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RENTS RAISE PROTEST.

A rent war flared up over Dunstan Buildings, Stepney. For some 2-room flats the increase was about 29 shillings a week. Some tenants took a day off work to resist the bailiffs, if any turned up. Landlords claim the rents were far too low before the increase, tenants say the accommodation is too poor to justify higher rent.

There's a similar trouble at St. Pancras. The Borough Council raised the rents, according to what they believed the tenants could afford to pay; and here, too, the occupiers didn't agree at all. So they marched to a block called Kennistoun House, the headquarters of the Resist-the Council movement.

Speakers said that in the worse cases the new rents would amount to forty per cent of the tenant's income. The big name of the moment here was Don Cook, leader of the Resistance. Look-outs of both sexes kept watch for police or bailiffs, so Mr. Cook had warning if any approached to evict him from his barricaded flat. As an ex-paratrooper he sees the whole thing as an operation. Which side would win remained to be seen. It was a facet of widespread dissatisfaction over higher rents.