

*T. U. assessment*

The Chief Foreman and the Trade Union Official were walking home together. They had just left a conference table which included the Manager, Shop Steward, the Junior Foreman and these two.

"There's something about your works I cannot make out", said the Trade Union Official. "On Friday afternoon two men lodged a complaint and on Monday I came here - and at the request of the Management - to settle it. In an hour or two we've had a conference, decided the man's grievance was not valid, and ended up with an increase in wages for the whole section to which they belonged, which was not on the Agenda. It is the more surprising because it was one of those small matters which in so many works are just ignored until they have grown to big ones. Here you seem to deal with them straight away, and when we come you get down to business straight away. So often when we start, there are no bridges between Management and Men, and it takes so much time and energy to build them before we can get to business".

"Well," said the Foreman, "we spend a lot of time building bridges here, and we find the best kind of framework is honesty". "There is another thing I notice at these works," replied the Trade Union Official. "The facts as given by Management and Foreman always tally with what the men say. In nine out of ten works the statements contradict each other and we have to sort out the truth".

A week or two later the Trade Union Official was again called in, this time because the Management wanted to raise the rates of certain men, but felt that it should not be done without the full knowledge of the Trade Union. That night the Workers' Committee met at the Trade Union Offices, and the matter was reported.

The comment of one of the members was "This is revolution".