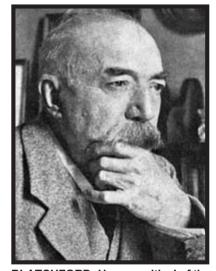
#### Those who inspire our ideology: No.3 Bob Blatchford

# Make the best of your own resources before trading with other countries

Robert Blatchford (1851-1943) was one of the founders of the Labour Party. But his ideas and writings show just how far the New Labour of Blair and Brown has sunk from the high and patriotic ideals and genuine concern for ordinary working-class Britons of its founders.

A former Army Sergeant-Major, Bob Blatchford founded the Manchester branch of the Fabian Society in 1890. The following year he launched a weekly Socialist newspaper, *The Clarion* and helped set up the Independent Labour Party, forerunner of today's Labour. He went on to set out his ideas in two important books,



BLATCHFORD: He was critical of the country's infatuation with free trade.

Merrie England (1893) and Britain for the British (1902).

As the titles of these works suggest, Blatchford's socialism, like that of many of the other Labour Movement pioneers, was of a robust patriotic kind rooted in a concern for the well-being of ordinary British folk.

Unlike modern socialists who think everyone is the same, Blatchford argued that: "Men are made what they are by two forces: heredity and environment. Your intellect and character are at birth what your forefathers made them". He praised the British people for being "intelligent, industrious, strong, and famous for their perseverance, their inventiveness and resource".

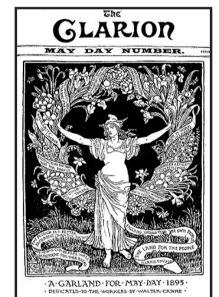
On economic issues, Blatchford slammed the infatuation with Free Trade that was to take over the Labour and the Tory Party years later: "My ideal is that ... people should make the best of their own country before attempting to trade with other peoples".

He warned the people of Britain: "Don't you see that if we destroy our agriculture we destroy our independence at a blow, and become a defenceless nation? Don't you see that the people who depend on foreigners for their food are at the mercy of any ambitious statesman who chooses to make war upon them?"

Inevitably Blatchford and the patriotic wing of the Labour movement fell



out with the internationalists who were infiltrating and taking it over. In 1915, along with H.G. Wells and other leading British socialists, he founded the Socialist National Defence League to support "the eternal idea of nationality". As the National Democratic Party, the League won ten seats in the 1918 General Election. Sadly it subsequently folded, when it could have formed the base for a genuinely British socialist patriotic movement, free from both Marxism and Fascism. That, is something that has been left for the British National Party to do.



THE CLARION: Blatchford's weekly newspaper that helped set up the Independent Labour Party.

#### Traffic congestion puts London's heritage at risk

#### Please help save Sloane Square

by Margaret Haynes
ONDON'S Sloane Square owes
its name to Sir Hans Sloane, the
founder of the British Museum, who
purchased the manor of Chelsea
early in the 18th century.

The square lies at the east end of the trendy King's Road and at the south end of the more conventionally smart Sloane Street. The Square has two notable buildings: Peter Jones department store and the Royal Court Theatre. The River Westbourne is carried over the tube station in a large iron pipe.

But now, the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea council want to turn Sloane Square into Sloane Junction by destroying the park to make way for a crossroads. London's squares provide breathing spaces at the end or middle of thoroughfares - welcome open spaces with trees and the occasional 'happening' which are



LONDON'S HISTORY: Sloane Square more than 100 years ago.



REFRESHING: Sloane Square is an oasis in the heart of the city.

part of our capital's character.

Sloane Square with its refreshing fountain has been called "an oasis in the heart of the city" - musicians play there and the whole square is lit up at Christmas.

It is typical of the mentality of local government today to want to destroy something historic and beautiful just in order to relieve traffic congestion.

To change the make-up of Sloane Square so dramatically is another attack on the remaining true Londoners still living in the capital. Removing the trees, benches, and the beautiful fountain will rip the heart out of one of London's most traditional neighbourhoods.

Help make the council think again, please write to:

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, Special Projects Consultants, Room 317, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX.

### SALLY WOOD Straight talking!

## Let's have some thunder from the pulpit

THAS been observed that in the natural world there are some species which will interbreed in captivity whereas in their natural state they choose not to.

On observing the different races of man it is quite noticeable how distinctly different they all are. This leads to the supposition that although our ancestors had the opportunity to interbreed with other races, they chose not to. I wonder why should this have been?

Geographical barriers alone would not have been a sufficient barrier. One can only conclude that language was the main obstacle. Even in Stone Age times neighbouring tribes would have spoken a different tongue. Coupled with this would have been the strong cultural influences within the tribe. Later it would have been the religious leaders, who would have held great sway over their people. To marry outside the faith would have been tantamount to condemning one's soul to eternal damnation.

Today we live in an artificial setting more akin to a human zoo. We have lost the exclusivity of our language and even our culture is under attack. We have already lost one of our religious holidays, Whitsun and how long before Easter goes the same way? Now it is rumoured that the singing of the hymn 'Onward Christian Soldiers' is to be banned in all our churches.

What on earth can our religious leaders be thinking? Did not Jesus say: "I am the way the truth and the light. No one comes to the Father except through Me".

Do the Church of England and the Catholic Church still believe that Christianity is the one true faith? If so, why aren't their voices heard thundering from the pulpit, denouncing the construction of religious houses to the worship of other faiths in this Christian land?

Their very silence creates a vacuum which others seek to fill. The time has come for them to speak out and display that leadership and guidance that their ancestors would have done.

### The changing face of Britain should have the public worried

THE DAWNING realisation that our police force has been transformed in one generation from Dixon of Dock Green to an execution squad is hard to assimilate.

It is however just as much a victim of this government's disastrous policies as the rest of us. As one police officer said on the Six O'clock News: "There are tens of thousands of illegal immigrants in London and we haven't a clue on the background of any of them". If that wasn't enough, we then discover that one of the failed suicide bombers had been granted British citizenship only months after being imprisoned for five years for violent mugging. Another was being provided with generous funds from the government as well as a roof over his head.

It all makes one inclined to think that the lunatics really have taken over the asylum. Then there was a family of failed asylum seekers who refused to leave the country. After losing benefits the mother of six from the Congo became homeless and five of her children were taken into care - a further burden on the already hard pressed taxpayer. Any sane government would have returned them home on the first available flight to the Congo.

The changing face of Britain should have the public worried and flocking to support the BNP, but this cannot be relied upon. There are so many people out there who are apathetic about voting and who cannot be bothered to make the effort to leave their comfortable armchair and television for the polling booth.

I say to these people: just look around you at your children, your grandchildren, or think of the family you hope to have one day yourself. If you want to safeguard their future, you have to vote for a party that can make a real difference - the British National Party.