fact that the Mauretania was to sail to Cherbourg for overhaul is a striking instance of the need for sympathetic action by workshop councils in

# THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

The demand of the Court of Inquiry has there shall be compulsory arbitration in disputes in the public services is the

Trade Unions officials towards important strikes. As soon as a strike in which workers have the power to make the lack of their services generally felt is threatened, the Trade Union leaders begin to raise cries of alarm, declaring that the fortunes of the nation are at stake and that the public must be protected at all cost. An absurd fuss was even made by Mr. J.H. Thomas and his colleagues over the little strike at Wembley. The Trade Union leaders now behave as though to strike is a crime. The workers in industry their affairs, and workshop council defence of their right to strike.

E. Sylvia Pankhurst.

### LAND FIT FOR HEROES

(1918.) Sing of the beautiful land Beyond the gates of the grave, But an inch of the country where you were

It's a deadly sin to crave; The few have possessed the land, The many are landless swine, The many drink from the poisoned wells, The few from the red, red wine. Take up your arms at the king's command,
At the bid of the senate—fight;

But woe to the man who asserts his strength In the battle for Truth and Right You were created to die like flies

On a foreign and distant plain; You have secured gold for the few. So your death has not been in vain. There is a land, a beautiful land, Fit for heroes to dwell;
The price of that land is to live and die

In the depth of the deepest hell; The Wizard arrange with the bloody priest To promise a land of Peace, to the heroes who fought for oil and gold, Who think and labour as they are told,

The way to the beautiful land Lies in the slime and the mud; Sing as you march to the promised land

Over the fields of blood: With the blood and the sickly stench: For so, my comrades, you were told, By the rulers of earth and the priests of gold,

so you were told in the trench. You live in a wonderful land, You fought for its very clods; In the army they tamed the lions, In the temples they crucified Gods So cheer the wizard till you are hoarse. And shout his name like hell; Isn't he wonderful! Isn't he grand!

Hasn't he promised a wonderful land, Fit for heroes to dwell? T. E. Nicholas.

# INDIAN PERSECUTIONS.

Indian persecutions continue unstayed. News reaches us that Mr. Gupta charged as ported to be actual editor" have been arrested the Ajma Government under section 124a for publishing two articles in the weekly journal "Farum Rajusthar.

Embarrassing for Uncle Arthur Police theatricals at the Rehearsal Theatre.

They never fail who die in a great cause. The block may soak their gore,
Their heads may sodden in the sun; Their limbs be strung to city gates and

But still their spirit walks abroad. Lord Byron.

Broadwood Grand Piano for safe, or exchange for a smaller one.

## outcome of the attitude of the A MIMIC BOMBARDMENT OF LONDON.

The "Boston Herald" says of the Wembley

'The British Empire seen as through a short window is the phrase in which the Prince of Wales describes the exhibit, and there is much in it to suggest the halcyon days of peace. But the picture will turn its other side for a grim reminder of war when the air ministry treats visitors to the promised mimic bombardment of London. Here is the spectre which hangs over the British metopolis and will not down.

All the while her inventors are bringing in new devices for meeting a possible enemy in the skies. Henceforth, London is to be guarded by a new gun which sends forth a high explosive shell weighing fifty pounds to a height of six miles. Another gun deto a height of six miles. Another gun designed for use against hostile airplanes, and to be mounted for inner defences of the big city, is capable of firing small explosive shells at the rate of more than a hundred a minute and can be made to maintain "terrible barrages at various levels up to about three miles beyond city limits." A third weapon for aerial war is an improved and extremely powerful type of machine gun planned for dealing with low-lying bombers, with a range of nearly two miles, it will send up streams of bullets at the rate of 800 a minuté. All this, remember, is in twentieth century London, with its "empire exhibition" organised to please the eye, to stir the esthetic sensibilities, to arouse wonder and to inform the mind.

And Britain is surely not alone in either the pride of national accomplishment or in the need of protecting it. Are France, Germany, Italy, Russia, to be 'left defenceless'? What of the United States? If the prophets are right, how glad the world will be for even ten years' relief from war. Then

# CORRESPONDENCE. Redlands, California.

Dear Editor,

Your article on foreign policy thrilled me

I am quite of your opinion.
Let us leave the national and sectional

Let us rise and keep aloft the banner of Internationalism and the universal strike with the mottoes:

'No interest.'

'No rent.

'No profits."

'The tools to the workers.'

"The products to the producers."
"High-toned and Low-toned Loafers must

go."
Please accept the enclosed trifle to aid your grand work.

fraternally,

Sii Dan

COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT Sunday, April 27th at 7.30 p.m. LEONARD'S ACADEMY, HIGH ROAD, LEYTONSTONE. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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### PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT. Workers' Dreadnought Banned.

Our Parliamentary Extracts and comments are based on the Official Verbatim Reports.

Mr. Lansbury asked whether the "Manchester Guardian" the "Daily Herald" "Foreign Affeirs" "The Crusader" "The Feeeman" of America are banned in India and whether he

America are banned in India and whether he will get the censorship stopped.

The Under Secretary for India replied that that there is no general censorship of the press in India and that if any cases with the circulations of the control of the co lation of newspapers is reported to him he will inquire into them.

The papers mentioned by Mr.Lansbury may perhaps circulate freely in India, but the Workers' Dreadnought is banned in India and we are bringing that fact to his notice and to that of the India Office.

that of the India Office.

Mr. H. H. Spencer asked Mr. Ramsay MacDonald "whether he has discovered any secret treaties or undisclosed engagements entered

into by previous governments."

Mr. MacDonald replied:
"The answer is in the negative."

Mr. Spencer: "Are we to understand that the policy of His Majesty's Government, so far as secret treaties are concerned, is just the same as we have always persued in this country?'

The Prime Minister: "No, certainly not." This is important.

### WHAT WE PAY FOR RELIGION.

The tithe which is the tax leased for the church, was in 1910, £910 in Sible Hedingham in 1923 it had risen to £1,980, the difference being made up out of the rates.

LEAD POISONING.

Martha Porter, a pottery worker, died of chronic lead poisoning, which ended in cerebral haemorrhage. She was certified as A.1. by

e certifying surgeon.

Lead glaze is only used because it is more economical to use than other glazes.

ANATOLIAN AND BAGDAD RAILWAYS
FROUGHT WITH MENACE OF WAR.
Mr. MacDonald in reply to a question said:
"An option on a majority shareholding in the Anatolian Railway Company was acquired last year by a British group, negotiations between representatives of the company and the Turkish authorities are at present proceeding at Angora, with the object of obtaining pos-session of the line which is at present being worked by the Turkish Government, and of readopting the Anatolian Railway concessions to new economic conditions.

the new economic conditions.
"With regard to the Bagdad Railway Company, the majority of the shares which were held by the Germans before the war, have been transferred to the Reparations Commission. Their ultimate disposal remains to be deter-No change has taken place in the dis-

posal of the non-German shares.

"Part of the line from Konia to Bozanti is being worked by the Turkish authorities and the portion from Bozanti to Nishibin by a

French company.
"The Bank für Orientalische Eisenbahnen of Zurich, holds no shares in the Bagdad Railway Company, and the Anatolian Railway shares held by the bank are failing any claim to the contrary by the Reparations Commis-sion, regarded as neutral property."

# RENT RESTRICTIONS BILL.

Mr. MacDonald in explaining the attitude of the government towards recouping the local authorities for paying rents of the unemployed said:

"There is no more objectionable way of sovling the problem of the relations of Imperial taxation and local rating than to begin to do that by a series of undefined, unlimited, uncontrolled and uncontrollable doles that will simply play havoc with the honesty of those who have the care of local administration.

The situation that the government never eant in connection with this Bill to impose this charge upon taxation is perfectly clear, was perfectly clear, and will remain per-

The policy of the Labour Party before it took office was that the burden of maintaining the unemployed must be a national charge.

#### WHAT DID THE LIBERALS MEAN TO DO?

Asquith replied:

"As I said last week we should be very glad to co-operate in any attempt to deal with this matter which would not impose a burden upon a particular class, but would impose such burden as was reasonably into the circumstances upon the com-I was very careful not to say upon munity. what fund or from what source the money should be derived—a very serious and a very difficult question, and one which is not to be confused as the Prime Minister sought confuse it, with the general question, which may be settled sometime about the Greek Kalends of the relation between imperial and local taxation.....

The fact is that these words, whatever they do mean do not impose—I say it advisedly—upon the local authority any burden

at all

The words Mr. Asquith referred to in the

government proposal are:

No order shall be issued until a tenant has had a reasonable opportunity to apply to the local poor law authorities for relief and that authority has had an opportunity of considering any such application.

Did Mr. Asquith mean that the Liberals support an exchequer grant for the purpose?

Mr. Wheatley admitted that the Poor Law Authorities are not entitled by law to pay rears of rent, but only the current rent. over the Government Amendment would not even oblige the local authorities to pay the

current rent.

### A C.O.S. VIEW.

Mr. Wheatley contended that it is "sound Mr. Wheatley contended that it is sound social policy" to bring the unemployed in touch with the Poor Law, in order that the Guardians may repair to "the really hard and honest case" from those which are held not to be deserving. That is Charity Organisation to be deserving. That is Charity Organisation Society view of the masses and their misfortunes. It is a narrow view, a self-righteous and unbrotherly view; it will disappear with

the advent of plenty for all.

The Government was defeated on its Am-

endment by 221 votes to 212.

# ANOTHER GOVERNMENT DEFEAT.

The Government was again defeated later the evening on a matter of minor importance.

After the defeat of the Government Evictions Bill, a Bill introduced by Mr. Simon, a Liberal Member, passed the Second Reading without discussion. As the rules of the House prevented the Government introducing another Bill of its own, the Prime Minister announced that the Government would take up and alter the measure of Mr. Simon.

In reply to questions Mr. MacDonald said that the Government had "no intention" of making the rent of unemployed people a charge on Government funds. The intention was to make it a charge on local funds.

# WOOLWICH EVICTIONS

Sir H. Kingsly Wood (Con.) complaid that the First Commissioner of ned that the First Commissioner of Works in the Labour Government (Mr. F W. Jowett I.L.P.) has issued a number of summons for eviction. In one case the de-fendant has been unemployed two years, and when working earned £3 a week. He has now got work at £2-19-6 a week. He owes £18-2-1 rent and £4-8-0 costs. Another had been unemployed 18 months; when working he earned £2-19-6. The six defendants were similarly circumstanced.

There are 3.954 tenants on the estate 1.900 of whom are in arrears with rent. A striking evidence of working class hard-

ship to-day. Mr. Jowett said that orders for possession had been obtained in certain cases, but would not be pressed if something were paid off arrears each week,

**EVICTION FIGURES** 

Actions for possession and ejectment in County Courts in England and Wales.

August 1st 1923 to March 31st 1924 Actions entered Actions heard 21.326 Orders made 3,835 Warrants issued 1920 1921 1922

21,659 24,790 26,841 14,292 16,311 19,553 Actions entered Actions heard Ord. for possession 8,374 11,335 14,182 Warrants issued 1,565 2,388 3,553

M.Ps, RAILWAY PASSES

A vote of £70,000 to provide M.P.s with first class railway passes was carried.

We do not know why the proposal was not that the railway companies should be compelled to give free passes.

NECESSITOUS AREAS

Having refused direct financial assistance to the local authorities in necessitous areas, the Government refused to the interest on loan to such authorities.

INSURANCE BENEFIT

A Bill was introduced to extend the unemployment insurance benefit to 41 weeks,

Hon.: Members called each other "parrot" and "Jackass."

The Speaker protested,
Men's benefit is to be raised to 18/
per week; women's to 15/; boys between per week; women's to 19/; boys between 14 and 16 years are to get 5/ a week; girls 4/; dependent children 2/. Persons thrown out of work by trades disputes but not participating in them are to get benefit — a sop for not joining the sympathetic strike. pathetic strike.

AIR SERVICE DISPUTE.

Mr. B. Smith stated that according to the Government agreement with the British, For-eign and Colonial Corporation giving a 10 years monopoly to the company, the company was to operate the Air Services not later than April 1st, but everything is at a standstill beause no airmen have been re-engaged and the lower grade of groundsmen have been sus-The airmen were in receipt of salpended pended. The airmen were in receipt of sat-aries varying from £500 to £550 a year with 10s, per hour flying time. The company only proposed to pay them £100 a year with 2d, per mile flown. This was an attempt to force them into the air not only at the risk of their lives but at the risk of the lives of the pas-sengers' said Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith said that the management under

which their men have been asked to place themselves has been responsible for four fatal flying accidents across the channel and since departure of that management accident has taken place between 1924. 21 pilots out of 37 were ki air mechanics are only being paid £2-19-6 a week and no additional rate. The Super-

week and no additional rate. The Super-Marine Company pay £3 a week minimum wage and if they go half the journey and have to come back not a penny of remuneration. The Under Secretary for Air said the Air Ministry is not the employer of the people concerned in the dispute. It has two directors on the new company, but they have not taken

## SECRET SERVICE FUND £180,000 this year.

SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES ACT The Government will let it lapse on August 19th.

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