

E.P.S. TALK

(Continued from previous page)

Do not waste water or food.

Do not waste wood. Remember that the first explosion near your house will blow out your windows. Have you got any boards from old boxes ready so that you can make one or two rooms weatherproof quickly? Keep them tied up and stacked, remembering fire risk. But the most precious thing of all is time. Do not waste any time; get your preparations made now. If there is a lull in the news, that doesn't mean that the danger is over or that there is nothing doing; it just means that we are not hearing about it. The enemy is not sitting back and waiting for things to happen, you know.

EMERGENCY FOOD

Keep emergency food in stock, so that you can manage if necessary without other help for at least a week. Shops and stores might easily be damaged, while the transport of food might be seriously dislocated. See that your emergency stock is protected, particularly from possibility of damage by

flying glass, as fragments may pierce tin containers and damage the food. Keep it on the lowest shelves or in a special box in safety.

HEATING

Gas and electricity supplies are likely to be damaged, and may perhaps be off for quite a long time. You must be able to boil your water and cook your food, so see that you have some method of emergency heating and cooking for this purpose. You may have to bake scones on the living-room fireplace, or to boil your billy in the yard on a camp stove made from a couple of bricks and the grid out of the gas oven. See you have fuel in hand for this.

LIGHTING

See that your torches are kept in usable condition, and have emergency candles and matches available.

CLOTHING

Arrange with some friends elsewhere in the town to keep a box of clothes for you so that each member of your family has a change there. These clothes would then be available if your house should be blown up or burned

out. Of course you must take a box of your friends' clothes, too—and make the arrangements of mutual benefit. If you were blitzed out of your own home, you would need somewhere else to stay, and if you have friends to whom you could go, it would be better to make the necessary arrangements beforehand. Then other useful things besides clothes could be sent over to the other's house well beforehand. Make the arrangements mutual if you can, and make them now, so that in case of trouble you would have your second home ready as far as possible. If you are blitzed and have to move, you should let the Rest Centre know before you go, in order to save them having to look for you.

War does bring out a remarkable spirit of comradeship. Everyone is ready to help when the others are in trouble, but if you have made arrangements beforehand, and if you are blitzed, you can move straight into your friends' place, and things are ready for you, or they can move in to your house if they should be the unlucky ones. Such mutual arrangements are far better than billeting or trying to fix things up after the trouble has happened.

Next time, I shall be talking on a few simple medical matters—things that everyone should know. They are simple enough—but they may perhaps mean life to one you love.

Book Review

LABOUR DOES ITS PART

(Reviewed by F. L. COMBS)

WORKERS AND THE WAR EFFORT. By Dr. W. B. Sutch. Price 1/6. Published by N.Z. Co-op. Publishing Society Ltd., P.O. Box 956, Wellington.

A WELL-PLANNED, smooth-running routine is by its very nature efficient, but it is not news. News by its very nature arises out of an interruption to routine. It is the trains that leave the rails that get into the headlines.

Yet a routine working over long stretches can be and should be turned into news particularly when it has become an accelerating routine.

Labour to-day, mainly by its own free will and consent, has become involved in such an accelerating routine. Break-downs in it known as strikes hit the headlines. There is drama in them—obvious drama. But there is drama, if less obvious a great deal more heartening and important, in the steadily gathering momentum of the offensive on the industrial front—an offensive which reflects credit alike on the leadership and the rank and file.

In *Workers and the War Effort*, Dr. W. B. Sutch sets out to tell the story of this offensive from the standpoint of the workers in the ranks. Those whose attention has been arrested by newspaper accounts of strikes and disagreements will be surprised to find that the essential story is one of sacrifices made and increased efforts put forth. Knowing that in many places there may be doubts as to this and that in certain questions: prejudiced views of labour are held, Dr. Sutch cites from the record.

The Author's Qualifications

For the writing of such a pamphlet, Dr. Sutch has three outstanding qualifications: an attachment to his own working-class antecedents, a mastery of his subject as a specialist, and a realistic desire to see knowledge bear fruit in the form of pregnant applications. His atti-

tude may on the whole be fairly described as scientific; he prefers to let the facts speak.

He begins by reminding his readers of the slow and costly advance by which during more than a century the trade unions have been able to establish protective conditions in regard to wages, hours, and working conditions. This gain, if in toto substantial, has been made by painful inches. It had in a measure to be set aside if an accelerated routine of wartime production was to be got under way.

Commonsense and patriotism actuated the worker in making concessions in regard to overtime rates, longer hours, dilution with unskilled labour, and other by no means minor principles. They were not without suspicions in their putting the greater objective before the less. They suspected the profit motive, as who in a competitive system can avoid suspecting it?

On the whole, the account given by this writer of *Workers and the War Effort* is so different from the impression derived from ordinary news sources that it will have an effect of paradox on many readers. It is a wholesale vindication of labour, whose direct sacrifices it is argued are perhaps greater than those of any other section of the community. Some, perhaps quite a number, will doubt this: these are not so much wrought and argued with as presented with the facts; if not all the facts, a pretty representative array of them.

A statement with a similar object is *Labour in the War* (Penguin series), by John Price, introduction by the Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P., Minister of Labour and National Service. In Britain it has evidently been found necessary to set out some such vindication of labour as *Workers and the War Effort* attempts for New Zealand. In both cases it has become rather urgent to supplement what is in the news by what is behind the news.



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