



(c) crown copyright

"THE WORKERS'  
WEEKLY".

—  
Prosecution  
of Editor.

5. The attention of the Cabinet was called to a prosecution which had been instituted against John Ross Campbell, Editor of "The Workers' Weekly", the official organ of the Communist Party of Great Britain, under the Incitement to Mutiny Act, for attempting to seduce from loyalty to the King members of the Navy, Army and Air Force who might read the articles in the "Workers' Weekly" entitled "The Army and Industrial Disputes".

The Home Secretary stated that a letter of apology had been received from the printers, who are giving notice to terminate their printing contract, and he understood the Attorney-General had given instructions that the printers should not be proceeded against.

The Attorney-General said he took full responsibility for proceeding with the case, which disclosed a bad criminal offence, but inasmuch as it transpired that the person charged was only acting temporarily as Editor and was prepared to write a letter to that effect, steps could be taken not to press the prosecution in the circumstances against this particular offender, if the Cabinet so desired.

After considerable discussion of the procedure which had led to action being taken in the Courts without the knowledge of the Cabinet or the Prime Minister, the Cabinet agreed —

- (a) That no public prosecution of a political character should be undertaken without the prior sanction of the Cabinet being obtained:
- (b) That in the particular case under review the course indicated by the Attorney-General should be adopted.