

MAGNET

OFFICIAL ORGAN
OF THE COUNCIL
of
RAILWAY SHOP
COMMITTEES
37
Affiliated Shop Committees

Vol. 21, No. 2

MARCH, 1963.

WHEN WILL THE BUBBLE BURST

The following figures gleaned from the Commissioner's annual report should prove of interest to railway workers.

They tell a remarkable story. For example, the steady decline in staff employment: today's figure shows that there are upwards of 10,000 fewer than in 1951, have had no apparent effect on the losses.

Furthermore, the reduction in the capital debt of £72 millions a few years ago, has been overtaken and the debt stands at a higher figure than it did when the debt was reduced.

Almost record tonnages have been hauled and passengers have declined by a mere few millions compared with 10 years ago, with a reduced staff handling the railway service.

Yet the financial position continues to deteriorate.

What are the reasons for this peculiar phenomena.

Basically, it must be recognised that the policy previously carried out, viz. providing a service to the people and the economy of the state at the cheapest possible cost, has undergone radical changes.

Today, the policy seems to be one of providing a cheap transport service for big business, including the four or so big road hauling interests.

This is being done at the expense of the rail travellers by way of reduced services and higher fares.

For example, the recent introduction of the so-called "skip stop" services on the electric services, while it may benefit those travelling long distances, has caused considerable inconvenience to the great bulk of train passengers living within the radius of 10 miles from the city.

But the fact that something over 55 runs have been cancelled by this method is of concern to railway workers.

It is but another example of the cutbacks in their jobs.

It is also in line with the policy of the railways becoming the means of getting people to work and getting them home—for the benefit of big business and at the expense of the off peak services, which have been cut to the bone.

Such a policy can only lead to further reductions in jobs and cannot solve the problems of railway finances.

It must be seriously doubted whether this policy is accidental. It is more than possible that it is a deliberate policy, aimed at bringing about much heavier and drastic economies than were suggested by the EBASCO inquiry.

There does not seem to be any great concern on the part of the Unions on what is most obvious to a great many railway workers.

It is to be hoped that the State-wide Conference to be held on May 27th next, will give the whole future

of the railways and railway workers close attention.

Now for an exposition of the main figures contained in the Report:—

NSWGR Operations 1961/62

Capital at June 30, 1962	£507,343,389
Total Revenue	88,351,021
Total Expenditure	79,595,358
Operating Profit	8,755,663
Government Contribution	1,800,000
Interest, Exchange, etc.	12,928,000
Deficit	2,382,337

gross tonnage hauled 24,154,564 (tons)

Passengers carried 252,718,641

In this period, £90,451 was allowed for reduced rates for movement of store stock, starving stock and starving stock fodder. Rebates totalling £985,419 were allowed to consignees of coal and flour exported, mill products, rice and other goods.

Rebates on export coal amounted to £30,408.

Total of Rebates £1,479,338.

JOBS GALORE

Yes, this was a heading in a responsible Sydney newspaper during February this year! It goes on to say that by merely lifting the phone off its hook and dialling the railways department, jobs were available for no fewer than 1000 jobless workers.

This in spite of the fact that the Commonwealth Department of Labor had just announced unemployment figures—of upward of 110,000.

Just who is the newspaper trying to fool.

Railway workers would like to know where the jobs are in the service which the newspaper said carry an annual wage of £1150.

According to the vacancies available as a result of the phone call—labourers, fitters, cleaners and station assistants—there must have been quite a considerable increase in margins for such positions to bring in the £1150 per annum quoted.

Then again, there must be some area of contradiction between the newspaper article and the attitude

of the Commissioner and the Minister for Transport.

In a reply to the Assistant Secretary of the NSW Trades and Labor Council on the 8th January this year, the Minister had this to say:—

... At the same time, however, it needs to be accepted that the Department's programme of modernisation and the steps taken to bring its abreast of modern technological developments in all aspects of its service has inevitably meant that a better job of transporting passengers and goods is being done with a smaller total number of employees.

The reduction has been achieved in a completely proper way by allowing the ordinary processes of staff wastage to take effect through retirements and resignations.

It is in the interests of all railwaymen that the Department should continue to be free to work in the way that is found to produce the best results for the organisation as a whole.

Only in this way can the Department continue to thrive, to the benefit of the people of New South Wales and the special benefit of railway men.

Apart from this gem of rosy philosophy, it would appear that there is a wide divergence between this statement and that of the newspaper.

The Minister's statement brings up wider issues than that of making a first class prevaricator of the newspaper, but such playing about with the mind of its readers is only another example of how the Press treats such a social disaster as unemployment.

It serves but to muddle the minds of the people and give a false picture of the real position facing the workers both inside and outside the railways.

Council Elects Officers For 1963

President D. Muir, C. Millora Signals.

Vice-Presidents: Dick Grant, Carriage; H. Lees, Stan Jones, Eveleigh Loco. Secretary: E. Walsham, Eveleigh Carriage.

Asst.-Secretary: W. Abbott, Eveleigh Carriage.

Executive: K. Beggs, Eveleigh Running; R. Rhymes, Eveleigh Loco; H. A. and Chisholm Rolling Stock.

Magnet Editorial: A. Dames, Editor, Eveleigh Carriage; W. Abbott and E. Walsham.

Prepare Now For May 27th

As forecast in the last issue of Magnet, the Combined Rail Unions Committee has fixed the date for the State-wide Conference to discuss the demands of rail and road transport workers.

The Conference will take place at the Trades Hall, Sydney, on Monday, 27th May, next.

In order to obtain the widest and most representative Conference, it has been decided to spread the delegates over the whole of the transport industries in proportion.

For example the Workshops will be asked to elect 150 delegates, Traffic, Perway, Electrical, Road Transport, etc., will have proportionate numbers elected.

All delegates will come directly from the rank and file and their attendance will be financed by workers on the job.

Agenda Items

A call has been issued for suitable items to be discussed at the Conference and it is expected that time will permit of only those of a general character, having general application, being placed on the agenda of the Conference.

Having in mind the great need for unity to wage a successful struggle on these major issues, railway workers must be prepared to lend their full weight to the organisational success of the Conference as well as assuring that the results will prove the starting point of a well disciplined campaign to win all the improvements sought.

Enough has been seen from the Margins case now in its final stages of hearing, to gather that the struggle for increased wages will most certainly be one of the major issues at the May 27th Conference.

Lifting the transport industry from its low position is a job remaining to be carried out. And the only ones to carry such a task to its final victory are the transport workers themselves.

Give full support to the aims of the Conference!

Give financial aid to ensure success!

Stir your mates on the job into activity!

Remember we are the only ones who can win the full demands!

KEN BEGGS ON THE MEND

Magnet is pleased to report that popular Secretary of the Eveleigh Running Depot and Council Executive Member, Ken Beggs is on the improve from a serious illness.

In reply to a letter of sympathy sent by Council Ken says he is slowly on the way back to normal but will have to rest for some weeks yet.

His many friends, and they are legion among Running Depots and in his Union, the Boilermakers, where he has always played a consistently active role, wish him well and hope that he will be fully restored to his former fighting capacity.

RAILMEN HEAR MARGINS CASE

Recently A.R.U. members at the Eveleigh Carriage Workshops collected enough money to send to the North Melbourne Workshops in Victoria to permit three railway workers to attend the Arbitration Court to listen to a part of the case on margins.

This gesture was warmly welcomed by the North Melbourne railway workers and they elected three of their number to attend the Court on different days.

At the time of going to press two reports have been received and, because of their content, Magnet has pleasure in publishing them in full as a means of informing railway workers in this State of the case as it impressed the two rank and file delegates.

Here are the reports:—

From Arthur Sanger, Boilermaker, Asst. Secretary, North Melbourne Workshops Shop Committee.

First, I will take the opportunity on behalf of comrades at the Nth. Melbourne Workshops to thank all most sincerely for the very fine gesture on your part for sending along the cheque from shop collections, with the object to enable fellow railway workers in Victoria to attend the Arbitration Court and thereby.

No. 1—Give moral support to our advocates in the Court, headed by our very capable economist, Bob Hawke and No. 2, that the case put forward so capably by this learned comrade can be reported in its main highlights to your workshops, thereby keeping the workers up to date with activities in their interests.

I think this sort of comradeship should bring about closer relationships amongst workers of Australia and show our unity and determination to win against the loaded system of the employing class.

I was the delegate selected for Wednesday, 27th February, at the afternoon session and was fortunate to hear Bob Hawke in the final stages of the summary of our case, some of the figures of which I will endeavour to pass on to you.

They will, I believe astound the workers.

Firstly, to prove that through our finance and banking figures, Bob Hawke showed that there had been a big increase in assets and deposits, he quoted accumulated profits of companies and business houses to the extent of some £765 millions.

He was queried by Justice Ashburner as to whether these figures included the big losses incurred by some companies, to which Mr. Hawke replied that his figures referred to the huge profits.

From quotations made by the Commonwealth Treasurer in the Budget speech for 1962 it was stated that by budgeting for a deficit of £118 millions, in a very short space of time the lift to the economy would be rapid—putting more money in circulation, more jobs, etc. But this scheme has gone in reverse.

To-day, according to latest figures, we have 111,780 unemployed on the books receiving relief.

Mr. Hawke pointed out that recovery depends on an increased demand for goods which can only be brought about by increased spending power of the workers.

Australian loan quotas for 1962-63 have been oversubscribed to the extent of £621 millions, mainly by big business interests, which was ample evidence of their ability to pay increased margins.

Further—over-award payments have averaged £2/3/5 per week. (Private enterprise only, not so in the railways).

At the present time margins relatively was only 23.5 per cent of the

Basic Wage and it was asked that it be brought into line with the 1947 judgment by increasing it to the relativity existing then.

During Bob Hawke's address he made several illustrations to prove that judgments were very inaccurate. One could see the smirk on the faces of the presiding Judges as much as to say, "take it as we give it."

When our advocate had finished his summary the South Australian Government advocate addressed the Court and said on behalf of that Government that, like the Federal Government, he neither supported nor opposed the Union's application for higher margins, but that they would be happy to see a continuance at the same level.

I might add that the Employers' Reps., Federal Government and State Government advocates all sit together and, at times compare notes, which makes one understand that they are all opposing us in Court.

From Jim Frazer, Storeman, Vice-President Shop Committee and Combined Unions, State Councillor, Victorian A.R.U.

I too, wish to thank all ARU members at the Eveleigh Carriage Works for their very fine gesture of working class solidarity and active support for the wage claims of the ACTU.

Speaking personally, I was not only proud to represent you fellows and our own workshop at the Court hearing, but since this was my first attendance at the Arbitration Court, the experience was very valuable.

I was fortunate in attending the Court on the day when Mr. Kiely, advocate for the High Council of Commonwealth Public Servants was making his address and, in the opinion of myself and other shop reps. present, his submissions were very able ones. In itself, the presence of the Public Servants in the margins case is a sign of the growing unity of the working class.

Since the figures relating to the growth of productivity of the Australian workers had been submitted by previous advocates, Mr. Hawke and Mr. Garvie (for the A.W.U.), showing not only sharp increases at present but also a trend for increases over a period of time, which makes our case all the more convincing.

Mr. Kiely devoted much of his time to attacking previous Arbitration judgments.

He pointed out that the Court is not the guardian of the economy, but is supposed to settle industrial disputes and dispense wage justice.

While we workers could agree that this should be the role of the Arbitration Court, the real role of the Court could be guessed from the attitude of the Chief Judge, Mr. Kirby, who could not refrain from smirking, with the advocate for big business, Mr. Robinson, while Mr. Kiely was making his impassioned appeal for wage justice.

The interjections of Justice Ashburner also left no doubt in my mind where his sympathies lie.

In my opinion their remarks were in the nature of "prosecution" rather than arbitration.

Mr. Kiely also spent some time in demolishing the anticipated cry of "ruin for all" if a measure of wage justice was awarded and reminded us that since the Factories

The Strength Of Any Workshop

The strength of any workshop — a good Shop Committee, plus a strong Shop Stewards Committee (weakies please note).

It may be thought by some workers in private industry that because it is compulsory to be a financial member of a Union whilst employed in the NSW Railways Department, the task of building strong trade

union organisation in a railway workshop is a simple one.

This idea, is of course, is not so. The railway workshops contain the same cross-section of thought as a workshop in private industry.

There are right-wingers, left-wingers, and those who are in a union only because they have to be, even though they gladly accept any improved conditions that are won.

Apathy can creep into a railway workshop and this is becoming painfully obvious in some shops.

But what are the reasons for apathy?

To find some of the main causes, it is necessary to go right to the leadership in the shop, for it is here that the building of a strong union shop starts.

Good leadership will win support, maybe slowly, but it will in the long run.

Perhaps not 100 per cent support, but this is not absolutely necessary for a good shop.

However, when the leadership is weak, puerile and apathetic; when the shop stewards become fence-sitters and learn to do the twist; when they bow to the philosophy of "blow you Jack, I'm alright", and when they let the Shop Stewards Committee decay, then the rot sets in everywhere.

It is worse if the stewards are men of ability and let this position develop.

If they have lost the desire to serve their fellow workers, then it is better to resign and let keener men, though of less ability, take their place.

Service and keenness are essentials in building a strong shop.

Backing Indispensable

A keen Shop Stewards Committee is essential if your Shop Committees are to function capably. Many times the need is there for backing from the shop stewards.

Now, more than ever, there is need for a strong shop stewards Committee in any of the railway workshops. There are many problems confronting railwaymen now and these will increase in the immediate future.

The struggle to hold the amenities we have won and to win those we badly want; for higher margins, a shorter working week, extra annual holidays, better sick pay provisions, improvements in the super scheme and the important struggle to win back and hold work railway work for railway shops.

These problems call for mutual co-operation between Shop Committees and Shop Stewards Committees.

Suppose our forebears had said, "Blow you Jack, I'm alright." Suppose they had lain down without a murmur of protest about wages and conditions? No employer, whether it be the B.H.P., the Breweries or the Railways give out of love for the employees.

There is struggle all along the line.

So it comes back to the fact that they felt the desire to serve and, as a result, left things a bit better for us.

Now it is up to us who have the ability to give service to our class and so leave our "footprints in the sands of time" as it were, for the following generation to follow.

(Contributed).

National Education Conference

Along with many problems facing the Australian people as a result of the policies of the Menzies Government is that of the state of education throughout the nation.

Essential to the future progress of the nation is the provision of adequate educational facilities, including sufficient accommodation, full teaching staff, text books and the opportunity of all for the highest education that can be reached.

While this may seem to be the sole responsibility of parents and teachers organisations in the first place, it is also equally the prime task of all of the people to ensure that education is kept at the highest maximum.

There is every reason why the National Education Conference, to be held in the Exhibition Building, Melbourne, on May 25th next, organised by the Australian Council of School Organisations jointly with the Australian Teachers' Federation, should meet with the full support of all organisations interested in overcoming the shortcomings in our educational set-up.

For further information on the Conference and its aims and objects write to—

DAVID T. HARDY,
Box 1670N,
G.P.O., Melbourne.

Act was passed in Britain more than a 100 years ago, every progressive step in working conditions and wages was resisted fiercely by the employing class, and had to be wrestled from them after very long and bitter struggles.

Mr. Kiely's forecast has been proved correct as reported in the daily press. Mr. Robinson, the employers' advocate, has told us of the most dreadful consequences which would follow a margins increase, despite the fact that the Commonwealth Statistician's figures for 1961-62 for Australian factory production shows that 24,269 less workers, earning £2 millions less in wages, produced £57 millions worth of goods more than the previous year).

Finally, I would sum up by saying that my visit to the Arbitration Court confirms in my mind the estimation that has been made of the role of the Court as being to head off or slow down wage demands and to give an appearance of legality to the low wage policy of the Menzies Government.

There is no doubt in my mind, after viewing the Court in its "solemn deliberations" that the amount of wage justice we obtain from the Court will be in direct proportion to the amount of job activity we workers engage in throughout Australia.

Wage Claims Meeting Extended

Early reports of the Court hearings of questions most vital to all workers, the basic wage case, the margins case and the extra week's annual leave case, together with the Court's announcement adjourning the basic wage adjustment and the attitude shown by the Judges to the margins submissions, has caused concern to the Shop Stewards Committee at Cardiff Workshops.

So much so, that when approached the rank and file of the unions at Cardiff decided that the sending of telegrams was useless under the circumstances.

Something more was required to express indignation at the attitude of the Judges to the ACTU claims.

As a result of the feelings expressed all member of the A.E.U., A.S.E., A.R.U., Blacksmiths, Boilermakers, A.F.U.L.E. and B.W.I.U., extended their meetings for half an hour and decided to call upon the Court to re-open the Basic Wage case and to grant the other claims.

It was also resolved at these meetings to call on the ACTU to implement the decisions of last September's Town Hall Conference and hold a nation wide stoppage in support of the claims, as the best answer to the deliberate manoeuvres of the Court to further depress living standards.

Encouraging workers to sit down and do nothing about their living standards means that monopoly profits go up while workers wages go down.

Cardiff workers felt that by setting an example to others it might be possible to move all sections of the workers into similar activity in protest against injustice from any direction.

Franky Fildes of the Boilermounting section was given a send-off on his recent retirement from the service.

A cheque from the Shop Committee and a very nice present from the Boys who wished Franky a happy retirement.

Cricket Success

After having only been formed this year and financed by the members themselves, the No. 2 Cardiff Workshops Institute Cricket team has successfully played itself into the final of the Sun Shield competition.

This match will be played at Frazer Park, Sydney, on the 31st March next.

The team picked for the final is as follows:—

Cecil Holding (Captain), A. (Plum) York, Terry Miter, Kevin Clark, Don Arthur Wilson, Kevin Beacher, Barry Drury, Laurie Holding, Ron. Holding, Twaddell, Norm McNair, with R. Beneke 12th Man.

COUNCIL JOINS WORLDWIDE PROTEST

Council received a circular from the Trade Unions International of Transport Workers recently which had the following to say on the recent events in Iraq:—

"A very serious situation has developed in Iraq where the men who took power following the military putsch, have ordered, under the watchword of anti-communism, the savage slaughtering of patriots and democrats of all political and religious trends, as well as of trade union leaders and militant trade unionists.

Many have already fallen victims of that cruel repression. Numerous others have been imprisoned or sent to concentration camps. The leaders of the Dockers Union in Basra were arrested and executed on short notice.

Our Trade Unions International feels that the aim of that criminal repression is to break down the anti-imperialist front, not only in Iraq, but

also in all Arab countries, and suppress all democratic and trade union liberties.

This repression tends to restore the imperialists into their position of prior to the 1958 revolution and aggravate the living conditions of the Iraqi workers."

The International has sent a strongly worded protest on behalf of the 13 millions members it speaks for and has called for protests from all transport organisations.

Council has joined a number of other transport bodies in Australia protesting to the Prime Minister of Iraq and demanded an immediate cessation of attacks on trade unionists in that country.

TAXATION SAFETY WEAR DEDUCTIONS

Following discussions with the Commissioner of Taxation, the Federal Treasurer, the Hon. Harold Holt, has advised that the cost of clothing and footwear worn by employees for safety reasons qualifies as a deduction for income tax purposes. An extract from the Federal Treasurer's letter of 21st July, 1962, follows:—

"I have discussed this matter with the Commissioner of Taxation, who, as you will know, is responsible for the administration of the income tax laws. The Commissioner has informed me that existing terms of the law permit the allowance of deductions to employees for the cost of clothing and footwear of a special nature worn as a condition of their employment.

"It would seem that articles of clothing worn solely for safety purposes would have features which would readily distinguish them from normal working attire or street dress. Furthermore, where the wearing of such clothing is essential to the safety of a person carrying out a hazardous duty, it could be expected that he would be required to wear it as a condition to his employment. In such circumstances, the employee would be entitled to a deduction for the cost of the clothing concerned.

"Similarly, a business man who supplies the clothing for use by his employees would be able to deduct the expenditure as a normal business commitment.

"Accordingly, it seems clear that expenditure related to safety clothing and safety footwear would, as a general rule, qualify for deduction for income tax purposes and the interests of occupational safety would not therefore, appear to be retarded by taxation considerations."

World Congress Of Women

(Women throughout the world are now discussing the World Congress of Women to be held in Moscow, June 24 to 29.

The World Congress of Women convened by the Women's International Democratic Federation will embrace women from Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa and Australia.

Women from all countries and continents are raising money, electing delegates, making gifts and preparing to make this the most important and representative international gathering of women ever held.

The Agenda includes all questions of concern to women: peace and national independence, women's rights in society and the family, the health, schooling and education of children and youth.

An appeal has been issued to women of the whole world. "Women are playing an increasingly important role in the life of the people of all continents. They have greatly contributed to the important victories recently for peace and national independence, for democracy and social progress. . . . This Congress will give women, regardless of race, profession, beliefs or opinions, the opportunity to exchange ideas, to tell of their experiences and to study actions they can take in common."

Australian women are already discussing the Congress Agenda, raising money and preparing to elect delegates. As well as elected delegates, individual women will pay their own fares and observers will be welcome.

Any organisation, individual or

groups of women who would like to know more about the Congress can ring the Union of Australian Women (29 3582) for details or a speaker. A colourful brochure is available showing the activities of W.I.D.F. and its affiliated National organisations and giving details of Congress preparations.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Extracts from Council of Railway Shop Committees Information Booklet.

Acting In Higher Grades

Certain rights are contained in Regulations covering workers called up to act in higher grades than the one for which they are classified.

Where, for example, a worker is employed acting in a higher grade for six months in the aggregate during the 12 months prior to entering on Sick Pay or Annual Leave he is entitled to be paid and to receive the same privileges as if he had been permanently appointed to the higher grade.

Further, if the acting position is expected to be vacant for three weeks or longer, the senior employee should be called on to fill the position.

However, workers should be vigilant in protecting the seniority rights on the job by insisting that any vacancy in a higher grade job be filled by the senior employee irrespective of the time the higher grade job is expected to be vacant.

Injury Treatment

In workshops and depots where 200 or more workers are employed a full time Ambulance Attendant is provided, and in large shops a Medical Centre.

This service covers casualty and medical treatment for injuries or illnesses occurring while the worker is on duty, or for ailments which do not warrant their remaining off duty.

However, such treatment should not take the place of treatment by a private Doctor in cases of continued illness or possible compensation injuries, because where a dispute arises over a claim for compensation, it is essential that a worker possess the opinion of a private practitioner. It is strongly stressed that all injuries, however slight they may appear at the time, should be reported promptly and the injured worker should make certain that the injury is recorded by his immediate superior officer, otherwise compensation claims could be complicated.

COUNCIL OF RAILWAY SHOP COMMITTEES Balance Sheet 1962

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance at 31/12/61	137 5 0	Magnet printing and delivery	403 12 9
Magnet subscriptions	336 17 0	Lost time and expenses	37 9 0
Affiliation fees	266 1 0	Stamps and phone rental	19 2 3
Donations:		Rental of meeting rooms	146 5 0
May Day	1 1 0	Electricity accounts	3 14 8
Trevor Thorpe	10 0 0	Roneo materials	10 9 10
Refund printing cards	4 17 9	Wreaths	2 15 0
Roneo materials sold	12 12 0	Removal expenses	7 10 0
Room rentals	1 17 6	Donation:	
Sale of information books	1 19 0	Trevor Thorpe	15 0 0
Refund electricity deposit	6 7 10	Repairs duplicator and typewriter	£9 14 4
Sales of room fittings	9 0 0	Refund of May Day donation	1 1 0
Donation to Legal Fund	5 0 0	Refund Legal donation	5 0 0
Bank Interest	3 12 6	Auditors' fees	4 4 0
		At bank 31/12/62	130 8 11
		In hand 31/12/62	3 4
	£796 10 7		£796 10 7

We, the undersigned, have examined the accounts and books of the Council of Railway Shop Committees for the year ended 31st December, 1962, and have found them to be correct and the above Balance Sheet is a true and correct record of the transactions for that period.

29th February, 1963. Signed J. CRERAR, J. ASPLET, Auditors.

MAY DAY 1963

May Day this year will hold special interest for railway workers.

It will present the opportunity to make public our main demands and will bring us into closer unity with workers in all industries around the current claims for wage justice and improved conditions.

By the time May Day arrives—Sunday, May 5th—many things will have been decided around the wages and annual leave questions.

In these vital questions, railway workers are closely allied to workers all over Australia and can play their part in pressing for improvements.

Nothing should be left undone to make this May Day March through the streets of Sydney one of the best displays of our needs.

A Positive Approach To Youth Problems

In sharp contrast to the "strong arm" line of the press, the New South Wales State Council of the Eureka Youth League has called for positive action to meet youth needs, and for the widest public discussion on the Advisory Committee's report (now published).

The EYL statement says that the exaggerated newspaper stories have highlighted growing problems of young people.

It says that capitalist spokesmen, concerned only with making profit out of youth, give them false values and ideas. Juvenile delinquency and anti-social acts in all capitalist countries, including Australia, can be expected to worsen with the deepening crisis of capitalism.

Unemployed

Individualism, selfishness are highlighted by cheap films, paperbacks, and TV shows.

Coupled with these things is the large number of unemployed youth—reported to be 40 per cent of those unemployed—the limited number of scholarships at the universities and teachers' colleges, the small number of apprenticeships.

Large sections of young people now see the future as one of no opportunity, or annihilation by atomic war.

Socialism has demonstrated that it can provide a future for young people, opportunities for education, jobs, homes, etc. While socialism is the basic answer to these problems, there are steps that can be taken immediately.

We support those who call for immediate grants to train unemployed youth and provide jobs for all unemployed youth, including opportunities for all those who wish to

become apprentices, teachers or students.

"We reject the idea that bigger police forces, with heavy sentences and the lash are the answer. Most young people are not hoodlums or juvenile delinquents, but they do need activities and facilities where they can develop their talents.

Facilities designed to meet the needs of young people are urgently required.

These should include sporting and cultural facilities, libraries and dance halls, facilities for those interested in cars and motor bikes to enable them to dismantle and race these if desired, facilities for building surf boards and other requirements for young people.

"We call for wide discussion on the Youth Policy Advisory Committee report. We support the need for a government policy for young people, but it must have the full support of the young people themselves. While not supporting all aspects of the report, we regard its recommendations as a valuable basis for discussion.

"All working class organisations, including trade unions, have a particular role to play among young people, can provide answers to many of their problems, and help them struggle to fulfil their needs. The aims of the working class movement can provide young people with a purpose in life."

BROADMEADOW LOCO REPORTS:

Broadmeadow Loco Shop Committee annual meeting was held before an excellent gathering of workers. Marked improvement in the interest and support was noticed.

This interest had been aroused by the gains made over the past year and the good work of the Shop Committee and the Combined Unions' activities.

Officers elected for the year were:—
President: I. MacBean, A.R.U.
Secretary: B. Free, A.R.U.
Service Secretary: S. Yates, A.E.U.
Treasurer: T. Doyle, A.E.U.
Auditors: J. Thompson, A.E.U. W. Reynolds, N.S.

Each lift for amenities block, all wire screen doors and windows are to be re-wired, a new shower room to be built and more lockers to be provided. At long last No. 1 round house

is near completed. We have had a black ban on No. 1 shed, and still have a ban on half of the shed at present. This will bring a long fight to a fairly successful conclusion.

With the appointment of W. Connolly to the position of Head Cleaner, the shop committee has struck a lottery as the co-operation and work has been good and should assist in improving conditions all round in the coming year. At all times we had the co-operation and full support of the D.L.E. Mr. L. Lawrence in our problems.

ARE YOU AWARE?

The N.S.W. Railways Hospital Fund GIVES 21 DAYS FULL BENEFITS FOR CHRONIC COMPLAINTS EACH 12-MONTHLY PERIOD.

The same patients are entitled to a balance of up to the normal 84 days Fund Benefits per year for complaints not declared chronic. Only 50 of the Fund's 65,000 members have complaints classed as chronic. If a member is not hospitalised for 5 years for the chronic complaint, the chronic classification is waived.

PHONES: LM 4640 — Departmental B5-478.

WORTH NOTING

From 1953-54 to 1960-61, the wage and salary earners' share of the value of production in manufacturing industries fell from 58.5 per cent to 52.9 per cent.—From the Submission by the A.C.T.U. to the Prime Minister, February 21, 1963.

At the N.S.W. Labor Council recently Secretary Jim Kenny said that during the hearing of the margins case Sir Richard Kirby had complained that he could not hear the unions' advocate for the noise of workers entering and leaving the Court. The A.C.T.U. Executive would not forego its right to having a say in the conduct of such workers. A.E.U. delegate Mr. Buckley asked: "Does the A.C.T.U. Executive consider the outcome of the case depends upon the delicate thought processes of Sir Richard Kirby not being interrupted?" Midst uproar Mr. Kenny roared into the microphone: "The answer is NO!"

Woolworths Ltd., chain stores, lifted group profit for 1962 by 22 per cent to a figure of £2,479,000. Earnings rate is up from 15.4 to 16.4 per cent. Annual turnover is not stated, but is estimated at about £110 million.

Imperial Chemical Industries, biggest industrial concern in Britain and one of the world's biggest monopolies, has reported that last year profits rose by £5,375,000 to £48 million.

Unilever, the big Anglo-Dutch com-

bine, also reported a profit rise—from £129 million to £133 million before tax. The British section's dividend rose from 34.79 to 36.13 per cent.

General Motors Record Profit

General Motors Corporation has announced in New York that its profit for 1962 will be 1498 million dollars (2A631 millions), an all-time record for any U.S. manufacturing firm. Previous General Motors record was 1189 million dollar in 1955.

Biro Earns 367%

Biro Swan and Gollin Pty. Ltd. pen maker, Melbourne, earned 367 per cent on capital in the year to June 30 last.

The company is jointly owned by Biro Swan Ltd., London, and Gollin Investments Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of Gollin Holdings Ltd.

Net profit for the period was £146,677—earned on a paid capital of £40,000 in £1 shares.

A final dividend of £146,000 was declared on August 30, leaving a balance of £34,462 in the appropriation account.

YOUR GARDEN AND MY GARDEN

How highly crop rotation has always been regarded in China is revealed by the old peasant saying: "Changing your crop is like applying fertiliser."

This is even more true today. Schedules of crop rotation for both short-run increases in yield and long-range soil improvement are thoroughly discussed by farmers and agricultural scientists in mapping out field plans.

Ancient documents show that Chinese farmers practised crop rotation more than 2,000 years ago. Fairly detailed accounts of rotation can be found in the Chi Min Yao Shu, an agricultural encyclopedia written in the sixth century.

As the interrelation between soil and farm crops and how to "replenish the land by using it" became more fully understood, various systems of rotation were developed to meet different regional conditions. In recent years collectivized agriculture has provided more efficient use of manpower, better irrigation and more fertilizer, making crop rotation possible on a much wider scale. The practice is also being extended as the use of land is planned to maintain a proper ratio between industrial and food crops.

Farmers have found that changing the crop on a field from year to year not only improves the soil by allowing one kind of crop to restore the nutrients which another has taken out, but also helps keep down weeds, insect pests and plant diseases. A schedule combining both early ripening and late ripening crops, and those needing a good deal of labour with those needing less care also helps the people's communes make better use of their manpower, draught animals and farm tools.

Scientific Studies

Rotation of crops usually follows the patterns of alternating nitrogen-consuming cereal grasses such as wheat or millet with legumes such as beans which are good for adding nitrogen to the soil; fibre-root crops like wheat with deep-rooted crops like cotton which absorb nutrients at different levels of the soil; and green manure crops with grain and cotton which take a lot out of the soil.

The ancient saying "Wheat and

legumes must never part" has been proved by modern scientific research on the nitrogen-fixation qualities of the nodules on the legume roots. A type of field peas has been found to store up about 20 jin of nitrogen a year. According to surveys made by the Shansi Academy of Agricultural Sciences in the southern part of that province, wheat rotated with field peas can produce a higher yield with one-fourth less fertilizer than when rotated with non-legumes.

Chinese farmers have for many centuries been planting green manure crops which, ploughed under, add organic matter and enrich the soil with nitrogen. The chief types are common vetch, milk vetch, alfalfa, sweet clover and mung beans. Green manure is widely used in the south. In Chekiang province, for instance, such crops cover one-third of the winter-planted fields. Analysing milk vetch, the Kiangsu province branch of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences found that in its green state it contains 10-15 per cent organic matter and that every jin of nitrogen produced by such organic matter can increase the rice yield by 10 jin. Farmers in Kiangsu, Chekiang and Kiangsi provinces further augment this capacity for nitrogen fixation by stimulating the growth of the green manure with application of large amounts of phosphate and potassium fertilizers.

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