

Sir OSWALD MOSLEY and the JEWS

ANTI-SEMITISM IN ENGLAND.

For some years Sir Oswald Mosley and lesser exponents of Fascist propaganda in Britain have professed "keen interest" in the welfare of the masses of English workers. These self-styled patriots have imported into Britain the reactionary creed of Fascism complete with the black shirt and the Fascist salute in an attempt to foist them upon the British public. And yet, in spite of the vast sums of money which have been expended in this effort, very little progress has been made.

PANIC METHODS TO MAKE FASCISTS.

Sir Oswald Mosley and his followers have therefore sought other means of scaring the people of Britain and driving them into the fold of Fascism. The example of Hitlerism has provided them with a lead in the vilest forms of Jew-baiting and anti-Jewish hysteria, and no pains have been spared in a deliberate attempt to convince the British public that the Jews are responsible for all the evils of the present day.

For the first time in English history anti-Semitism is being used as the official policy of a political movement. In his speeches at the Albert Hall, Olympia, Leicester, and elsewhere, Mosley has endeavoured to outdo Hitler in denouncing the Jewish people. On the one hand he has accused the Jews of aiming at world-domination, of controlling the City of London and the Press, and of crippling industry with their "sweat-shops." On the other hand he denounces the Jews as "sweepings of the ghetto," "hordes subsidised by Moscow gold," who are undermining the foundations of this country.

The ordinary English worker who hears these allegations may wonder whether there is not some truth in them. *However fantastic and slanderous these charges may be, it is nevertheless desirable that they should once and for all be refuted and branded as the foulest of lies, disseminated with the malicious purpose of poisoning the minds of the English masses against the Jews.*

JEWISH "DOMINATION".

According to Sir Oswald Mosley, the Jews dominate the world. It is interesting, in this connection, to consider the position of millions of Jews in Eastern Europe. In Poland there are about three and a half million Jews; in Lithuania and Latvia 300,000, and in Roumania one million. *The majority of these eke out a miserable existence.* In Poland the Jews are in practice barred from State, Communal and Co-operative enterprises. In Warsaw unemployed Jews are barred even from sweeping snow from the streets. The income of the average Jewish family in Poland, Lithuania and Roumania is so small that even the "dole" in

this country would be considered by them as an economically sound and secure livelihood. Added to this economic misery there is always the actuality or the threat of political persecution in some form or other; open and brutal as in Germany and Austria, covert and subtle as in other countries, persecution which deprives Jewish youth of productive employment and healthy development. These Jews who struggle from day to day for their very existence are represented by the anti-Semites as dominating the world! If they had only one atom of power their first thought would be to secure some degree of improvement, however slight, in their own situation.

THE SITUATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The anti-Semites are constantly harping on the influence exercised in this country by Jewish financiers, and deliberate efforts are made to foster the belief that all English Jews are as wealthy and important as the Rothschilds.

It is important to survey the actual position. The control of finance in this country is exercised mainly by the Bank of England, the "big five" Joint Stock Banks, and the great Insurance Corporations. *The number of directors on the Boards of these organisations includes an almost negligible proportion of Jews. The Bank of England has no Jewish directors; there are only three Jewish Directors on the boards of the "Big Five," and only six Jews on those of the great Insurance Corporations.*

Is this Jewish domination in finance?

Consider further how the majority of Jews in this country live. Visit the "Rothschild Buildings" and similar tenement houses in the East End of London and see how, like the rest of the population, the Jews are divided into classes, and how far the great majority of them are from being rich and prosperous and influential! You will find Jewish working-class families in the same economic position as other workers, struggling to secure a bare livelihood, suffering the same continual anxiety for the future, with their sons and daughters searching for work in vain, and their younger children deprived of adequate nourishment and means for development.

SIGNIFICANT FIGURES.

As evidence of these conditions it will suffice to give but one quotation from the "New Survey of London Life and Labour," published in 1934. *The crisis which has made itself felt in London during the last two years has depressed wages below the poverty level. Of the Jewish workers in the East End 13.7% live in dire poverty, whilst the percentage of all workers in London in similar circumstances is only 12.1%.*

The position is no better in the Jewish working-class districts of Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Glasgow. In the same way as their English comrades the Jewish workers have a constant struggle to maintain a decent minimum standard of living, not only against non-Jewish, but also against Jewish employers.

A RECENT EXAMPLE.

In London not long ago a strike of tailors took place in a Jewish firm of Ladies' Clothing Manufacturers, a strike which ended after a

four months' struggle. The employers would not recognise Trade Union conditions and employed strike-breakers. For four months the Jewish workers of the firm, in spite of the fact that the firm was Jewish, carried on a magnificent fight. Their families suffered greatly; the workers themselves jeopardised their future, but they held out and vindicated the cause of the entire working-class organisations of this country.

WHY THIS ANTI-SEMITISM?

Why then are the untenable, slanderous arguments of anti-Semites put forward in these days? Why are masses of Jewish workers so persecuted when social conditions cause unrest amongst the workers? What are the causes of this anti-Semitism?

For ages anti-Semitism has had its roots in the racial and religious prejudices of man. Whilst a country is comparatively free from social conflicts, and economic conditions are relatively normal, these prejudices lie dormant. But as soon as conditions change for the worse, and economic crises develop, the rebellious and exploited masses look round blindly for the cause of their misery, not realising that the fundamental injustices of the present social order are at the root of their sufferings. To them it appears that the "foreigner," the outsider of different race or religion is not so hard hit as they are; the "alien" appears to be able to find work, to do well in his business. The old prejudices which have been dormant, spring to life, and people who have been their neighbours, and with whom the workers have lived peacefully and on friendly terms for years, are suddenly regarded with suspicion as being responsible for the evils of present-day society.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS RACIAL HATRED?

This blind racial prejudice serves a special purpose for the ruling class, who use it as a means of diverting the wrath and discontent of the workers from itself against some convenient helpless minority. The ruling class hires speakers and writers who readily prostitute whatever abilities they have in order to delude and smother the just protests of the suffering workers. And what more convenient scapegoat can they find than the mass of Jewish workers, who live in all countries as an unprotected minority? (There are 350,000 Jews in Britain, less than 1% of the total population). This was the policy of the Russian Czars in maintaining their rule by organising pogroms as a "safety-valve" for every kind of unrest and political crisis.

THE HIRELING OF REACTION.

In the same way Hitler, the puppet of the German reactionaries, is spreading his savage anti-Semitism throughout the world and his lieutenant Streicher, now the close associate of Mosley, is engaged in digging up the mediaeval blood libels against the Jews. Obviously the ultimate fate of German Fascism will be that of the Russian Czars, for there is no record in history of anti-Semitism or any other form of racial hatred ever being the means of saving a rotten and barbarous society from disintegration.

MOSLEY FOLLOWS IN HITLER'S WAKE.

The anti-Semites in this country are treading in Hitler's path. At present the country is still in the grip of a crisis. Millions of men, unemployed and only partly employed are contemplating the future with abject despair. When they are tramping the streets in search of work most of them do not think of the basic social causes of their poverty and hopeless position.

At such a time Mosley seizes his opportunity to play upon the old racial and religious prejudices... "The Jews are to blame!" he shouts, "The foreigners are the cause of your misery!" And in their wretchedness and bitterness some of the victimised workers imagine that they see prosperity amongst the "foreigners." They think that the Jew is not so badly off as they themselves are, and the vital struggle for social emancipation and freedom becomes side-tracked into a "national" and "racial" issue. As the situation becomes worse, and as the class-struggle becomes keener, the ruling class makes full and terrible use, through its agents, of the unspeakable weapon of anti-Semitism.

APPALLING AND MALICIOUS LIES.

The anti-Semites make use of every kind of fantastic misrepresentation. They allege that the Jews want war; that they are driving England into war. *But in truth there is no people in the world more uncompromisingly opposed to war than the Jewish workers, for they know from bitter experience that in the event of war it is they who suffer most.* Everywhere they form the weakest of unprotected minorities, on whom the atrocities of war fall most heavily. *Precisely because of this, the mass of the Jewish workers are always aiming for world peace, are always in the vanguard of social progress, and for a social order based on justice.* That is why so many proved fighters in the cause of freedom and emancipation have come from their ranks, from the East End of London and the Jewish quarters of Eastern Europe. Their history and their social position have made of them born fighters against war, and against social injustice and barbarism. *This fact must be realised by every English worker, man and woman alike.*

BEWARE OF THIS VENOMOUS ANTI-SEMITISM.

In many countries Jew-baiting has been the means through which past reactionaries and modern Fascists have wormed themselves into the confidence of masses of the people only to plunge them into more abject slavery. *Germany is the most tragic of all irrefutable proofs of this danger.*

The situation cannot be saved by enmity between workers of different race or creed, but only by the close co-operation and solidarity of all workers, irrespective of race or creed in their *common struggle for justice and emancipation.*

Every people has an inalienable right to freedom to live in its own way and develop its own culture; but in the tremendous historic struggle for social and economic justice and world peace, the workers of the world stand together, Jews and non-Jews alike.

**Issued by The Jewish Labour Council,
Workers' Circle, 15 Great Alie St., Aldgate, E.1.**