

THE ANARCHIST CRITIC.



Issue 84 June 2010.

We will try to produce this bulletin on a regular basis highlighting policies and events that influence our lives but are dictated by corporate institutions and governments beyond our control. If we, the ordinary people desire a world for all our children, we must resist, organise, and take control

SAME OLD SH.**

If we know our history we realise that this so called “crisis” we are facing is nothing new. It is just one of the many and usual “crisis” in this system of capitalism that blights our lives.

As our two well manicured public school boys, running that Westminster House of Corruption keep spouting about cuts here and cuts there, all of which will be an attack on the ordinary people, we should cast our minds back. It was on the 31st of July 1925, the then Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, stated “*All the workers of this country have got to take reductions in wages to help to put industry on its feet*”. Sound familiar? Yes, it was just the same old shit. The parasitical industrialists were feeling a wee bit of a pinch, due to their greed and short sightedness, so it was time to make a bigger grab from the working class. They know their class war!!

What followed shortly afterwards was the 1926 general strike. Of course we all know how that it ended. It ended by the unions selling the working class down the river.

With this latest attack on the working class we could or perhaps that should read “should” take the same action again. However, knowing our history we should be better prepared and not allow the unions to do the same as last time. We must be better organised at grassroots level, keep control of the actions at that level, making sure that the unions are there to do our bidding not to dictate to us.

Of course things have changed as far as industry goes, but we are still all workers and it is that which must unite us across the full spectrum of society. It is with that in mind that we must organise and work together in federation with all other groups. Victorian poverty awaits you if there is inertia and/or disunity among our people.

Again history might help, we could do well to recall the Clyde Workers Committee. Of course we could just sit back and let the wealthy privileged parasites slash and grab at our standard of living, after all we wouldn’t want the bankers, bond holders and shareholders to run the risk of losing some of their ill earned wealth, would we??

A SLIP OF THE TONGUE??

Recently in a TV interview Ian Duncan Smith made a statement that perhaps displays the way his class actually think of ordinary people. He was referring to people on incapacity benefit and he said that many on incapacity benefit, “could be worked.” It is much the same way that farmers would refer to their horse or their sheep dog, a possession to be worked, not a person with equal rights. Was it a slip of the tongue, where is that Freud book??

WORTH A THOUGHT?

Only after the last tree has been cut
Only after the last river has been poisoned
Only after the last fish has been caught
Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten.



AH, I REMEMBER THEM WELL!! WESTMINSTER HOUSE OF HYPOCRISY.

Ah, those glorious eighties!! A period between 1979 and 1994, when it was claimed that average earnings rose by 40%, of course this gives a very distorted view of things. If we look at the richest 10% of the population the growth in income was approximately 68%. On the other hand if we look at the poorest 10% their incomes grow by a mere 10% before housing costs and actually fell by 8% after housing costs. What a wonderful time to be among the richest 10%. Under capitalist labour/conservative governments this country has always had more than its fair share of poverty. The last thirty years the poverty has been considerable and what this means to the lives of all those affected by this poverty is immeasurable. It leads of course to poor maternal nutrition, risking unhealthy babies, we have the young unable to afford a healthy diet, with housing and jobs out of their reach, pensioners dying of hypothermia. Then there is the poverty related ill health pushing the national health service to breaking point. Let's not forget poverty related crime and the effects it has on peoples' lives. All this adds up to billions more than it would cost to implement a decent living wage for all, but this is capitalism and it is not the welfare of the people that matters, it's profit. So wages must be kept to a minimum to keep the shareholders happy. Tinkering with minimum wages and such will not get rid of the deprivation, it is the system that is rotten and doesn't work for the benefit of all our people. It is a winner take all and to hell with the hindmost system that benefits the small band of parasites at the top. Keep the system, keep the poverty.

I thought the 80's were wonderful.



One of Cameron's ancestors William IV.

You have to hand it to them for arrogance. Our nice new shiny young millionaire Chancellor of the Exchequer made a statement recently in which he said, "*the age of plenty is over*". Of course he wasn't talking about his friends in his millionaire/billionaire club. No, you see their plenty will still go on and on at our expense, and as for us, who never had the plenty in the first place, well our imaginary plenty is all over, again. The stench of hypocrisy coming from the Westminster House of Corruption is overpowering. When that place is in session you probably have the largest collection of millionaires sitting in one room than anywhere else in the country. They will sit and in all seriousness discuss the need to tighten belts and get used to the age of plenty being over. They will point out how wages will have to be frozen or cut, how services will have to be decimated, while they resent having somebody looking over their extortionate expenses claims. They will continue their champagne dinners and retreat to their summer residence in some leafy idyllic spot, leaving us to get on with the poverty and deprivation.

The decisions of this millionaires' club will heap untold misery on thousands, while they will be rewarded by their friends in the corporate world for their part in depressing the wages in this country. How much unemployment? Well the Fraser of Allander Institute at Strathclyde University has come up with a figure of 60,000 job losses in the Scottish public sector alone. Professor Brian Ashcroft, policy director of that institute stated, "*The public probably don't realise what we we're facing. We are set to see a cut in spending unprecedented in recent history.*" Though I can accept the learned Professor's figures, I'm inclined to think that it is an underestimate. It is the "WE" part that I take offence with. All the top paid academics and the millionaires' club at Westminster keep uttering the word "WE" when there is no real connection between their lifestyle and that of the ordinary people. This is to create the impression that there is some relationship between the lifestyles of the two classes, that we have something in common. "WE" have nothing in common with "THEM", their decisions will hurt us, it will in no way hurt them. Do they have the right to inflict such pain and deprivation on others while they themselves lap up the luxuries of a parasitical lifestyle? Does anybody? If, as they keep saying, "*we're all in this together,*" well let's start sharing all the wealth of the nation to see to the needs of all the people, as well as all sharing the burden. As a democracy perhaps they will let us, the people, vote on that suggestion. However, I'm not holding my breath on that one.

WHY WAIT FOR HISTORY'S VERDICT? POVERTY EVERYWHERE AND STILL THEY CUT!!

It is obvious that when historians come to write about the capitalist era it will be written up as a dreadful failure for humanity. They will be able to write about the fact that at its period of highest development, approximately one third of the world's population were well fed, one third were hungry and one third were starving. They will be able to detail the misery of those fifteen million children who died of hunger every year. In their learned papers they will catalogue the enormous wealth poured into unbelievable destructive weaponry and they will calculate that in the midst of all that hunger and starvation, the price of one missile could have supplied 100 nutritional meals every day for five years. No doubt their findings will also include that to feed this grotesque beast of privilege and greed it was necessary to pollute and plunder the earth's resources to the extent of destroying the planet's ecosystem. Their conclusions will obviously be that it was a cruel, vicious, unjust, hypocritical and unnecessary system inflicted on the population of the planet by a small band of greedy, power hungry, over privileged parasites.

Why do we have to wait for the historians verdict? We are now aware of the type of system that has been created and the misery that it inflicts on vast swaths of the world's population. We know that the greatest benefits go to the smallest group, a useless, pampered bunch of parasites. We also know that it is a man made system, not something written in tablets of stone. It is well within our power and our imagination to dismantle this abomination of greed and hypocrisy, and replace it with a system of mutual aid. A system based on free association, voluntary co-operation and sustainability that sees to the needs of all our people, a system freed from the greed driven motif of profit. We have the imagination, the ability, and the resources, all we lack is the will.



Recent government figures show the extent of poverty in this, one of the richest nations on the planet. The previous government set the target of cutting in half by 2010 the number of people living in poverty. It miserably failed, the figures for 2008/09 show the number of people in this country living in poverty amounted to 10.9 million, 18% of the population. A marginal decrease from the previous year. Of course in this rich capitalist country, working does not necessarily mean that you lead the good life. You can be employed and still need to have your income topped up by taxpayers money, in fact we are subsidising your employer who fails to pay you a living wage. This sink of poverty is spread across the full spectrum of the population, taking in children, adults and pensioners.

The number of children living in poverty in this country is a staggering 2.8 million, 22% of the child population of the country. Pensioners after their life of working producing the wealth of this country come out no better. 18% of pensioner couples, 18% of single male pensioners and a shameful 25% of single female pensioners are all struggling in that sink of poverty.

If those with their rose tinted glasses expect to see the manicured twins now in charge, wave a magic wand and make poverty disappear, they are going to be miserably disappointed. With the cut and slash plans they are spouting, what we can expect is a revisit to the Victorian era. Ask yourself, when has this rich capitalist country ever been rid of poverty? What makes you think that keeping the same capitalist system that has mired millions in poverty will somehow transform itself into a benevolent system that will see to the needs of all?

We don't need a change of faces at No.10, we don't need a pair of photogenic, privileged public school boys to fiddle about with some figures, making sure that the wealth stays right where it is at the moment. NO, we need a complete change of system, an end to the free market capitalist winner take all and to hell with the hindmost. We need to organise to take control of our communities, work places and assets, and organise society so that we can see to the needs of all our people,. We need to build a society based on mutual aid, free association, voluntary co-operation and sustainability. We either do that, or we face a future of more poverty for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

**A political lie creates a parallel world
A world in which it is the truth.**

ANARCHISM ONLINE.

www.glasgowanarchists.org.uk
Glasgow anarchist's website.

www.radicalglasgow.me.uk
Local resource home of the Anarchist Critic

www.iwwscotland.org
Revolutionary trade union run by its membership.

www.praxisglasgow.wordpress.com
Libertarian socialist organisation building strength in communities and workplaces.

www.libcom.org
Anarchist/libertarian/communist news and resource site.

www.classwar.uk.org
Militant anarchist group, publishers of the newspaper of the same name.

www.freedompress.org.uk
The oldest British anarchist newspaper, going strong since 1886.

www.anarchistfaq.org
Infoshop.org's Anarchist FAQ, details what anarchism is and why you should help it come about.

www.solfed.org.uk
The Solidarity Federation, British section of the International Workers' Association.

www.katesharpleylibrary.net
Library of Anarchist history.

www.citystrolls
Think of your City and make it happen.

www.redpepper.org.uk
A radical independent magazine.

www.akuk.com
Anarchist publications.

www.schnews.org.uk
Free alternative news site

www.annarky1.wordpress.com
Another ann arky spout.

FREEDOM

Britain's longest running Anarchist newspaper

Established 1886 -- 124 years of resistance

www.freedompress.org - info@freedompress.org



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ann arky would like to hear
your views, news, gripes and
opinions, so drop a wee note to:
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LET MILLIONAIRES CUT YOUR WAGES???

As the European governments move in with the hatchets at the ready to slash and cut the living standards of the working class what will be our response? We have seen massive demonstrations on the streets in Greece. In Spain 75/80% of public sector workers took strike action against a 5% pay cut. There have been and still are strikes and demonstrations in other countries across Europe. What will we, the working class in this country do, as the well manicured public school boys start swinging their hatchets?

The next few months will be crucial, the cuts will come fast and furious as well as sudden, if our response is not equal to that we will have lost the momentum. We have to make it quite clear from the very start that these attacks on our living standards will not be accepted. This is a totally one side affair, all the cuts will hurt the ordinary people but will in no way affect those at the top who are responsible for this so called "massive debt".

Let's not forget, these cuts are to protect the banks and bond holders from suffering any great losses. We are supposed to be the ones to carry the losses, why? Remember, the cabinet of this government has 23 millionaires in its little cabal. How will they hurt as they cut and slash? They know it is a class war and fight accordingly, isn't time we dealt with it in a similar fashion and fight it as an out and out class war. A pan-European class war linking up with the striking workers in all the other European countries where the people are making a stand against this savage onslaught to their living conditions. Without a doubt the outcome of these cuts will be a return to Victorian poverty for our people, while the financial sector with its millionaire/billionarie friends re-arrange their balance sheets to their favour. Unless!!!

