

AFTERMATH OF U.K. ELECTIONS Labour's Agonizing Reappraisal

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Socialist Party of Great Britain will before long settle down to an agonizing reappraisal of its electoral defeat at the hands of the Conservative Party.

There are bound to be many issues which will call the attention of the grand inquest. Among these are the questions as to whether the defeat of the British Labour Party was due to an overdose of, or too little socialism in their electoral programme.

Another is the answer to an even bigger question: why has the Party been unable to prevent the Conservatives going from strength to strength on three consecutive electoral occasions?

These and other problems will be the subject of the customary controversies and will depend on varying opinions for a definite answer.

One outstanding fact which has emerged and which could not be mathematically in dispute is the fact that the Conservatives polled a total of 13,734,336 votes as against 12,208,810 polled by the Labour Party

and 1,636,292 won by the Liberals.

In other words, the combined strength of the Labour and Liberal Parties at the last U.K. elections was 13,845,102 or 110,766 more than the total Tory vote.

Scrutine de Liste

The vagaries of the *scrutine de liste* electoral system, which has been long established in Great Britain and which operates with surprising regularity against both sides, has given the Conservative Party a majority of 102 seats over the two rival parties.

The disappointment of the Liberals must have been even more pronounced in so far as they have now polled almost a million votes more than at the previous General Election without succeeding in obtaining a single seat more than the six won in 1955.

Unexpected Results

That this situation can produce unexpected results was underlined by the official organ of the Malta Labour Party when it was stated that "under the British electoral system, a small swing towards one particular party involving a minor percentage of votes can produce a very considerable advantage over the opposing party, as has in fact happened".

The major political parties in the United Kingdom have both upheld the *scrutine de liste* system although the Liberals have long been in favour of the system of Proportional Representation.

Proportional Representation

In a small community like Malta where the available talent is limited and where minority opinion could be suppressed by an unscrupulous Government because of a lack of democratic checks and balances recognized as unassailable in Great Britain, the system of Proportional Representation is essential for the survival of freedom.

The Malta Socialist organ will be shedding crocodile tears if it laments the failure of the U.K. Socialists to win power because of the *scrutine de liste* system.

It will be recalled that the Malta Labour Party wanted to introduce the single-seat constituency system with non-

transferable votes. Mr. Minoff personally told the Malta Round Table Conference in London in September 1955, in answer to questions by Lord Attlee, that his party would like the direct method of voting, adding that they had already some experience of proportional representation which is "a method that kills all political parties". He stated without qualification that the Maltese Socialists would rather see this completely abolished.

Crippling Blow

The *scrutine de liste* system has crippled the Labour Party keeping it far from the fountain of political power and this to a degree which is by no means reflected by its real electoral strength.

W.A.Y. Seminar in Holland INVITATION TO MALTA DELEGATES

The World Assembly of Youth is planning to hold a seminar on the theme of "The Role of Agriculture and Youth Organizations in the Europe of Today and Tomorrow" from December 14 to December 19, at Lage Vuursche, Holland.

The seminar is organized as a specialized activity of the World Assembly of Youth in the field of rural youth in order to study various problems confronting rural youth of today's Europe.

The Malta Youth Consultative Council has been asked to send two delegates to this seminar to which 21 European countries are invited to hear lectures from representatives of U.N.O., the Council of Europe, and others. The Dutch Youth Community will cover all board and lodging of the delegates, but they must pay a registration fee of about £3.5s.

Members of youth movements affiliated to the M.Y.C.C. wishing to attend this seminar are to inform Mr. Charles V. Naudi, General Secretary of the M.Y.C.C. at 220 St. Paul's Street, Valetta, by October 24.

CIVIL DEFENCE SCHOOL OPEN TO VISITORS

The 40th Civil Defence School will be held at Targa Gap tomorrow, at 10 a.m.

There will be a talk, illustrated with coloured slides, depicting Civil Defence duties and part-time volunteers on training.

His Honour the Chief Secretary to Government is tendering the Reunion and present certificates to those who have recently attended Civil Defence Courses, re-joined part-time volunteers will also receive their membership card and badge.

A cordial invitation is tendered to men and women over 18 years who may wish to visit the Civil Defence School tomorrow. Transport will leave Castille Place Spinola Bus Terminus at Targa Gap at 9.15 a.m.

MALTA GOVERNMENT JOINT COUNCIL

The Staff Side of the Malta Government Joint Council for the year 1959-60 is composed as follows:

Chairman, Mr. A. Buhaġiar; Vice Chairman, Mr. A.M. Darmania, Ph.C.; Hon. Secretary, Mr. A.M. Callus; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Borg; Members, Messrs. J. Attard Mančhe (M.C.S.A.), P.P. Grech (M.U.T.), E.C. Tabone (G.W.U. Government Section), L. Cassola (S.A.E.C.S.), E. Vella (S.A.E.C.S.) and Dr. L. Gulla, M.D. (M.G.P.O.A.); Deputy Members, Messrs. V. Falzon, L.P. (M.C.S.A.), E. Callus (M.U.T.), J. Saliba (G.W.U. Government Section), A. Zammit, A. & C.E. (M.G.P.O.A.) and L. Serge (S.A.E.C.S.).

SIGNALLING COURSE

An evening course in visual signalling which includes morse signalling and the use of the International Code book will start this month under the auspices of the Director of Education.

A minimum of 15 students is necessary to start the course.

The minimum age for admittance to the course is 14. Classes will be held three times a week from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

The results of the Admission Examination to the Secondary Technical School for Girls has been published and may be seen at the Old Lyceum, Merchants Street, Valetta.

The result of the Local Religion Examination has been published and may be seen at the Education Office, 141 St. Christopher Street, Valetta.

PHOENICIA CLEANING SERVICE

Thoughts for Cold Days!

Your favourite Fur Coat may safely be cleaned at the Phoenicia Drycleaning Department.

Pre-cleaning advice freely given by management.

A little
SANIZAL
goes a long
long way

SANIZAL

the strong
disinfectant
with the clean
coal tar
smell