

Workers' Breadnought

ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY



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DISCONTENT ON THE LOWER DECK.

By S. 000 (Gunner), H.M.S. HUNTER.

Drastic changes have taken place in the Navy since the Armistice. As the outcome of the Jerram Commission, an increase of wages was granted to the men of the lower deck. The chief demand was for a 4/- per day flat increase for all ratings. But what was given, was the 4/- granted to the petty officers and the A.B. Equivalent ratings got a paltry increase of from 2/- to 2/3 a day. This naturally caused resentment, but owing to the lack of any efficient organisation on the Lower Deck, the rank and file were unable to enforce their just demands.

Profiteering out of the Sailors.

Some months later, the price of seamen's clothing was substantially increased, some articles to 300 per cent. There was also a small increase in the Kit Up-keep Allowance. We pay for every stitch of clothing after the first issue. The increases were made known to the men by an Admiralty Monthly Order and none of the mess representatives were consulted in any way as to whether the increases were justified or not. The next "spasm" was the notification that after July 1st, 1920, free railway passes were to be abolished. This, combined with the announcement, later on, of the 50 per cent. increase in railway fares, caused much unrest on the Lower Deck.

Supplementary Allowances Stopped.

This unrest has now been accentuated by the sensational announcement that after September, 1920, all Supplementary Allowances are to cease altogether!

Our Fathers are Unemployed.

All this comes at a time when the cost of living is still rising, when rents are being increased, when the fathers of Naval men are under notice of discharge from their jobs, or are already unemployed. The prospect of a dreadful winter is before us.

Is it possible that men in the rank and file in the Service, men who come from working-class homes, will volunteer for strike-breaking duties, that they will oppose the workers in their righteous struggle against this tyrannical system?

Stand by Your Class.

Men of the Lower Deck: Are you going to realise that the fight of the working class is *your* fight? Are you going to see your class go under in the fight with the capitalist brutes who made millions out of your sacrifices during the war?

No Marriage Allowance for Men Under 25 Years.

According to Article 6, of the Memorandum issued by the Admiralty, single men under the age of 25 years, who marry, will not receive the Marriage Allowance. Why this distinction? Because the capitalist Government is determined to economise at the expense of your wives, mothers, and dependents, and will continue to do so as long as you allow them to rob you like this.

Red Tape and Rigid Discipline.

These facts together with the old pre-war discipline and red tape which are being re-imposed,

Take a case in point: a stoker, single, after three years' service, is paid 5/- a day, i.e., 85/- a week. Supposing that he allows 10/- a week to parents, he will receive £1 5s. weekly. Out of this he will have to supplement his Navy rations by buying extra food at the ship's canteen. Assuming that he goes ashore twice a week and has to pay for all his food whilst he is ashore, there will not be much left, with the present high prices, for putting aside to pay the railway fare when leave comes round.

To Win the Navy For Communism.

Now then, Comrades, here is fertile ground for propaganda in accordance with Method B. of the Party's Provisional Resolutions, viz. "To win the allegiance of the Army and Navy to the cause of the Workers."

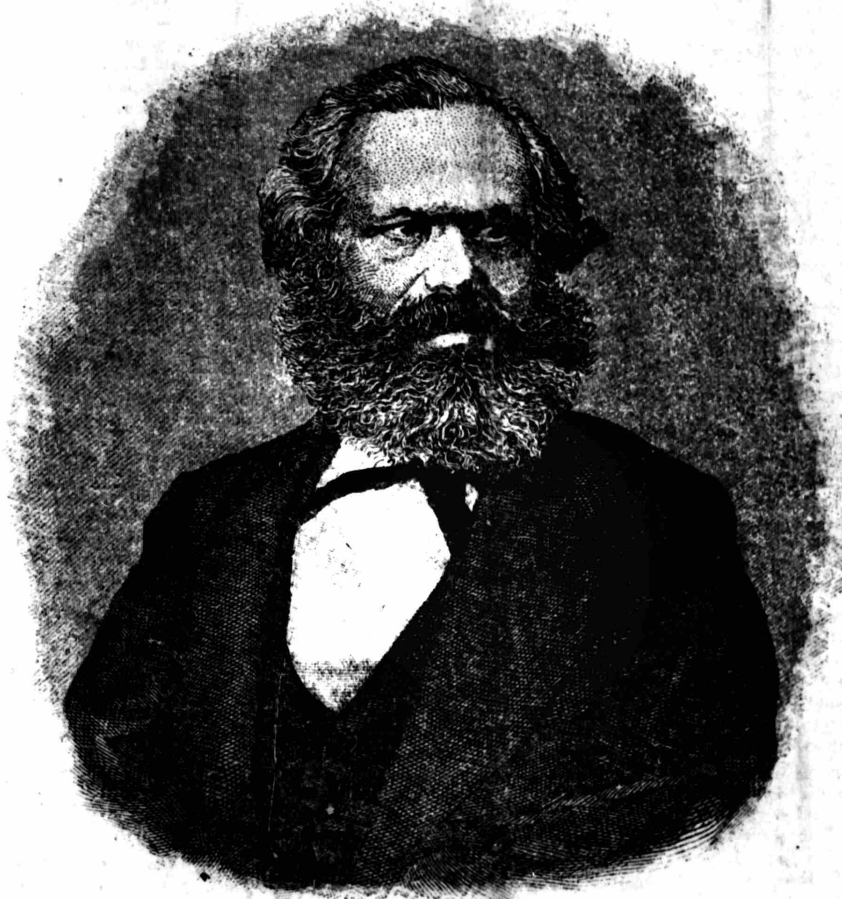
Comrade Lenin especially stresses this point; he says: "But a refusal to do such work would be equal to treason against the revolutionary cause, and is inconsistent with their belonging to the Third International." Seeing that the Army and Navy are recruited from the working class, it devolves upon the Communists to urge at Branch meetings and at Trade Union Branch meetings that all workers having relations or friends serving in the forces, should make it their business to write to them from now onwards, urging them to become class-conscious, and not let themselves be used to blackleg the working class, or to oppose them in any way at all. Quite effective work could be done in this manner, especially as it is very difficult for our comrades in the Navy to "bore from within."

Hail! the Red Navy.

To the rank and file of the Navy I say: You are the Sons of the Working

Class, therefore it is your duty to stand by that class and not the

class and Government which is responsible for the starving of your ex-service brothers. Therefore, hail the formation of the Red Navy, which protects the interests of the working class, and repudiate the dirty financial interests which you are protecting now.



Karl Marx

This Portrait was found in the Czar's Archives. Probably it was intended for the first Russian edition of "Capital," but forbidden by the Censor.

and a general tightening up of all branches in the Service have tended to create an undercurrent of unrest.

Welfare Committees Useless.

The men place no faith in the Welfare Committee, as they are of opinion that the Admiralty does as it likes with it.

Feeling the Pinch.

Hitherto, the men have been paid monthly, with a quarterly settlement, but weekly payments are now being introduced. This will have the effect of demonstrating more clearly the inadequacy of the wages now paid to the men, and the ridiculously small purchasing value of the £

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