Party News

Dear Comrades:

At the moment we have two groups working in S. Wales — our own, and one at Newport now. We manage to synchronize on every possible occasion and hope to do more in future. N. Wales is relatively virgin country as yet — as far as Socialism is concerned. It offers difficulties both from the nature of the terrain — mountainous — and because of the attitude of the native — rabid non conformist Christians. Indeed, in some quarters it is true to say, that fairies, and hobgoblins have not yet ceased to exist in the minds of the inhabitants!

These people are very prone to the palliative measures advocated by such anachronisms as the Nationalist Movement. Some, such as slate, quarry workers are as 'far Left' as the Labour Party! Many, especially farmers, still cling to the old Liberal ideas of Lloyd George. What a task! Faced with the platitudes of the pulpit and the cacophony of the care-takers of Capitalism in the guise of Lib and Lab, the Socialist who would venture to **explain** would be given a cold hearing. Yet this is the material out of which Socialism must, in some way, he woven and there can be no thoughts for "Island in the Sun" for we who strive in this country of mists that sweep through the valley and enshrouds the minds of men alike.

W. BRAIN, Sec.
Swansea Branch, Wales

THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

Again, we are compelled to omit an instalment on account of space limitations.

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Contents include: **Class and Colour in South Africa, Planless Booms and Runaway Slumps, Housing, Planning and Modern Life, etc.**

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TWO BIG EVENTS

The WSP Annual Conference was held in Boston over the Labor Day week end with visitors from various parts of the United States and a fraternal delegate from the SPGB attending. It was a successful get-together, thrashing out questions and problems of vital concern to the socialist movement.

Comrade Gilmac of the SPGB is now touring through the United States and Canada spreading the socialist message. We have received reports that he spoke over TV in Los Angeles and on radio in Vancouver.

More details concerning the Conference and Gilmac tour will appear in the next issue of the W. S.

IMMEDIATE CASH —

is urgently needed for **Socialist purposes.** No sum you may send us will be too great or too small. Send what you can spare for the most important task of all: **Propagating Socialism ! !**

NEED WE SAY MORE ? ?

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THE WESTERN SOCIALIST

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE FOR SOCIALISM! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS

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THE STEEL STRIKE

Open conflicts between those who produce the wealth of society and those who own and control that wealth are common occurences in our social life.

Even when they take place at the city or state level they are matters of interest to every socialist. When they break out on a national scale, involving directly millions of workers, and indirectly every citizen of the land, they become issues of major importance demanding analysis and appraisal.

Such a situation obtains in the case of the present steel strike. After lengthy negotiations between representatives of owners and workers had failed to formulate a satisfactory contract anent wages and working conditions, the men had no other alternative but to walk off the job, and depend on their own resources to win the modest requests submitted to the owners.

This constitutes industrial action, or action on or off the job. It implies a move on the part of the workers to gain concessions such as higher wages, fewer hours, or improved conditions in the places of employment.

This kind of action is as old as jobs themselves. It had its origin in early capitalism when industries were established and workers were hired by the hour, day, week, or month to operate them.

Industrial action is really a give-and-take-a-little game between the laborer and the employer. The workers organize in unions so as to be in a better position to get what they want.

These unions, like the workers who compose them, are conservative organizations. They recognize and accept the capitalist system as being the natural and permanent form of society.

They have no intention of unduly disturbing or ending it, and replacing it by something else. Basically they consider it to be all right the way it is.

Within this system the unions realize that there are occasional social hurdles to jump, social eruptions to level, and social impasses to remove.

These little handicaps can all be resolved by the parties of the first and second parts sitting down around a conference table, recounting their difficulties, and making up their minds to continue the productive process under slightly changed conditions.

In case the table talks prove abortive, the bosses offering terms that the workers cannot accept, or the workers insisting on wage increases or time decreases that cause the bosses to see red ink all over the ledger, then, the lines of battle are drawn. An emergency is proclaimed.

The workers have a large army and a motley assortment of weapons, the chief of which is the strike. This means that a halt is called to production. An orderly retreat is effected from the premises of employment, in this case the steel mills. Picket lines are established, belts are tightened,