

THE NEED FOR ORGANISATION.

One hears and sees references to the question of organisation inasmuch as Anarchists are in favour of such, yet, when one looks to see whether his own house is in order, finds that organisation is lacking and in consequence an absence of collaboration in the carrying out of systematic propaganda and other items connected with the movement; therefore I propose dealing with the subject here hoping that it may result in serious steps being taken to organise the movement.

It would seem that when Anarchists refer to "organisation" the actual implication is in reference to the industrial organisation of the workers on such a basis that will permit the latter to strike an effective blow at the capitalist system, and allow the workers to establish a freer and better system of society than at present exists.

But, granting the necessity and correctness of this attitude, how do we fare as to organisation within our own movement? and of what use would scattered groups lacking basic and fundamental machinery be to the mass, assuming the latter by reason of more perfected organisations were to rise against their oppressors in the shape of a huge general strike?

Would there not be a danger of some organised parliamentary body using this occasion to set up state and municipal control? Again, should it be necessary to co-operate with another section organised on a basis that would allow some system of functioning for the needs of life during the period of transition, by what means are we going to arrive at an understanding and to co-operate, if and not by an organisation that would accept or agree to work together for an objective?

I do not ask this last question with the specific object of urging the need for fusing any organisation we may have with another party, I merely suggest that should such a course be necessary it would be more difficult for *scattered groups* to further the stability of effective combination than would be the case were it done by an organisation.

Now, we have no organisation existing other than the newly formed Propaganda Committee or group that is worth consideration; and, as secretary of the group, it is precisely the lack of organisation amongst us that I find to be an obstacle for an effective start being made; for instance, we have no group secretaries to write to, and *nobody thinks it their especial work to communicate voluntarily with us*, consequently much time, paper, postage and writing is necessary in order to get into touch with comrades, often with no result. Again, with groups existing as at present, but for the intimacy of a few comrades there is no tie binding each other together, thus making it impossible for a co-ordination of efforts.

Another feature of loose method is that of an individual who desires to identify himself with the movement; here he has to locate a "group," or, if this is non-existent within his locality, must remain a sympathetic onlooker ordering his paper monthly, with an occasional contribution towards its upkeep, and it requires no vivid imagination to feel his perplexity as to the lack of organisation.

Then there is the question of literature and the support needed for "Freedom."

Apparently the latter is kept up solely by sporadic voluntary contributions, plus a little obtained by sales; surely this is not well, and certainly not the way to further our ideas, besides adding to the anxieties of those whose ultra-revolutionary spirit bids them carry on in face of deplorable and depressing circumstances.

In view of these conditions outlined here (excluding others that are possible of enumeration) I would suggest a few proposals that may tend to help forward the movement as a whole, besides setting up an organisation that, should defects be found at first, could be readily altered towards a state of perfection and incidentally help the few who concern themselves with the paper out

of the financial morass. Firstly, I suggest that each group should possess a secretary who would undertake this work and matters financial: not only would this enable him to be communicated with by the secretaries of other groups when necessary, but would allow of each group being capable of contact with the Propaganda group more readily than now, thus forging the links of the chain necessary for concerted work, propaganda, and action relating to all our needs.

Any new convert desirous of joining a group could be attached to one nearest his locality—this could be effected by communication with me who would have all the data necessary for dealing with such a case.

Then I propose that each member should voluntarily agree to a fixed sum being contributed towards group funds—*this would not prevent those whose pockets allowed it to add a further sum to swell the chest*. Such a scheme would permit of at least a fixed income to work upon *as against an uncertain one as now*. To this suggestion I add that of a partitioning of these funds, thus: while not desirous of dictatorially settling this (because to attempt such would be to interfere with the rights and needs of groups) I propose that as far as possible one third of the funds should be sent towards the Propaganda group's work, another third allocated towards "Freedom" and the remainder for use by the group—this allocation to take place monthly *subject to the financial positions and needs of groups*.

By these means the fundamental worries of those at present undertaking the work of all literature would be eased besides putting these matters on a more stable and systematic basis than heretofore. Then groups possessing writers might endeavour not only to write up articles for printing in leaflet form, either dealing with current local affairs or those generally useful, but a new feature could be added in "Freedom" viz.: group notes, thus informing all readers of what was happening and progress made—such is very little known now.

We should also be better able to hold an annual conference to discuss all matters relative to the movement by reason of group funds enabling a comrade from each group to attend; thus would we be better able to understand the needs of the moment and a real co-ordination of ideas and energies effected.

Greater provision would be made for speakers to address meetings throughout the country by reason of expenses covered by such funds (or aided by the Propaganda Committee's finance where possible) also to help towards the training of speakers should it be necessary.

Should these suggestions appeal to comrades as worthy of consideration I would ask that they be debated at an early date, a decision arrived at, and the basis of the financial contribution to group funds laid—say at 3d. per week or more, then having obtained one who will act as secretary, for him to write me with any suggestions he may have to offer for improvement of the organisation; thus shall we have a chain forged linking up for the first time all the loose groups and isolated comrades that at present are out of touch with each other.

It should be understood that this is a personal attempt to remedy what appears to me as a chaotic state of affairs and which reflects the opinion of the members of the Propaganda group.

Finally, I appeal to all comrades to move in this matter, and for the secretaries that may be to communicate with me as soon as possible, and all literature published by us can then be speedily forwarded to them.

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