

THE RISE AND FALL OF GEORGE PADMORE AS A REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTER.

BY HELEN DAVIS.

In their efforts to free themselves of the yoke of capitalist exploitation and imperialist rule, the proletariat of all countries seek allies. They seek these allies because the world is not composed of only workers and bosses. There is the poor farming population, there are the intellectuals — school teachers, doctors, lawyers, students, writers etc. In short there are many classifications of people in the world beside the rich capitalists and the army of poor workers. These people in one way or another, also feel the effects of capitalist exploitation and from time to time, many of them realise that capitalism must be doomed and a better society established. When they reach this conclusion they quite naturally cast their lot with the workers who, in their daily struggles to overthrow capitalism, welcome all honest fighters for liberty.

When they come to us, however, most of them bring many of their prejudices and only in the fire of everyday, hard, struggle, are they steeled and gradually lose these left overs of their past. Nevertheless, since all around us is the capitalist world, and all around us are the active, conscious, agents of the capitalists trying to prevent the revolutionary workers from reaching their goal, many of these people, not having sound proletarian traditions and instinct, succumb to the influence of the workers' enemies and fall by the wayside. Others, in their anxiety to rid themselves of the capitalists wish to rush on ahead and get it over with at all costs. These people do not see that in this struggle there are many handicaps, many obstacles, all manner of difficulties which prevent us from making, with one wave of the arms, and end to it all. They become tired of the everyday drudgery and sacrifices in the work. They become impatient and disillusioned and feel insecure and begin casting about for some «quick - relief», «short - cut» method of a way out.

By doing this, they begin to seek new allies. The proletarian road is too narrow, too long and too rough for them. This is a sign that they have no faith in the strength of the workers. They have no faith in the revolutionary way out of the misery. They do not believe that the unity of the workers and their allies is possible for the eventual overthrow of capitalism. They begin to slip from the path and, like a ball going down hill, gathering momentum, they rush headlong into the swamps of our enemies.

THE CAREER OF MR. PADMORE.

Mr. Padmore, a foreign - born law student at Howard University felt the national oppression which all Negroes feel in the U. S. A. Besides this, he brought with him a feeling of hatred of the British colonial rulers

who were reaping profits from the native masses of his island home. Every year he saw more and more small landowners and farmers being swallowed up by the big absentee landlords. The land was no longer producing coffee and cocoa. Oil gushers were going up and an army of proletarians were taking the place of the farmers who were forced to sell their land for a song. Daily the strong arm of British rule was felt on the backs of the downtrodden colonials. Padmore, a newspaper writer takes up his pen to protest against British Imperialism. He is persecuted as a result. Finally, he comes to the U. S. A. and decides to study law. Here, Mr. Padmore's views widen. He first goes to Fisk University in the heart of the South where peonage and lynch - law dominate all else. Padmore sees not only British imperialism at work, but also American imperialism.

At this time the Communists are fighting for the liberation of the Negro people of the U. S. and for the end of imperialist - colonial rule. — Padmore sees a strong ally in the American workers who should assist the colonials to shake of their yoke of oppression. He decides to join the ranks of the Communists. Disporting himself as an honest fighter against imperialism, Padmore was raised to a position of prominence by the workers.

The Communist program of struggle against imperialism points out that liberation of the colonial masses must be aided by the WORKING CLASS of the imperialist countries. It points out that only by unity of colonial masses with the toilers of the imperialist countries who are struggling against the same foe — the capitalists and bankers, etc., only through this unity can real freedom be assured. But this path is a difficult one. It requires overthrowing the native capitalists and landowners in the colonies, as well. It requires hard work winning over the masses of toilers in the capitalist countries. It takes time for all this. Mistakes are made, reverses are met. The work does not go smoothly. Mr. Padmore, the petty bourgeois anti - imperialist, is impatient. Why wait for the proletariat? Their problems are not ours. Colonials are black men and brown men. Imperialists are white men. All white men are imperialist. The equivalent for «ruling class» is «white». (from an article of Padmore in Baltimore Afro - American: «EUROPE KILLS ANIMALS AND MEN IN AFRICA» ... «This seems to be the WHITE MAN'S (emphasis mine, H. D.) chief mission in Africa»).

Padmore makes no distinction between white rulers and white toilers who are being exploited by the same rulers who exploit the natives, even though they preach superiority to the white toilers. Padmore doesn't want to stop and teach the white workers. He doesn't want the proletariat way — the international way of united struggle of all toilers against Imperialism. He wants a short - cut. What he really wants is free colonies but not

free colonial workers. In reality he is concerned about the coffee and cocoa growers being impoverished — the small estate owners, not the poor tenant farmers. He wants their land restored to them. He believes this will solve all the evils of the millions of native toilers.

There was a time when Padmore spoke of unity of white workers with black; when he spoke of classes. But that was only during the transition period in the brief history of Mr. Padmore's «revolutionary» career. He now calls on the Negroes to «close ranks» for «the future of Africa is ours». (pg. 4, Aug. 1933 issue «Negro Worker»). Negroes, all Negroes, landlords, capitalists, misleaders, head chief, missionaries — no distinction because Africa must be for the Negro and Europe for the white man.

The egoism of Mr. Padmore is rather droll. While he condemns Garvey as a charlatan who squandered hundreds of thousands of dollars and the Garvey movement as a «get-rich-quick» utopian scheme, yet Padmore now hoped to solve the problems of the 250,000,000 Negroes of the world by a financial venture of «buying back» Liberia.

COUNTER - REVOLUTIONARY.

But the supreme act which proves that Padmore had two souls that of the anti - imperialist and that of the Negro nationalist, is seen by his publishing in the Negro bourgeois newspapers slanderous lies in which he accuses the only true fighters for liberty of the oppressed peoples of betraying the Negro masses. Like the proverbial drowning man, Padmore feels himself slipping into the cess - pool he has himself dug and his petty - bourgeois pride being hurt, he runs to the consoling arms of the Negro nationalists for protection. He knows these enemies of working class freedom, these parasites who live off of Jim - Crowism and segregation of the Negroes will gladly champion his unworthy cause. — These groups, like the Pittsburgh Courier, are only too glad to utilize this as a means of fighting the revolutionary workers and for attacking the Soviet Union, the fatherland of all the downtrodden toilers. They are glad to use these slanderous lies to unleash the war dogs on the Soviet Union which stands as a beacon light guiding the millions of oppressed peoples to a dawn of freedom.

He sees that, despite his desertion, the white workers are joining hands with the Negroes. He hears echoes of the shouts of solidarity of Negro and white toilers in Alabama. Despite his assertion, that the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers and the «Negro Worker» were «liquidated», and that «the International Negro work is being sacrificed» Padmore sees that the «Negro Worker» is still being published. He sees that the work of the Committee receives the fullest support of the Negro toilers and continues despite the disrupters. He sees the prospects of his

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calling his proposed «Negro Congress» and publishing a magazine is very dim. This is too much for Padmore. He wants anything to happen which will prove him right and the revolutionary movement wrong. Failing this, there is nothing left but to join hands with the international counter-revolutionary forces which are gathering to baptise the world in another blood bath; nothing left but to join hands with the forces opposed to internationalism.

But the great masses of toilers are already set in motion, Padmore. — You are but a little ant caught between two great forces.