

# **The Indian Revolution and the English General Election.**

By K. Page Arnot (London).

The great events which are now taking place in India show that India is nearing revolution. The governing class of Britain and India is well aware of this: and their tactics are determined by their chief strategical need. When Napoleon Buonaparte, a man skilled in the art of war, knew that he had to fight both the Prussians and the British, he attacked the latter, in order to overwhelm Wellington's troops before Blucher's Prussian reserves could arrive. In the same way, though on the infinitely more complete and difficult field of class war, the Imperial strategy in India is to strike hard at the proletariat before the more slowly moving reserves of peasant masses can come up to their aid. Their tactics are the usual combination of fraud and force — force to the uttermost and fraud as much as may be needed. Thus, while the 31 leaders of the Trade Unions and the Workers' and Peasants' Party are arrested, the Fawcett Committee of Arbitration appointed at the close of the Bombay strike last October recommends the owners to drop the claims for a wage reduction **provided the workers choose tame trade union leaders** in place of the militant leaders whom the Government has obligingly "removed" out of the way. More, the Viceroy, while he smashes the workers' trade unions with the Trades Disputes Bill, offers at the same time a Labour Commission "to remedy grievances", whose fraudulent character is proclaimed even to the dullest by the announcement of Mr. J. H. Whitley as Chairman.

But all these frauds, from the Simon Commission downwards, are never allowed to modify the rule of Imperialist violence which is brought to the fore to crush the slightest sign of resistance. When the National Reformists showed a certain reluctance to discuss the Public Safety Act, on the very day that Mr. Patel is about to take up an oppositional stand to the Government, and curiously enough just before he speaks, a bomb (not a death-dealing bomb, but a harmless bomb) is thrown, pistols are fired (but in the air) and proclamations (in the name of a hitherto unknown "republican army") are found. Two days later, the Viceroy in the truculent manner of a Stuart despot, "requires" the attendance of the miserable shadow of a parliament: warns them that their chatter is responsible for the bomb, and tells them that the Public Safety Ordinance is that day ordained by him. The bomb was very useful to the British Government (nearly as useful as the forged "Zinoviev" Letter). The Indian Secret Service is now investigating who put it there. Well, the Indian Secret Service ought to know.

Against British Imperialism, with its policy of divide and conquer, its strategy of singling out the proletariat for a deadly blow before the peasant reserves come up, its tactics of force and fraud, the Indian masses are taking up the struggle guided by the proletariat, whose only party can be the Communist Party

of India, now in the pangs of creation. Through partial and immediate demands serving to unite the forces, the struggle for **Independence** is carried on, and this **independence** can have no lesser meaning than the defeat of the Imperialists and the setting up of the **Federal Soviet Republics**. Under this is the banner of their fight.

How can the workers of Britain help in this fight? And also, **why** must the workers of Britain help? This second question is a question to be asked since it is so often wrongly answered.

The **General Election** takes place this month: and only unimportant questions will be discussed. For on everything of real importance to Imperialism the three parties are already agreed, on Rationalisation, on Foreign Policy and War, on the Empire and India. They may make a show of differences, but the Labour Party will neither fight rationalisation (on the contrary) nor will it vote against war credits, nor will it withdraw the armed forces that hold down the masses of India. Not only is there unanimity amongst the three bourgeois parties on all fundamental points, but also these fundamental points are all part of a united whole, the whole development of imperialism. Out of rationalisation, comes the need to expand the market in India; comes also the inter-imperialist rivalry and the drive to war: out of the drive to war comes the preparation of India as a military base, especially against the Soviet Union. This it is which compels all three bourgeois parties, on all these points, to present a united front. Above all in India, where the danger to Imperialism is greatest, the front is unbroken, Labour men urging with Tories in their steadfastness to Imperialist policy.

This also compels us in Britain to realise that our Trade Union fight is to be linked up with the fight of the Indian Masses not on some vague (and therefore weak) notion of solidarity in general: but on a basis of an understanding of the Indian struggle, above all of an understanding that the two fights are one fight; that the trade union fight against Mondism and Mondists and the fight for the independence of India are part and parcel of one another. Once this is understood, it reinforces the simpler reason for combination, namely that the masses of India and of Britain have a common enemy. But that enemy is concentrated, organised and surrounded by allies and henchmen of every kind. Not only the three bourgeois parties in Britain but also the princes and landlords of India, the merchants, the moneylenders, the reformist trade union leaders are all together: and with them too as the struggle of the proletariat and peasantry develops will be found the National Reformists. Once this is realised, every British worker will realise that the combination of the Birkenheads, Baldwins, Simons, MacDonalds, Purcells, Gandhis and Joshis can only be smashed by a combination of the British workers with the workers and peasants of India.

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