

The Revolutionary Crisis in India and English Terrorism.

By P. Sch.

The arrest of the leaders of the legal mass organisations of the Indian workers and peasants did not come unexpectedly. There is also nothing unusual in the fact that the arrested editors of legal weekly journals, the functionaries of the trade union movement, including among others Comrade Spratt, who was recently acquitted by a jury, are charged with crimes involving imprisonment or even the death penalty. English imperialism, which feeds on the blood of hundreds of millions, which organises the murder of striking workers, which keeps the peasantry in slave-fetters, which does not shrink from raiding the houses of the workers in order to beat the workers and ill-treat their wives and children — the Indian government of hangmen, provocateurs and pogrom-inciters can no longer "tolerate" the existence of legal peasant and workers' organisations.

The Anglo-Indian government allowed itself the luxury of adopting a "liberal" attitude to the workers and peasants parties so long as the influence of these parties was not very great. But in India the revolutionary energy of the masses is developing at such a rate, that the workers and peasants parties, in spite of the uncertainty of their tactical line, in spite of the vacillations and many fatal errors, have already been able to win great sympathy and support among the broad, awakening masses.

At the recent provincial conferences of these parties in Bombay, Calcutta, Lahore and in the United Provinces, thousands of poor peasants were present as guests. The wave of strikes which swept the entire country was accompanied by the setting up of strike committees, to which, in addition to

rank and file workers from the factories, representatives of the workers and peasants party were elected.

In no country at present are the Left trade unions developing with such rapidity as they are in India, although the strikes which gave rise to these trade unions led to the utmost physical exhaustion of the workers and demanded of them the greatest sacrifices. According to the official returns of the Bombay authorities, which were published in January, the membership of the textile workers' trade union "Red Flag" increased in the course of the three-months strike from 370 to 65,000. In all demonstrations, actions and strikes it has been repeatedly evident that the working masses are far in advance of their Left leaders. The demonstration of 20,000 in Calcutta on the occasion of the All-India Conference of workers and peasants party, which took place in December, was carried out under the slogan, "For Soviet India!", while the Conference itself, in its resolutions, spoke in exceedingly vague terms of a fight for a democratic regime.

A still greater class-consciousness, self-denial and capacity for organisation has been displayed by the Bombay workers during the last three years. The five-months strike of the textile workers in Summer and autumn of last year ended with the reference of the "complicated questions" to an arbitration court, and this with the approval of the leaders of the Left trade unions, although the masses demanded the continuation of the fight and carried on a partial strike even after the signing of the agreement. But the proceedings in the arbitration court did not delude the textile workers a single day; and they began immediately to prepare for a new strike by augmenting the strike funds, organising defence corps and strengthening and extending their trade union organisations.

The mass slaughter in the streets of Bombay organised by the English government, which places in the shade all the "achievements" of the Tsarist pogroms, was intended to disturb the organised preparation for the strike. But the Bombay workers did not allow themselves to be intimidated. The struggle of the Bombay proletariat, which, in an atmosphere of religious fanaticism, amidst the hail of bullets of the imperialist troops, has dispelled the lies of the hypocritical pacifism of the Indian mussulman bourgeoisie, will be recorded for ever in the history of the national revolution. The Bombay proletariat deliberately opposed the pogrom inciters and won the streets for the red flag. In this case also the movement left the leaders far behind.

In spite of the police raids and in spite of the "scientific" considerations put forward by the "Daily Telegraph", the workers and peasant parties, owing to their very nature, do not and never can belong to the Communist International. Their positive role in the movement was determined by the extraordinary activity and revolutionary energy displayed by the masses of workers and peasants who gathered round these parties. English imperialism has carried out a coup against the leaders of the workers and peasants parties in order to deprive the workers' and peasants' movement of its leadership. But here it made a mistake in its calculations. 20,000 textile workers in Bombay have already declared a protest strike against the arrests. The Indian working class has reached such a level of maturity that the White Terror will not be able to get the better of it. Whilst they are forming their ranks, the Indian workers are teaching the masses of the peasants how to conduct the revolutionary fight and lead it to victory.

The revolution in India is developing quite in accordance with "prescribed rules": along the line of differentiation of class forces, of the growth of the specific weight and influence of the proletariat, along a line which guarantees the hegemony of the proletariat and its leading role in the victorious revolution. The Communist Party of England has made a timely appeal to the proletariat in connection with the new wave of terror in India. Hundreds of millions of Indian workers and peasants, who form the reserves of the Indian revolution, are thereby at the same time the allies of the international proletariat.

It is time that the question of the Indian revolution occupied the centre of interest of the whole proletariat. English imperialism regards India as the most vulnerable spot in its Empire. It is to India that it is sending its main forces; it is here that it is preparing for the future war. The international proletariat will reply to these plans of the imperialists by organising real support for the Indian revolution which is developing.