

TRAVANCORE RESISTS!

130,000 Workers Continue General Strike Against Butcher Diwan

PEOPLE'S AGE

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Our Martyrs' Roll of Honour grows with every day of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer's Martial Law.

Up to October 26 in thirteen days, the butchers had killed twenty sons of Travancore's working-class. Hundreds more had been wounded severely. . . .

THE Diwan's orders are: Shoot on sight, shoot to kill.

His army and his police are hand-picked, chosen for their brutality, for their knowing Sir C.P.'s murderous ways.

From Cochin have come to their aid two hundred and fifty Negro soldiers—brutal giants, with nothing but a savage lust for blood in their hearts.

Torture, Rape, Loot

In the talukas of Ambalapuzha and Sherthalal, which are under Martial Law, military pickets have been posted on every road, on every little path, at every bridge.

Every single passer-by is stopped, searched, questioned, and, on the slightest suspicion, arrested and tortured.

Soldiers are entering houses at all hours, looting indiscriminately, raping every woman they can seize.

Houses are being razed to the ground at the sweet will of the soldiers, in their crazy hunt for the underground leaders.

Sir C. P. is no infant in his game. He has learned well from his teachers—the fascists and imperialists.

When he found that his bullets could not kill the voice of rebel Travancore, he shut down all the ration shops in the militant and fighting taluka of Sherthalal. If bullets will not kill starvation will. . . .

The Butcher wants to turn all Sherthalal into one huge graveyard. He does not know the people of Sherthalal.

As soon as he shut his ration shops, the workers captured three boat-loads of rice, containing fifteen hundred bags, which were being transported from Cochin.

"This is our food," said the workers, and divided the stocks equally amongst themselves.

The Butcher's new weapon was no atom-bomb—it was a damp squib!

Little General Dyer

On October 28, the Butcher beat all his own records. General Dyer has always been the Butcher's guru. On this terrible day, the chela beat the guru.

There is a small island north-west of Sherthalal called Valayar. Refugees from the Terror—men, women, little children—had camped in Valayar.

The news reached the Butcher's ear. The chance of his life-time had come. Dyer had found Jallianwala Bagh his paradise. . . . Surrounded as it was by high walls, no one could escape his bullets.

Travancore's Little Dyer found HIS paradise in Valayar. Water all around. . . where can any victim fly.

Hundreds of devil-soldiers rushed on the island. From all sides they came, firing briskly.

This killing would be as easy as plucking flowers. The Butcher was laughing himself hoarse.

The Battle Of Valayar

The refugees of Valayar determined as they saw the murder boats approaching, that they would not die without fighting.

As the soldiers landed, the people fell on them with whatever weapons they could find, fell on them as they fired.

For hours the battle continued. Sir C. P. won. He himself claims proudly that there were five hundred casualties.

But he dares not mention the truth about this slaughter, he dares not tell the public that unarmed men, women and children resisted his gunmen for hours in this Jallianwala Bagh, from which there was no escape.

After Valayar, Sir C. P. announced to the Press that the revolt had been quelled, that the leaders had offered to surrender and disband their "camps."

The Butcher Is A Liar

Sir C. P. lies—knows he lies. If the revolt has ended, why did you have to declare all trade unions illegal and smash up their offices two days after the massacre of Valayar?

If the revolt has ended, how is it that your dogs are still madly hunting for the underground leaders, and the only arrest you could possibly effect was that of T. V. Thomas (President, All-Travancore Trade Union Congress), who was working openly all along?

If the revolt has ended, how is it that you have not been able to find yet Kumara Pannikar (President of the Sherthalal Coir Factory Workers' Union), reported to have led the people in the great "Battle of Valayar" and whom you have ordered your soldiers to shoot at sight?

If the revolt has ended—how are one lakh and thirty thousand workers (60,000 coir factory workers, 50,000 workers in Quilon and 20,000 boat and cargo workers) still on strike?

These, Sir C. P., are the 130,000 witnesses, whose every breath labels you a liar.

Travancore continues to fight, spurred on by the memory of its martyrs who have fallen to free their land from the Butcher's knife.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR LATE NEWS



NEW SECTOR IN STATES PEOPLES' BATTLE

P. C. Joshi's Call For Support To Travancore Struggle

THE Red flag has faced bans and illegality, lathis, bullets and gallops. Now in the two talukas of Travancore it is for the first time praying the baptism of Martial Law.

Thirty years ago, O'Dwyer had thought he could crush the spirit of the militant Punjabis and liquidate the Congress through Martial Law. Martial Law is the last desperate effort of autocracy against a resurgent people.

But such is always the course of the battle for democracy, that it is not the people who go under but those who declare Martial Law that are forced to go.

The issues are very simple. Sir C. P. has manufactured such reforms, which he calls the American model, through which he himself remains the permanent, irremovable, sole Executive of the State. Naturally he is the most unpopular man among all patriotic Travancoreans. Besides, there is no food in ration shops, the blackmarket flourishes under Sir C.P.'s Raj and hunger-marches have been mounting.

Sir C. P. has been intriguing with the extreme Right-wing of the State Congress to get his reforms accepted by the backdoor.

Travancore Communists have been taking the foremost part in exposing the bogus character of his reforms and leading the hunger marches, in campaigning for a joint front of all popular organisations in Travancore for food and reforms based on real democratic principles. The chance of such a joint front developing began growing every day.

The Travancore Trade Union Congress, the Ezhava Youth League, the Catholic Youth League and Left-wing Congress leaders began working for a united struggle. The mass of State Congress opinion too was turning.

This made Sir C. P. panicky. He arrested 150 leaders of different groups including five out of 11 members of the Working Committee of the State Congress (of whom four are in jail and one in hiding) and banned the Communist Party and two trade unions.

One lakh Travancore workers came out on a general strike at the call of the Trade Union Congress against this ban and demanding complete civil liberties for the people and the working-class organisations.

The Diwan autocrat sent his police and then his military. But the people refused to be cowed down. Mass demonstrations of peasants and the people against his terror-regime grew, and grew. He then came out with Martial Law.

His purpose is two-fold. FIRST, crush the growing popular upsurge through brutal terror. SECONDLY, terrorise the few remaining vacillating Right-wing leaders of the State Congress into accepting his reforms in panic. But the working-class is fighting on, with a courage and determination all its own.

As is well-known, Sir C. P. controls all the news from Travancore and only his propaganda appears in the Press.

I hope the elementary demand that Martial Law must go, will be supported by every nationalist paper, all our political parties and leaders.

I further hope that patriotic opinion throughout the country will express its warm solidarity with the struggling people of Travancore who have opened a new sector in the new rising battlefield of the State subjects against their autocratic rulers.

The British propose to use the Princes as their puppets in the Constitution-making Body. Their oppressed subjects are struggling to dispense with them otherwise. Kashmir first, Travancore now, is the answer of our people that the British game will not succeed.

Premier Kak had also raised the Communist bogey, up in Kashmir, Sir C. P. is trying the same, down in Travancore. Their big chief Churchill is trying it the world over. It is a bankrupt trick meant to confuse and divide the people, play upon prejudices.

I hope public opinion will not be taken in by it, despite a few Right-wing compromisers of the State Congress, who are playing the tune that Sir C. P. has called.

It is not an issue between the Communists and the rest, but between a struggling people and their British-supported autocrat.

Let us from outside support them as best as we can and let them from inside fight as hard as they can. This is the common call of Indian freedom to us all.

BOMBAY, November 1.

STRIKES AGAINST BRITISH FIRMS

In October, Bombay witnessed five strikes against British firms. Besides the I.C.I. (reported in the People's Age of October 27), the shop and office workers of the Forbes, Forbes, Campbell & Co.; Goodlass Wall & Co.; the Elephant Oil Mills; and the W. & T. Avery Co.; struck work to realise their modest demands.

The Imperial Chemicals

THE I.C.I. strike is the biggest. The public support and solidarity with the strikers is mounting every day.

Shri Nagindas T. Master, President of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, met the

Leader S. A. Dange have voiced the real desire of our people by demanding that the Interim Government should cancel all monopoly rights which the I.C.I. has secured over our natural wealth. The privilege and the patronage enjoyed by the I.C.I. must go lock stock and barrel.

The strikers are fighting heroically. On October 29, the thirteenth day of the strike all the apprentices in the Technical Department came out and joined the strikers. The staff of the Chemical Section of the I.C.I. refused point blank to act as black-legs.

Meanwhile, the talks between

the Imperial Bank, went to them for a long time.

They are one of the big Managing Agents. Six firms are involved in the present strike.

While the Company has been refusing the modest demands of the employees, it has made fabulously big profits. Hence their profits are "guarded secrets." When the employees asked for the publication of the profits the Manager almost admitted it—"Why wash dirty linen in the public."

The employees have demanded—increased salary with grades; immediate revision of the salaries of old employees; dearness allowance; leave; provident fund; gratuity; free medical aid; and yearly bonus.

Failing all efforts for settlements, the 200 employees—all of them, clerks, peons, watchmen—unitedly came out on strike on October 16. The management made hectic efforts to recruit black-legs but failed. The staff of Killick Nixon refused to act as black-legs.

Goodlass, Wall & Co.

THE salaried employees of the Goodlass, Wall & Co. and the Elephant Oil Mills went on strike on October 14 after prolonged negotiations beginning from August 8. The management's attempts to split the ranks of the strikers failed miserably.

The workers in the paint fac-

ories of both the concerns have expressed solidarity with the strikers and promised to join them, if the management remains adamant.

The police arrested a striker for picketing at the gate at the Goodlass, Wall and Co. on October 31.

W. & T. Avery

ABOUT a hundred fitters of W. & T. Avery are on strike since October 7. The management refuses to concede the modest demands and threatens retaliation by dismissing all the workers.

In all the strikes mentioned above, the workers were willing to accept conciliation or even arbitration. The foreign managements forced the workers to strike.

Later the Free Press Journal reported... "The I.C.I. and the other European-managed firms have agreed on a common policy of 'wait and see'." Supported by the European-dominated Bombay Chamber of Commerce, they are pursuing this policy "with the intention of finding out to what extent the popular Government is prepared to back the labour demands."

The Congress Ministry has not intervened till 18 days after the strike. On the other hand, police help is being freely given to the managements, to prevent picketing, etc.

S. A. Dange, M.L.A. and Vice-President, A.I.T.U.C. urged upon the Congress Govt. to intervene immediately—"Withdraw the police... Compel companies to recognise the workers' unions and concede their demands."

"Help to strikers is a help against foreign monopoly."



NIBARAN PANDIT

NIBARAN Pandit is a village poet of Mymensingh. He comes from the robust East Bengal peasant stock. Having lost his father in his childhood he became a Biri worker at Kishoreganj. His contact with the soil, however, was never lost and later, attracted by the rising peasant movement of the late thirties, he came back to his village to join the Kisan Sabha.

Here his talent for poetry came to fruition and he became the poet of the kisan masses. In the traditional Fanchall form he composed song after song on contemporary topics which became immensely popular.

It has to be remembered, however, that due to lack of academic training, he was not at all conversant with Bengali literature as such. It was only as late as in 1943, when Sambhu Mitra (of the Indian People's Theatre Association) went to Mymensingh for an I.P.T.A. training school for the kisans, that he came to hear Tagore's poetry to which he was greatly attracted.

His tribute to the great poet in the form of a poem appeared in Parichaya, and immediately attracted the attention of even the high-brows. He also joined the last All-India Progressive Writers' Conference at Bombay as a delegate from Bengal.

Nibaran Pandit has lost his all during the last famine. For the last nine months he has been ill and his whole family of six is now facing starvation. The kisans of his district have so long been loyally standing by the side of their poet. But now with the shadow of a second famine creeping on them they have hardly anything left for themselves.

The Progressive Writers' Association has decided to collect a fund to help Nibaran Pandit out of his present difficulties. Bengali writers have done so already. I appeal to all progressive writers and artists and to all those who love our folk culture, to contribute to this fund liberally.

All collections should be sent to:
Mr. Chinmohan Sehanobis,
Secretary,
Bengal Progressive Writers' & Artists' Association,
48, Dharamtolla Street,
Calcutta. (top floor),
SAJJAD ZAHEER
General Secretary,
All-India Progressive Writers' Association,
Bombay.
November 2, 1946.

ONLY WAY TO CREATE NATIONAL ARMY

OFFICERS in the armed forces, today, are recruited directly from a certain section of the people. They are usually sons of toady Government officials, landlords, business magnates and petty feudal chiefs.

Now that we have a popular Government at the Centre, we demand that this system must come to an end. All promotions must be from the ranks and according to merit. Military experience and efficiency must be the only qualifications for promotions to the rank of officer.

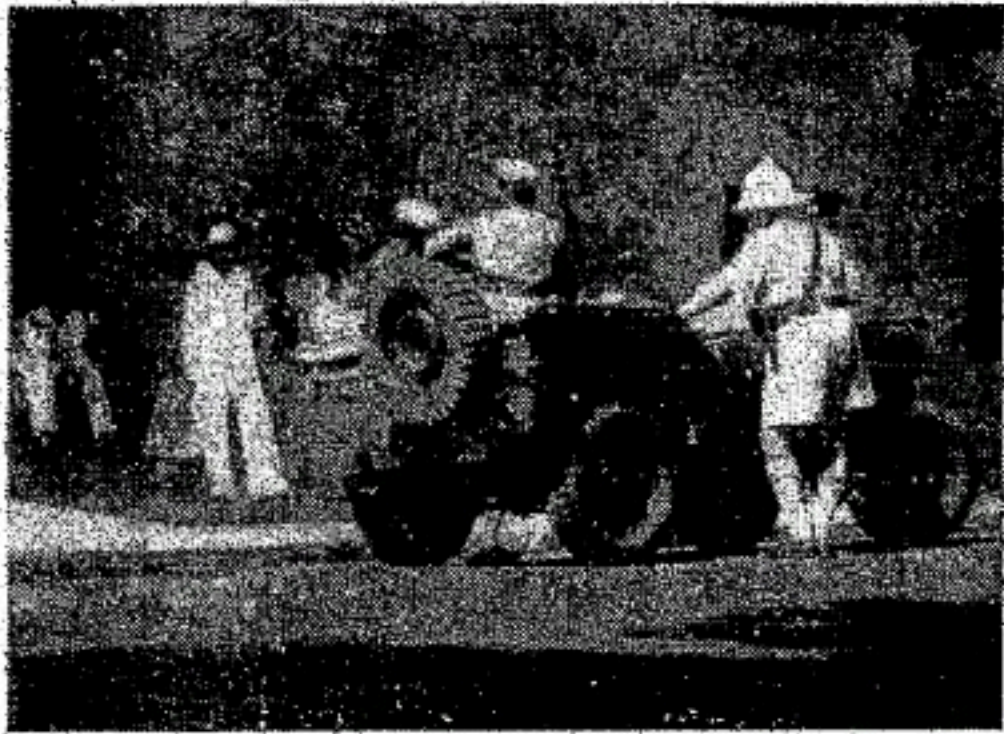
An argument against promotion from the ranks is the lack of education of the average sailor, soldier or airman. Knowledge of perfect English is not necessary in the national army of India any longer. But every person in the armed forces must be given a basic education.

Immediately a special education training scheme should be launched in the armed forces for all N.C.O.'s and V.C.O.'s who are efficient enough to become officers after a short training.

Will the Interim Government make a clean break with the past imperialist policy within the armed forces? We ask Sardar Baldev Singh to close his ears to the advice of the imperialist officers of GHQ and listen to the voice of the common ranks of the Indian armed forces. This is the only way to create the national army which he has promised to create, in a truly national way.

AN INDIAN AIRMAN.

Kohat,
October 25, 1946.



Police outside the I.C.I. Dyes Head Office.

strikers, Shri Mukund Lal Sarkar, Secretary, All-India Forward Bloc, visited the I.C.I. Factory and cheered the strikers. The Bombay Committee of the Communist Party, the Bombay Congress Socialist Party, the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Congress and a number of trade unions had already supported the strike.

Many trade unions in the city, employees of different firms, where the unions do not exist, came forward with their contributions to the I.C.I. Strike Fund as a mark of their solidarity.

Cancel Monopoly

Shri Sarkar and Communist

Mr. Nanda and Mr. Fletcher, Manager of the I.C.I., on Nov. 1, did not lead to any results.

Forbes, Forbes, Campbell

THE Forbes, Forbes, Campbell & Co. is the oldest British firm in Bombay. Established in 1787, under the patronage of the notorious East India Company, this Bombay firm had pledged all support against Indians—"with men, money, arms and ammunition."

For the 'valuable' services rendered in 1857 against our countrymen the firm was adequately rewarded by the British Government. A number of prize posts, including Directorship of

RED FLAG AND SLOGANS AGAIN IN GOLDEN ROCK

GOLDEN Rock lives—Yes, Golden Rock lives, pulsates with all the vigour that it has always had.

Listen, working people all over the land... It is October 27. The S.I.R. Labour Union has called a public meeting—the first since the great strike ended. And the railway worker is marching, marching in his thousands, marching in the hot sun—from Trichinopoly, Shrirangam, Golden Rock—to the meeting place.

Section 144 still rules the day, though it is two whole months since the blood-bath of September 5 at Golden Rock.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate has banned all meetings organised by "the office-bearers, promoters, sponsors and sympathisers of Communist-controlled labour organisations in Trichinopoly, Shrirangam and Golden Rock," in the name of law and order. (Permission to other parties and rival unions is, of course, freely granted).

And so the meeting has been planned for Tiruvankur, five miles away from Trichy.

But as the workers march, the police inform the Union officials: "Tiruvankur is within the area under ban. You cannot hold your meeting."

But the S.I.R. workers are NOT going back. Three miles further they march, out of the banned area. Four thousand of them gather under the Red flag.

The first meeting of S.I.R. workers since the strike begins.

Look, General Manager Reynolds, look and tremble. You thought you had smashed the Union. It is as strong as ever. Hear the slogans, hear the cheers as the beloved Union President, Kalyanasundaram, rise to speak.

Look, Harrison, you who led the police which shot and beat the workers during the strike. You can never kill this—the spirit of the greatest railway Union in India.

LABOUR UNION INDICTS S.I.R. MANAGEMENT

GENERAL Manager Reynolds of the S.I.R. has sent a notice to the S.I.R. Labour Union, threatening it with the withdrawal of the recognition which it has won for itself from the administration "in view of the fact that discipline, efficiency and output, particularly in the case of the Golden Rock workshop, has considerably deteriorated."

The Union has sent a full reply to this charge, in the course of which it indicts the management itself for mal-administration, corruption, etc. Analysing the causes of the discontent it says:

"Nearly 16,000 workers on the S.I.R. drew less than Rs. 14 per month, over 50 per cent of the staff got an average wage of Rs. 20 per month. For 10,000 gangmen (they have to work under the sun) 8-hour day and weekly rest were possible only in 1943. In the matter of promotions, there is lot of corruption and favouritism. The Labour Union fought against all this in order to make the worker contented."

The reply further quotes how in 1939, the late Param Sivam, the President of the Union's Golden Rock

Branch, detected a big theft by a foreman and how the authorities refused to take steps against him as he threatened to expose the doings of other high officials.

The Inquiry Committee of the senior officers, which inquired into this case had found that annually a theft of railway goods worth about Rs. 3 lakhs was a routine event in the Golden Rock workshop and yet no action was taken.

As against this, under the leadership of the Union, the workers had even put in extra hours and raised production, or saved coal, etc. Confidential official reports bore testimony to this.

What was wanted by the Union since 1943 was a Joint Production Committee and the Union's association with it. Not only the management refused to grant that, it had even withdrawn the employees' right of an inquiry before dismissal and thus precipitated the strike.

The Union has warned that such an attempt to smash the Union runs counter to the assurances given by Mr. Asaf Ali, Railway Member of the Interim Government, and would be fought by the workers.

5,000 MATUNGA RY: WORKERS ON STRIKE

For the eighth day in succession, five thousand workers of the G.I.P. workshops at Matunga (Bombay) are on strike.

On the surface, it appears as though the whole dispute is over the dismissal of a worker. In reality, it is the same fight that the S.I.R. workers fought... for the right to an enquiry before dismissal.

It all began on October 21. The blown over. Workers staged a hartal in honour of Azad Hind Day. Naturally they were keen on having a complete strike. But the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, one Mr. Clarke, felt so upset over it, that he called in the police, as the last group of workers was leaving the workshop.

The sergeant-in-charge threatened a time-keeper with a pistol. A young worker, named Birendra Singh, courageously stood up to the sergeant, and he was immediately marked out, and his name carefully noted.

An Anglo-Indian charginan, named Carey, also came in for trouble, for daring to 'hold' a meeting of his colleagues inside the workshop premises without previous permission, a meeting in which they decided that they should also join the strike. Carey's crime was that he dared to convey this decision to the sabhs.

Protest Hartal

The next day, the workers went on a partial protest strike against the calling of the police.

The bosses retaliated by serving charge sheets on Birendra Singh and Carey.

The Diwali holidays intervened and the authorities thought the storm had

But on October 28, they were rudely awakened by a strike of all the five thousand workers. They demanded the withdrawal of the charge sheets.

It was an obviously just demand. But the Union officials led by Mr. Khedgikar, President of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, somehow did not think so. The Managing Committee of the Branch met in the office of the Works Manager. They unanimously accepted the management's right to give the charge sheets and asked the workers to go back to work.

Strike Continues

This was on October 29. The next day, however, Mr. Khedgikar had the surprise of his life. As he explained the decision to the workers at a mass meeting they unanimously turned down the call to resume work and reiterated their resolve to continue the strike.

Meanwhile the management, encouraged by the attitude of the Union Managing Committee, dismissed Birendra Singh on November 2, thus making any settlement impossible.

The workers are grimly fighting back this attack, despite the failure of their Committee to lead them.

BIHAR FOLLOWS NOAKHALI

Officials Connive, Dacoits Reap Harvest Of Hate

HEROISM OF COMMON PEOPLE SAVES MANY LIVES

By wire from Indradip Sinha

November 4

For the past four days, arson loot and murder in Chapra District have practically ceased, and the situation is returning to normal.

ESTIMATES of casualties vary from a hundred injured, according to the latest official bulletin, to a thousand killed and many injured according to the Patna correspondent of the League organ, Dawn, who, however, brought but wild stories about the riot without actually going to any one of the affected villages.

No attempt has been made to estimate the loss of property, which must run into several lakhs.

Even the guarded reports that have appeared in the Congress dailies—Searchlight and Rashtravani—give a horrid picture of the carnage and brutalities, that have characterised these frenzied mob attacks on the Muslim population in half a dozen villages.

"Fiendishness has known no bounds and a veritable massacre of innocents has taken place," remarks the Searchlight (November 3).

A large number of Muslims have left the affected villages and have gone to their relatives in safety areas or to the town of Chapra. A refugee camp has been opened in Chapra Zilla School, where nearly 4,000 Muslims from the Hindu majority mohallas of the town, as well as from some villages are taking shelter. The Muslim mohallas of the town are also packed with refugees.

Cases of rape and abduction have not been reported but in several villages the heads of Muslims have been shaved and only pig-tails left.

Dacoit Paradise

Loot and arson have been common features of these mob attacks, and goonda elements and village dacoits have taken full advantage of this situation.

I have received reports of several cases in which the same mob looted Hindu houses also, after it had pillaged peaceful Muslim homes.

In Jalalpur village, after Muslims had been looted, the same mob looted houses of three Hindu banias, who had taken a leading hand in organising the attack.

In Chapra town, Muslim as well as Hindu ration shops were looted. And the Chapra correspondent of Rashtravani reports that in Parsa Thana regular gangs of dacoits have been formed, who have started burgling Hindu, as well as Muslim homes and stealing standing crops from the fields belonging to Hindu and Muslim landlords.

From my talks with a number of Congress and League leaders of the District and from reports gained on the spot, I was able to learn how the carnage started.

Mutual hate has grown so far that even the office-bearers of the town Congress Committee and Muslim League helped in the fomenting of trouble by their rabid propaganda.

Worst On Top

The worst elements—hoarders, blackmarketeers and Hindu Sabha communalists—came to the top in the Town Congress Committee. They roused hate sentiments, and when Noakhali Day was observed on October 25, it became the signal for riots which soon spread to rural areas.

It was a shame to see that among those who actively participated in rioting in Chapra, together with the common goondas and loafers with criminal past, were members of the Azad Hind Volunteer Corps and the Muslim National Guard.

But behind all this instigation were the connivance and

active assistance of the police and the bureaucracy.

I could quote numerous instances in which police sub-inspectors actually instigated the rioters (and only one of them has been suspended so far). But I will give here revealing facts about the higher officials themselves.

The Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Blewitt, boss of North Bihar, who came to Chapra after the outbreak of the riots, visited Mohalla Carimohal on the 27th and assured the Muslims that adequate forces had arrived and there was no fear of attack.

But within twenty minutes of his departure a mob of nearly one thousand attacked. These people must have been collecting under the very nose of this bloated chief who was giving such facile assurances.

Blind Eye

A Muslim official held a mohalla meeting and instigated the Muslims to riot. When this fact was reported to the police chief and the guilty official began to apologise, Blewitt quickly dismissed the whole affair saying: "Let by-gones be by-gones."

The Superintendent of Police, Mullick, saw a Hindu mob setting fire to Muslim houses and even fired a shot from his revolver but then quietly withdrew to his bungalow, making no police arrangements for checking such lawlessness.

On October 25, the day on which the riots started, the police were withdrawn and even after the outbreak of riots, the police force available from the local police lines was not used.

The role of the Magistrate was even more criminal. The entire administration stood paralysed when the riots broke out, although everybody knew

that tension was continuing for over a month or so.

Not to speak of police measures, there was a total collapse of the rationing system and the Municipal administration came to a standstill as soon as the riots started. The officials did precious little, except wasting petrol by running about from one place to another.

In one case, rice from Government godowns was not issued. The people threatened to break the locks open.

In the refugee camp cholera has broken out. The officials could not be persuaded to make some arrangements for sanitation.

People's Heroism

But against this sordid tale of inefficiency, corruption and riot-mongering, stand out stories of those handfuls of Congress leaders who worked day and night to check the riots.

Under the leadership of Syt. Girish Tewari they went to all affected areas and persuaded angry mobs to disperse.

The heroism and the good sense of the common people was responsible for saving a large number of lives in the most difficult circumstances.

● In village Nagra, for example, a local gentleman named Narbadeshwar Pande threw himself between two angry mobs and ultimately succeeded in turning them back.

● A Muslim Hakim, Khuda Baksh, had his brother slaughtered before his own eyes. But in the night he found a Hindu boy belonging to one of the murderers' families taking shelter in his house. He fed and kept the boy for the night and sent him back with an escort the next morning.

● In Chapra, a number of Hindus faced angry mobs of their own community for the crime of giving shelter to their Muslim neighbours. Among them are three Communists of

A COMMUNIST'S BATTLE AGAINST FRATRIGIDAL WAR

(We publish below extracts from a letter from Prabhat Chakravarty, chief accused in the famous Inter-Provincial Conspiracy Case, who was recently released after 14 years in jail and is now back in his village home at Bardia, in the disturbed zone of Chandpur in East Bengal. It reveals, how with unparalleled bravery and against overwhelming odds, a Communist can fight and build up, again and again, never giving up, a united resistance to protect his people from the flames of fratricidal war.—Editor.)

ON August 16, a shop was looted in the market. As a result there was great deal of ill-feeling between the Hindus and the Muslims.

After I arrived some joint Hindu-Muslim meetings were held to give me a reception. As a result, the situation improved slightly.

On October 15, Muslim goondas from the neighbourhood attacked our village. In sheer fright, the Hindu middle-class people began to leave.

I had been away to Comilla. On receipt of an urgent letter, I rushed back to the village and helped to set up a joint Defence Party of Hindus and Muslims for the united defence of the village.

On Guard

On October 19, the goondas attacked again from the south. I was guarding the village with 12 volunteers.

The men and women of the village took shelter either in the neighbouring forests or in the houses of our friendly Muslim neighbours. I got the Muslims of the village together and prepared. We had won the first round. But from the next day, the people began to leave the village.

Our village is now practically empty. Some of the neighbouring villages are also empty. I can think of no means of de-

fending the village any longer. Instead of resisting jointly against the goondas, they have fled in panic.

The Muslims of the village have been giving all sorts of guarantees. Riots have not started yet, but theft is a living problem. The Hindus have gone leaving everything behind.

On October 22, there was another meeting of the Hindu-Muslim Peace Committee, but the situation cannot be said to have improved.

'PRABHAT' CHAKRAVARTY

FROM his childhood a fighter against British Imperialism, Prabhat built the Congress organisation in his district during the first Non-cooperation Movement. After Chauri Chaura, Prabhat began organising terrorist activities in Comilla. When the Government swooped down on the terrorists all over Bengal, Prabhat went underground, and worked among the students.

In 1933, when he was busy reorganising the ranks of the Terrorists after the lull that came on the movement after the terrorist wave in 1930-31, Prabhat was arrested. The police traced all the links of Prabhat's efforts at reorganising his ranks and staged what was called the "Inter-Provincial Conspiracy Case."

Prabhat was the main accused and was sentenced to transportation for life.

He was sent to the Andamans in 1933, where he studied Marxism and came over to the Communist Party. After fourteen years in jail, Prabhat has only recently been released.

Latest News From Travancore

VALAYAR — MIGHTY REVOLUTIONARY BATTLE

A glimpse of the mighty revolutionary battle of Valayar has been given in our Correspondent's despatch from Travancore on the front page of this issue. Below we give extracts (translated from the Malayalam) from reports of the battle in two newspapers—one published in Travancore and the other in Cochin. Both the newspapers are hostile to the cause of the Travancore working-class. They are trying in these reports to build a case for Sir C. P.'s butchery.

And yet from what they themselves admit, one can see clearly, in all its vicious intensity, the brutal butchery of the Travancore State forces, and also the glorious, epic resistance put up by the Warrior-Defenders of Valayar.

All India salutes the memory of the martyrs of Valayar, salutes the revolutionary courage and endurance of the four thousand who kept at bay one thousand fully armed brutes for more than one day.

The Battle of Valayar will never be forgotten.

THE Malabar Mail (Ernakulam, Cochin) in a report dated October 31, under the caption "Communist Headquarters Surrender to Military—Well-planned Resistance of Communists" says:

"The Communists had established their camp inside the compounds situated about six furlongs from Valayar ferry. The camp was protected by walls made of split coconut tree trunks, bounded with strong coil ropes.

Against Modern Army

"On last Sunday, police and military surrounded this Communist Headquarters. The fond hope of the Communists was that they could resist this attack of the military, who were well-equipped with all modern arms of warfare.

"Armed police and military came in three boats and several military lorries and surrounded Valayar and clashed with Communist bands. It was a terrible clash. A big battle raged for several hours.

"The Communists hit back with bows and arrows and spears made of aracahut. They also used rifles. It seems that realising that it was not possible to subdue the rebels with rifle shot, the military was forced to use machine guns. The Communist bands perished in concentrated attacks of the police and military."

The same report of the Malabar Mail says in another place: "Around Valayar camp, the Com-

"Deep trenches around the camp were very well camouflaged by spreading green grass on it, so that nobody would suspect that there were deep pits below. The rebels had hopes that these well-prepared outposts would swallow the attacking police and military forces.

"It is said that three camps were subdued on Sunday and a fourth on Monday. It is not known as to how many died in Valayar camp, how many were taken prisoner and how many have escaped." Deepika, notorious anti-Communist organ of the Catholic clergy in Travancore, in a report says:

Women In Action

"It seems that no less than three hundred women are undergoing training in Valayar camp. They are also seen marching with sticks. Some spectators say that they are being trained in military science."

The Deepika continues:

"It is reported that well-trained rebels, led by men who have returned with glory from the battle-fields of Italy and Iraq, astonished the soldiers of our State forces by continued fierce resistance for a long time. These State forces were compelled to open fire continuously as these rebels did not surrender."

Dalhawa who organised the Hindu and Muslim workers and peasants beat back all attempts at provocation.

Red Flag Against Riots

The Communists also led the railway colony of Chapra, which remained completely immune from riots and where Hindus and Muslims continued to live in adjoining houses and work in the same shed and on the same trains.

Similarly, the big railway town of Sonepur, with its adjoining villages, successfully held the flag of brotherly unity aloft and

In Sabaichak village, for example, a Muslim landlord wanted to organise his co-religionists for rioting, but they gave him a fitting rebuff. Sons of Muslim kisans, who are demobbed army men, have raised a joint kisan volunteer corps and are giving lathi and other training.

Wherever the Red flag has been planted the monster of communal riots has not been permitted to raise its ugly face.

"STOP THIS SUICIDAL GAME"

—Bengal League Secretary's Call

Mr. Abul Hashem M.L.A., Secretary, Bengal Provincial Muslim League, in the course of a statement on the fresh outbreak of riots in Calcutta says:

"In the present situation, the responsibility for maintaining peace and order in Bengal rests with the Muslims.

"If any Muslim tries to incite trouble or create anarchy, he will be committing an unpardonable crime...

"There is another point which the Hindu and Muslim patriots must not forget for a single moment: the hidden hand of Imperialism is ever busy to give Bengal and other parts of India a bad name.

"In the name of the poor and innocent people of Bengal, I appeal to the sense of responsibility of the Muslims and the patriotism of the Hindus, with all the strength that my voice commands:

"STOP THIS SUICIDAL GAME OF KILLING UNITED TODAY."

"To live or to die—that is the main question before Bengal today. Let Bengal stand today with her proud head held high, freed from the chains of false prestige, petty hatred and jealousies.

"PEOPLE OF BENGAL, STAND UNITED TODAY."

★ Goonda Raj In Bengal And Bihar ★ Welcome Peace Appeal Of Leaders ★ Civil Liberties Must Be Restored

Events have moved with lightning rapidity this week. After the entry of the League into the Interim Government, the flames of civil war did not subside but kept rising higher and higher. So far the leaders of the Congress and the League had been using them for mutual fault-finding. For the first time they have jointly and directly intervened against riots, after a freedom-loving people passed through the hell of fratricide for three long months.

It is a terrible exposure of the two bankrupt leaderships, that pursue policies which make them separately light the very flames which later they are jointly forced to seek to extinguish. Different elements have moved against riots in their own way, in their own interests.

Firstly, the imperialists have successfully exploited the Congress-League conflict, and got the League too into the Interim Government. They have had a round of riots and have made the Congress and the League both shriek for Wavell intervention and more and more British troops. But the very riots which the bureaucrats had allowed to spread, have become a threat to "law and order" itself.

Secondly, for the business community, business was at a standstill. In Calcutta alone their loss is reported to be 50 crores. In Bombay their pull towards peace to earn their profits was strongly asserted on their political leaderships.

Thirdly, the mass of the common people were paralysed and the hate-mongers in both camps had become uncontrollable.

India was fast drifting into a position where, in the riot areas, the situation was neither in the hands of the Government nor the Congress nor the League, but of the goondas. An eve-of-the-riot tension was present, throughout.

Leaders Visit Bengal

Bengal stood on the brink of a precipice. The Big Business-Mahasabha-Bose combine had threatened a ten-day hartal which would have meant not only another and a worse round of mass slaughter in Calcutta, but every Bengali town and all rural districts would have been swept off by the riot wave.

The first net gain of the leaders' visit to Bengal has been that the hartal threat has been withdrawn.

The second, that League leaders have begun coming out more firmly against riots and preaching among the Muslims that if they cannot guarantee the safety of the Hindu minority in Bengal, it is their own disgrace.

Thirdly, negotiations for a Coalition Ministry have begun between Gandhiji and Suhrawardy, but it appears that Suhrawardy does not want to go beyond a joint peace committee. Coalition in other Congress majority Provinces, where also riots have broken out, is being demanded as the price of coalition in Bengal. This shows that even when they talk of peace, the game of power politics is relentlessly pursued.

Bihar - Noakhali's Image

As yet Bihar was being played up by the League press and the Congress was calling it an exaggeration. The leaders' visit there has disclosed how grave the situation is. Our correspondent's story gives an unbiased picture.

Bengal riots led straight on to Bihar riots with similar atrocities, similar inhumanity.

This should be an eye-opener to all Hindus who thought of their community being more humane than the Muslims. Bihar riots disclose where the slogan 'Revenge-Noakhali' leads in practice. From what Pandit Nehru saw, he declared he could not imagine such "madness."

It was for the first time in Bihar that top Congress and League leaders, Pandit Nehru and Sardar Nishtar, spoke together in public meetings in the riot areas. But the hope that a new lead has been given and Hindu-Muslim amity would now come back to Bihar is mistaken. Mr. Jinnah has sent his own emissary, Mr. Napman, the same

way as Acharya Kripalani had been sent to Eastern Bengal. The latest news is that Gandhiji has threatened to fast unto death unless Bihar riots stop within twenty-four hours. The situation has become as grim and grave as that.

A Welcome Appeal

The Congress and the League leaders have made a very welcome and warm appeal for peace, however belated it be:

"Whatever our differences might be, none of us should tolerate such acts which degrade and brutalise our people. Ignoble methods bring no solution, and on that basis we can build no edifice of freedom. Violence against a neighbour and a fellow citizen leads to counter and increasing violence and to the drying up of social and civic life. It leads to human degradation. We plead, therefore, most earnestly, for a cessation of this violence and for a return to the methods of peace."

In normal times such an appeal should have worked a miracle and riots should have stopped in 24 hours. But nothing of the sort is happening. Why?

● The very causes that led to the riot remain in tact—Congress-League conflict and not Congress-League joint front is yet the mutual relationship.

When the leaders themselves can come to no political agreement their joint political appeal is taken with a pinch of salt.

● At the bottom, the actual situation is out of hand. First, the lead passed on to the most rabid elements in both camps and then goondas of both sides became the leaders in practice, because they alone could do "fighting and defending" best. Such has been the logic of the campaign of hate and there can be no sudden turning towards a campaign of peace.

● The Press has won popularity and got bigger sales

and profits by atrocity stories against the other community. If it is all Noakhali in the Congress papers, it is mostly all Bihar and Bombay in the League Press. All the accumulated poison cannot be suddenly pumped out.

The above factors indicate the difficulties in the way of restoring peace.

Restore Civil Liberties

The leaders' appeal for peace would remain on paper unless the entire strength of the Congress and the League as organisations is mobilised behind the peace appeal, unless local Congress and League leaders jointly face the people and restore confidence.

The peace appeal of the leaders must give encouragement to all good Congressmen and Leaguers, who have remained tongue-tied so far under pressure from hate-mongering elements in their own organisations. Our common experience of the last three months, together with the leaders' appeal, goes to prove that riots help neither the Congress nor the League, nor any single Indian, but only the British and their policemen.

From within the camp of

by P. C. Joshi

the people, both Hindus and Muslims, Congressmen and Leaguers, must raise the common demand for the immediate restoration of civil liberties.

Section 144, curfew, collective fines, punitive police, military pickets—all must go. They have made life impossible. They have only intensified suspicions, only strengthened the bureaucratic hold over us all.

There is too much serylle and cowardly talk of calls for police protection and military intervention.

What kind of peace can come through British bayonets? Only the peace of the grave. They will not give either the Hindus or the Muslims peace, only more trouble for both, only the perpetuation of British rule.

Vicious Circle

The leaders have come to no abiding settlement among themselves, for a joint front for the peace of brothers among Indians and holy war against the British, but only this—that Congress must do its utmost to protect the Muslim minority in the Congress Provinces and the League the Hindu minority in the Muslim Provinces, and if they fail, the British police and the military will be let loose.

Pandit Nehru spoke in Bihar:

"If the disturbances did not stop at once it would have very bad results. Such things could not be tolerated and if the prevailing position did not improve, machine guns, bombs and all the forces of the Government would be put into motion to stop bloodshed."

Sardar Nishtar explaining the same policy to the Muslims, said:

"They had no doubt that Hindus had suffered in Noakhali. All Muslims would condemn the East Bengal happenings. If Muslims did not stop the disturbances, they

Editorial

WITHDRAW ANTI-STRIKE BILL

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member, of the Interim Government, introduced in the Central Assembly last week, an innocuous looking measure which seeks to provide "for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes", but which, in reality, attacks the workers' right to direct action and strike in the unequal battle between Capital and Labour.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram himself confessed that the measure only embodied the principles of Section 81-A of the hated Defence of India Rules. That the Government led by Pandit Nehru should find nothing more democratic and original than the perpetuation of a war-time, anti-working-class measure betokens a vitiated outlook towards labour and wanton disregard of working-class interests.

The Bill provides for compulsory conciliation in public utility services and optional conciliation in the case of other industrial establishments. It seeks to make strikes illegal in public utility services, including railway, tram, water-transport etc., and in any industry which may be declared to be a public utility by the Provincial and Central Governments.

Dictatorial Powers

The Government is thus armed with dictatorial powers to forbid strikes not only in public utility services proper, but in any industry, and to impose arbitration on the workers.

The arbitrator's award, whether it sanctions retrenchment, wage-cuts or refuses any just demand of the workers, is binding on the workers and they must accept it.

This is what the Labour Member calls an "authoritative attempt to regulate the relations between the employer and the workers." This is how the Congress regards the workers' right to strike, so loudly proclaimed in the election manifesto.

What does the Government offer in exchange for the prohibition of strikes? The illusory and farcical provision of compulsory arbitration. Will arbitration defend the rights of the workers? Will it give them a square deal and curb the profiteering greed of the employers? Not in the least. For the simple question is: on what principle, on the basis of which law is the arbitrator to arbitrate between Capital and Labour?

So long as the law of the land does not lay down that the worker is entitled to a living wage, that he is entitled to security of employment and right of employment, that he is entitled to Provident Fund, etc.—so long will the arbitrator, who is drawn from the same class as the employers, accept the criterion of profits—or, as the capitalists put it, "industry's capacity to pay"—and reject all fundamental demands of the workers.

Assurance To Capitalists

To impose compulsory arbitration on the workers is to assure the capitalist class that the workers will not be allowed to use the pressure of direct action, and they can do what they like with them. To impose such arbitration in the absence of any fundamental law protecting the workers, is to assure the capitalists that arbitration is only a formality through which they must go to impose worsening conditions on the workers. This is the international experience of all arbitrations where it is made compulsory, and the workers are deprived of the right to strike.

No one, and least of all the labour movement, demands that the State, and especially a democratic government should not intervene in industrial disputes and should not undertake legislation to minimise and settle them. But such intervention must protect the exploited against the exploiter; and must be a means to remove the evils of social inequality inherent in a system in which a small possessing class owns all the means of production, and imposes barbarous economic conditions on the workers.

Behind The Strike - Wave

There is no doubt that every section of the Indian working-class is today being drawn into the strike-battles and that big conflicts loom ahead if proper measures are not taken.

What is behind this unrest? The Imperialist exploitation of the war-period, the insatiable greed of the Indian capitalists, who have made colossal profits out of the sweat and toil of our people, and the rising cost of living which the Government is yet unable to control. The consequent deterioration in workers' standard of living, and the refusal of the greedy profiteers to let go even part of the huge profits to improve workers' conditions is leading to strikes.

Those who honestly want to legislate for industrial peace, those who are not out to crush the struggle of the exploited workers in the name of industrial peace, must, therefore, embark upon drastic legislation for protecting the minimum rights of workers, such as living wage, full compensation against the rise in the cost of living and the right to employment.

That will be a real democratic method of State intervention, tackling the root cause of strikes and minimising them. If disputes arise in spite of this, they can, with the consent of both parties, be referred to any agreed tribunal.

Rally Against The Bill

The new Bill is a menace to the Trade Union movement and the interests of the working-class. If the Bill is allowed to become law—an effective defence of working-class interests will become impossible. In the coming period, when the working-class will be faced with mass retrenchment, wage-cuts, etc., the provisions of the Bill will be utilised to put the label of illegality on every action of the working-class and crush it.

It is a measure which openly helps the capitalist class and must be fought by the entire Trade Union movement. All the Trade Unions must rally their members to protest against the new Bill and demand its withdrawal and its replacement by provisions guaranteeing living wage and other rights.

The Bill is a menace to the democratic movement of the Indian people. It shows the strength of the influence exercised by the vested interests over the Interim Government—an influence which must be fought, if the Congress is to be saved from disgrace and its strength not exploited to crush one section after another.

Indians cannot march to freedom and democracy unless the rights of every section are preserved and the vested interests are curbed. To allow the Bill to pass will be a triumph for the British Imperialists, who see in the developing working-class struggles one of their main enemies which they want to crush at all costs. Congressmen and Leaguers alike must demand of their leaders that they should drop the measure and introduce one which will give protection to the workers and not to the capitalists.

would be stopped with all the forces of the Government." ten people with leaving them to the tender mercies of the British police and military.

The Congress and League leaders after having entered the Interim Government are pulling their weight against riots, but which the Indian leadership, since they are yet pursuing the having accepted the imperialist same old policy of power pull-plan, finds itself.

WHITHER AUNG SAN?

A NEW drive against the Communists has begun in Burma. The Governor's popular Executive Council led by Aung San, instead of addressing itself vigorously to the task of fighting the people's enemies, profiteers, hoarders and corrupt bureaucrats, and thus supporting the people's rising struggles for food, land and freedom, has turned its attention towards fighting the Communists and smashing that upsurge.

The Defence of Burma Act has been withdrawn, but the Communists are being arrested under old imperialist laws. Warrants against Thakin Soe under the D. B. A. were cancelled after the legalisation of his party, but he himself was arrested with great show of force under the charge of having made a seditious speech as early as on May Day!

In the Pyawon district, the two foremost Communist kisan leaders were arrested last week. Warrants against four more kisan leaders are pending. In this district, there was such a serious food situation that last month famished peasants resorted to mass seizure of hoarded rice. No hoarders have been arrested, but the Communists who are the most popular kisan leaders are being put out of the way!

The working-class leaders who led the strike of the workers of the industrial belt of Rangoon, and who were arrested at the time, have not been released. Hundreds of worker-militants are locked out in spite of the assurances of non-victimisation given by the Executive Council. These workmen had struck for the very same demands as those for which the policemen and the civil administration employees had struck, viz., for an adequate cost of living allowance to neutralise the high prices of food and cloth. But these strikers are being victimised for being Communist-led!

Splitting Tactics Of Imperialists

The imperialists who are bent on re-establishing their political and economic domination over Burma, have been trying from the very beginning to drive a wedge between the Communists and the Nationalists inside the AFPFL. They know very well that it was the joint action of the Communist-led mass anti-Jap upsurge with the rising of the Burmese patriotic forces led by Aung San that had led to the dramatic collapse of the Jap Army in March-April of 1945 and paved the way for British re-occupation.

They also knew that if this united front which was crystallised in the All-Burma Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League, is allowed to remain and go strong—the day of the rising of all Burmans against British rule will not be far off.

That is just the reason why the British Army authorities re-entered Burma with the black-lists of Communists and fighting anti-imperialists in their pockets. They began the arrests and disarming of anti-imperialist militants even before the Japanese were fully expelled from Burma.

On the other hand they pressed upon the leaders of the AFPFL to include in their organisation old toady liberals. They would not allow the AFPFL to join the Government until they agreed to take in a sufficient number of old toadies.

As soon as Thakin Soe's group began leading militant kisan actions against landlords and hoarders and officials, the Governor banned Soe's party and the Red Cultivators' Union.

The Executive Council with the AFPFL as the major party, which the Governor was forced to form in the face of the mounting strike wave of the policemen and civil service employees, backed by the entire people, is itself a manoeuvre of the imperialists to use the prestige of the AFPFL as a cover from behind which to crush the rising people's upsurge, and to divide the National United Front.

Offensive Against Communists

That explains also why Governor Rance's police have arrested Soe and have launched an offensive against the Communist leaders of the workers' and peasants' movement.

Why have the imperialists dared to arrest Thakin Soe, an erstwhile comrade-in-arms of Aung San in the first round of Burma's freedom battle? Is it because Aung San now believes that a second and final round of Burma's freedom battle will not be required and that Burmese independence will come through peaceful negotiations with the British imperialists while the imperialists are allowed to decimate the mass upsurge of the people and disrupt the unity of the national movement?

In fact, the imperialists have cleverly timed their repression of the Communists to follow Aung San's political attacks against them.

For instance, the illegalisation of Soe's party, and the Red Cultivators' Union came on July 15 after Aung San had on June 7 condemned Soe for organising peasants to fight effectively against hoarders, corrupt officials and for organising militant demonstrations against suppression of civil liberties.

At present, the arrests of Soe and of the Communist workers' and peasants' leaders have followed in the wake of Aung San's repeated attacks on the Communists during the past month which have now culminated in the expulsion of the Communists from the League.

This in its turn will only further strengthen the imperialist attack upon the Communists and the workers' and peasants' movements.

Aung San has said that the Communists are digging their own grave and that thereby their policy is indirectly helping the imperialists. One has only to read the praise which Aung San and his anti-Communist drive is receiving in the reactionary imperialist papers (e.g. Times of India) to see whose policy aids the imperialists and who is digging the grave of the united national movement of Burma.

Building United National Front

The 'crime' of the Burmese Communists is that they have begun sharply exposing the compromising policy of the AFPFL leadership in accepting office in an Executive Council which has no real power, while it is saddled with responsibility for suppressing the freedom upsurge of the Burmese people.

Their 'crime' is that they are boldly leading the struggles of the peasants and of the rural poor for food and land, against landlords, profiteers and corrupt officials, that they are leading working-class struggles for a living wage and the right to organise.

Their 'crime' is that they are seeking to win the rank and file of the AFPFL and the People's Volunteer Organisation for the policy of organising and leading the present mass upsurge of the Burmese people towards the final assault on imperialism and for independence and democracy.

The Communist policy is neither to discredit the AFPFL and the People's Volunteer Organisation nor to split them. These organisations have become the focus and symbol of the fight of the Burmese people for independence.

The Communists will strive to draw these organisations into a joint revolutionary front for the final battle for land, bread and freedom.

The Communist Party will strive to do this by boldly leading the struggles of workers, peasants and the common people for food, land and living wage, by building the workers' and peasants' organisations and the Party, by ceaselessly exposing the compromising moves of the AFPFL leadership which only strengthen imperialism and by influencing the opinion of the Socialists, of the AFPFL and of the PVO for the policy of building the revolutionary joint front of all freedom-fighters for the final assault on imperialism.

Aung San and the AFPFL leadership are pursuing the suicidal policy of splitting the National Front of the Burmese people built and cemented in the glorious days of anti-Jap resistance by the common martyrdom of countless Burmese patriots and Communists. It will only suit the reactionary Burmese feudal capitalist vested interests to whom the working-

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

- Stalin Calls For United Germany
- Allies Back Reaction In West
- Communist Victory In Bulgaria

LAST week Stalin answered about "deported German Scientists and skilled workers." thirty-one questions submitted to him by Hugh Ballie, President of the United Press of America.

Key section of his answer was that which dealt with questions relating to Germany.

Today eighteen months after the destruction of the Hitlerite State, Germany has become divided into two basically differing sections—the Soviet-occupied zone in the East and the British, American and French zones in the West.

Advances In East

In the East, the major part of the key task of uprooting Nazi Fascism has been carried out.

Confiscation of the huge landed estates and their division among the peasants has smashed the power of the big landlord-militarists, traditional backbone of German imperialism in the First World War and Hitler Fascism in the Second World War.

At the same time the monopoly-industrialists who were the ruling-power in the Hitler-State have been deprived of their property and power; their banks, factories, mills—have all been nationalised.

Important school reforms, shattering the Nazi-dominated racialist and imperialist doctrines, are ensuring that democratic education of the youth is being carried through.

The result of all this was seen in the elections in the Soviet zone where the Socialist Unity Party which was the spearhead and driving-force behind these reforms, scored a resounding victory, polling over the entire zone just over 50 per cent of the votes.

Reaction Gains In West

In the three Western zones, however, none of these key tasks of the democratic reconstruction have been carried through; here the big industrialists yet own and control (under Allied supervision, of course!) their factories; no agrarian reform has yet been put through; today under pressure from the ordinary peasant—who has heard of the achievements in the Soviet zone, certain fake reform schemes are being drafted; in essence, however, the landlord-militarists still remain supreme in the countryside.

This has inevitably led to the resurgence of reaction in the West; in all the three zones, it is the Christian Democratic Union, heavily infiltrated by the underground Nazis, that came to the top in the elections.

And more than this open Fascists, Von Papen and Dr. Schacht, the two most prominent members of the old Nazi ruling gang yet alive, have been "earmarked for high-ranking posts which will profoundly influence the future of Germany.... Dr. Schacht in the American and Herr Von Papen in the British zones"—according to the London Sunday paper, The People. (Free Press, October 22).

At the same time from the West has been launched an increasingly more bitter and vilifying slander campaign against the Soviet; this reached its climax last week with the story

will make it possible for the Council of Foreign Ministers to draft a Peace Treaty for Germany.

*(2) Germany's political and economic unity should be re-established.

*(3) Germany must be allowed to reconstruct its industry and trade and become self-sufficient.

*(4) The guarantee of the emergence of a democratic Germany (which is "not sure for the time being") is the extirpation of the remnants of Fascism and its thorough democratisation.

New Phase Begins

By this, Stalin states the Soviet view that the time has come for the democratic achievements and strength in Eastern Germany to be used to fight back the reactionary Fascist growth in the West.

The further maintenance of division would mean giving a free hand to the Western reactionaries to build up German

by Mohan Kumaramangalam

officials) had no direct evidence that workers were being removed forcibly, but on the contrary, they signed contracts and were going voluntarily." (Roynolds News, October 27).

So also William Peters, Telegraph correspondent, cabled that "from talks with friends of those who went and with those who have registered for the next convoy, it is obvious that the majority knew they were going for months and had signed contracts... They were assured contracts in Russia of three to five years for salaries equal to Soviet workers."

Stalin's objective

This lying campaign was also aimed to cover up the actions of the British and Americans—who, according to the London Times (October 28) have "taken (my emphasis) for employment... a number of defence weapon specialists...."

"The British and American selections have always been made jointly," the paper virtually adds!

The London Daily Telegraph also as far back as September 1 told its readers that "ten of Germany's foremost V-1 and V-2 (rocket projectiles) experts are coming to Britain for secret work developing the guided projectiles."

This obviously lying campaign (which has been carried on in India also, principally by Reuters, and, of course, The Times of India) is clearly part of an organised attempt to confuse the German people, and to serve as a screen behind which an anti-democratic Fascist Germany can be built up in the Western zones.

And Stalin's answers to the U.P.A. questions are directed to blow up this plan.

In them Stalin states clearly: *(1) A central administration for Germany should be created, manned by Germans, but under the control of the Allies; this

Big Business (through men like Schacht and Von Papen) as their reactionary spearhead against the Soviet and the new Europe.

In contrast, breaking down the zonal barriers would bring the weak democratic movement of the West together with the vastly stronger East and thus open up a new phase in the struggle to extirpate the remnants of German Fascism, today concentrated in the West.

At the same time, it makes clear to the German people that the Soviet stands for a unified German State and German democratic progress (an aim that is dear to the heart of every German); it thus cuts the ground away from the feet of anti-Sovieteers who are trying to utilise this feeling for anti-Soviet purposes by pointing to the Soviet as anti-German, for continued division of Germany, etc.

Stalin's answers, therefore, mark an important development in Soviet policy towards Germany. They lay the basis for the next step in the struggle of the German people against Fascism and for the building of a unified peaceful democratic Germany.

Bulgarian Victory

THE elections to the Bulgarian Grand National Assembly have resulted in a decisive victory for the Fatherland Front Coalition, with the Communists as the strongest single party. The Fatherland Front won 364 seats with 2,983,756 votes; the opposition with 1,208,882 votes, won 101 seats.

These results show up the lying propaganda of the British and American news-agencies.

This propaganda concentrated not only on stating that the Front was in reality a minority, but that inside the Front itself, the Communists were in a minority, and therefore did not deserve certain key ministerial portfolios they had.

The elections, however, which allowed every voter not only to choose between the Fatherland Front and the opposition, but also between different parties in the Fatherland Front, have given the Communist Party a resounding victory.

In all they mark the consolidation of Bulgarian democracy and show that the Communists, far from grabbing an unjustified proportion of the Cabinet positions, have been very conservative in their demands.

class and peasant movements are an anathema. It will bring grit to the mill of the imperialists.

The Burmese Communists will be able to defeat this dangerous move only if they first of all close their ranks on the basis of a policy of uncompromising struggle against imperialism. They must not fall prey to provocation and commit the sectarian mistake of setting up a rival AFPFL.

On the other hand, they must concentrate on developing working-class and peasant struggles and organisations and above all the Party must be in the forefront of all anti-imperialist actions.

They will thus be able to make a bold bid for winning the entire AFPFL for a break with compromising policies and for a final revolutionary battle.

Aung San's offensive for disruption and compromise must be met by the Communist counter-offensive for building a united National Front based on the AFPFL for the revolutionary struggle for independence.

INDIAN STRUGGLE IN SOUTH AFRICA—A WORLD ISSUE

Testing Time For International Progressive Movement

(Dr. Yusuf Dadoo, who has written this article exclusively for People's Age, is the leading figure in the Passive Resistance campaign today going on in South Africa. A member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of South Africa, Dr. Dadoo has had a long career in fighting imperialism, having been in jail once before for daring to act according to his convictions. He is President of the Transvaal Indian Congress and Chairman of its Passive Resistance Council.—Editor).

WORLD attention is today focussed on the Union of South Africa. The Passive Resistance struggle of 250,000 Indians has captured the imagination of vast masses of people in this country and has aroused keen interest the world over. Although the campaign is only in its fifth month, it is already having wide repercussions on the whole social fabric of the country. No section of the population has escaped its effects. As far as the Indian community itself is concerned, the Passive Resistance movement has galvanised it into united action as nothing else has done since the great Satyagraha struggle led by Gandhiji between the years 1906-1914.

The latest figures available show that 920 passive resisters have served or are at the moment serving varying terms of imprisonment ranging between one month's and six months' hard labour. The total sentence has so far mounted to 94 years, eight months and two days.

Who Are The Resisters?

An analysis of the social composition of the resisters reveals some significant and interesting points.

In the FIRST place, the response from our Indian sisters has been above all expectation, and already over 133 women have served their time.

SECONDLY, it is noteworthy that all classes are participating in the struggle.

Of course, the workers are in the forefront and trade unionists are prominent in the leadership of the movement.

This fact has falsified the hopes of members of the Government and of the journalistic profession who were at pains to point out that, since the terms of the Ghetto Act applied only to those who had money to invest—and now all of a sudden there weren't so many—the workers would stand aloof and that the Passive Resistance campaign would fizzle out.

But these wishful thinkers were mistaken.

The passive resistance struggle is not just a fight for the right of the Indian moneyed class to invest and to buy and occupy wherever they like. It has developed into a national struggle of the Indian people as a whole, fighting for democratic rights and against all evils of colour oppression in this country.

Workers go to jail and make weekly collections for our funds on pay day, professions and businessmen court imprisonment, contribute generously and the women are inspiring us and are spurring us on.

This magnificent response of the community stands in glaring contrast to the role played by the Executive of the S. African Indian Congress (S.A.I.C.) ever since the inception of the struggle. That handful of individuals, representing none but themselves, have put up a despicable show and posterity will judge them accordingly.

These people are out of touch with the community and completely isolated. They did not want a struggle, no show-down with the Government; they wanted to continue their policy of compromise and cap-in-hand. They are not at all welcoming the stand taken by the India Government. They are embarrassed by it.

The fact that the S.A.I.C. Executive, themselves victims of the Fascist practices of the Smuts Government, saw fit to come to the rescue of its oppressors at a time when their internal and international difficulties were mounting, throws a revealing light on the mentality of these men who are prepared to sell the interests of the majority of the Indian people, the honour of their motherland and ultimately even their own economic and political rights.



Dr. Y. M. Dadoo

However, the answer has already been given by the people to this treachery of their former leaders. Throughout the country they have reiterated their firm determination to resist the Ghetto Act. Transvaal Indians routed on October 20 those elements who have stood aside from the struggle and who are nursing ideas of compromise. For the Congress elections on that date, the unity of all sections for this purpose was achieved. The strong steps taken by the India Government against the Union of S. Africa are having their full effect on the Government and the European people. The acute shortage of grain-bags, soap and oils and other commodities, formerly imported from India, is hitting them hard, and although it is not our wish to impose hardships on the European people we cannot, solely for that reason, relax our effort in forcing them to see reason and compelling them to withdraw their Herrenvolk (superior race) policy.

People's Determination

For any sufferings which the Europeans may have to undergo as a result of the trade embargo placed by India, they must blame the dastardly Fascist policy of the Union Government towards the Indian community.

Of course, the impossible could not be asked of the S. African disciples of the German Nazis. They are not susceptible to reason and logic. The Transvaal Congress of the Nationalist Party has called for strongest measures against the Indians: confiscation of property of passive resisters and their repatriation to India; economic boycott of Indian traders, etc.

But, and I can say this with satisfaction, this is not the only reaction forthcoming from the Europeans of this country. Liberal and democratic sections are aware that the path of the Union Government is leading towards internal conflict and international strife.

In the Transvaal and in Natal, Councils for Asiatic Rights and for Human Rights have been formed which are winning

out consistently and in particular to the European workers. The vast reservoir of cheap native labour represents a constant threat to the wages and living standards of the White worker and unless he is prepared to recognise the Black brother as a comrade-in-arms and to fight not against him, but with him against those who exploit both, his trade union rights and high wages will dissolve into thin air.

The effect of our struggle on the other sections of the non-Europeans could not be over-emphasised. Coloured and African passive resisters are serving their term in jail together with their Indian brothers. This is what an African said before being sentenced in Durban Court: "You may wonder why I, an African, appear as a passive

resister to protest against what is commonly known as the Indian Ghetto Act. My answer is that we appear here today to show our solidarity with an oppressed section of our population. Being discriminated against and oppressed ourselves we know what such racial legislation means.

"I congratulate the Indian people for having started this fight against oppression. I am confident that the day will soon dawn when all the non-European people will unite against the common injustice to people of colour in this country."

The S. African Indian question is on the agenda of the UNO Session. The S. African Government, realising what is in store for them at the bar of world opinion, is trying its hardest to convince the world that the treatment of its subject races is a domestic affair and the concern of nobody. To win support for this view-point, Smuts is canvassing the reactionaries of Europe and of the Labour Government.

But is racial discrimination, denial of elementary rights of citizenship, pass laws, colour bar and economic slavery, a domestic matter of the Union? Or is the attitude of the Smuts Government leading to friction between member States of UNO? Is it not a blatant contravention of the United Nations Charter whose preamble produced by Field Marshal Smuts himself says that the people of the United Nations are determined...



European support for our struggle.

Enlightened European opinion is beginning to realise that the time for sitting on the fence is over and the time for taking sides has come. Continued silence on their part will make them party to the brutal Fascist policy of the rulers of this country which ultimately must lead to the destruction of the democratic rights to the Europeans themselves.

Communist Stand

The only other alternative open to them, in order to protect and safeguard their rights and privileges, is to ally themselves actively with the struggle of the non-European peoples for the basic elementary rights of citizenship.

The non-European peoples, struggling for freedom, constitute the main bulwark against the inroads of Fascist policy and practice.

The Communist Party of South Africa has pointed this

resister to protest against what is commonly known as the Indian Ghetto Act. My answer is that we appear here today to show our solidarity with an oppressed section of our population. Being discriminated against and oppressed ourselves we know what such racial legislation means.

"I congratulate the Indian people for having started this fight against oppression. I am confident that the day will soon dawn when all the non-European people will unite against the common injustice to people of colour in this country."

Miners On Strike

A hundred thousand African mine-workers, illiterate and grossly exploited came out on strike, before bullets and bayonets forced them again underground.

The Anti-Pass Campaign, representative of eight million Africans, is preparing for a mass burning of the passes.

The active struggles of the Indians and Africans, interrelated as they are, are forging that unity of the non-European peoples of this country which is a promise of future victory over our common enemy.

by Dr. Y. M. Dadoo



Mr. H. A. Naidoo addressing a meeting to welcome the first batch of resisters released. Mr. Naidoo has gone to USA as a representative of the Passive Resistance Council to advise the Indian delegation to UNO.

W. PUNJAB TENANTS FIGHT LANDLORD EXACTIONS

New Battle Begins In Nilibar

By wire from Our Correspondent. November 1,

Backward, long-oppressed Western Punjab, held slave for centuries by the vicious landlord rulers of the Province, is stepping into the light.

One of the first big tenant struggles in recent years in the Punjab has begun in the Nilibar area—which stretches from Dipalpur in Montgomery District to Tehsil Lodhran in Multan District.

In this area, the landlords have a number of ways in which they exploit their tenants (muzharas), the most important of which are:

● The landlord marks out the best piece of land and declares that that is his own private self-titled (khud-kasht) land. That means the produce of this piece is not shared with the muzharas. But, of course, they are forced to work on it—without any payment whatsoever—as part of their feudal tribute to the lord.

● While dividing the crop, the landlord takes an extra four and a half seers for every maund on account of so-called 'expenses' (kharcha). This is an illegal exaction, but the muzharas have been forced to pay this for years.

● Begar (forced labour) is a common practice, of course. Against these and other methods of extortion, Nilibar's muzharas are on the war-path today, organised under the Red flag, in their own Kisan Sabha.

"Never Happened Before"

In the village of Gulzarpur, Seth Virumal owns fifteen hundred acres of land and has grabbed another thousand acres on tender from the Government. He keeps seventy-five choice

thing new in the faces of the kisans who were carrying Red flags. After mustering some strength, Virumal whined: "But this has never happened before."

This is true. All his life he has exploited the kisans, but this is the first time they asserted their rights.

Tikayaram shouted back at the landlord:

"Forget the past. This is today. This is what will happen now on."

Goondas Defied

In Burewal, one Ramlal owns 7,500 acres of land. Like other landlords, he extorts four and a half seers for every maund of the cotton produced as 'kharcha'. The kisans decided not to pay this illegal amount from their share. On October 16, Tikayaram with a hundred Kisan volunteers arrived at the village of Latkharaba, Chak 13.

The division of the crop was about to take place. Landlord Ramlal collected his hangers-on and goondas for the show down. Tikayaram called a meeting of the village kisans and prepared them to fight the goondas.

While the men were attending the meeting, the women came out of their homes and plucked the cotton from the fields. Very soon, the men joined them, and the crop was divided on the spot.

No kharcha was set apart for the landlord. The kisans took away their share leaving the landlord's legal share for him.

Police Helpless

Ramlal did not know what to do. On the 18th he sent for the police. But not one muzhara appeared before the police. The

Kisan Sabha had decided the whole affair for them, and they know no other decision today.

The kisans on this day also won their share of sugar. For two months the shop-keeper had refused to give them their quota.

The kisans surrounded his shop, brought out the sugar, distributed it themselves at control rates.

It was almost Kisan Raj for a day.

"Take Your Share"

In Chak No. 49, Pandit Durgadas and Malik Diwanchand are the landlords. The kisans agitated against kharcha and begar. Here also Wadhawaram, the muzhara leader, Rab Nawaz and Tikayaram, arrived with a hundred volunteers on October 17.

The crop was lying ready to be divided. The kisans sent a message to the landlords: "Come and have your share."

The landlords refused to accept the kisans' decision. But the kisans went ahead with their work.

Ultimately, the landlords 'ordered': "Send our share to our houses."

The kisans laughed and said: "Your share will be here. Take it away if you like. If you want us to carry it to your houses you will have to pay for our labour."

The next morning the landlords had to send for their own men to remove their share from the spot.

All over Nilibar, the muzharas are rising against their serfdom. The movement must and will spread to other landlord-ridden districts of the Province.

The Bookshelf

THE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR IN THE U.S.S.R. Volume Two.

THE GREAT PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION.

(OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 1917)

Edited by Stalin, Molotov, Voroshilov, Zhdanov, Kirov and Gorky. Published by the Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow, 1948. Size Demi-Octavo. 650 Pages. Profusely Illustrated. Leather-Bound. Price Rs. 3-12.

Some copies have just been received, with more expected shortly, of this magnificent book which deals with the events preceding and during those historic days. It is a record of the stubborn fight the Bolsheviks had to wage on two fronts for the victory of the Revolution—politically, against the compromisers inside the Party; militarily, against the rule of the capitalists.

The Chapter headings are: the Crisis Has Matured; The Organisation of the Assault; The Preparations for the Armed Insurrection in Petrograd; The Insurrection in Petrograd; The Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets; The Suppression of the Anti-Soviet Mutiny; The Proletarian Revolution in Moscow; The Proletarian Revolution at the Front; Organisation of the Government.

The October Revolution is a classical example of a victorious proletarian revolution and is full of the profoundest lessons for revolutionary fighters in every country. And here, in this book, is a vivid and absorbing account of everything that happened, was planned and fought for, in those stirring, eventful days.

THE REVOLUTION OF 1905.

By V. I. Lenin. As. 12.

This book contains several articles and a speech by Lenin, giving a comprehensive view of the Russian Revolution of 1905 which Lenin termed the 'dress rehearsal' of the October Revolution.

SELECTED WORKS OF LENIN:

Volume 4—The Years of Reaction and of the New Revival (1908—1914).

Rs. 4-14.

These writings give a masterful analysis of the problems facing the revolutionary working-class movement at the time; they are a call for action, as against renegacy and depression, and a guide of true revolutionary tactics combining underground work with the utilisation of legal facilities for furthering the interests of the class struggle of the proletariat.

MARKISM AND THE QUESTION OF NATIONALITIES.

By J. V. Stalin. As. 12.

Written in 1912-13, this gives the theoretical background of the Communist colonial policy which changed the Tsarist "prison-house of nations" to the free and mighty Union as Russia is today.

STATE AND REVOLUTION.

By V. I. Lenin. Rs. 1-4.

Lenin restates the Marxist doctrine on the state, and shows how, after they have assumed power, the workers have to set up their own state machine.

SELECTED WORKS OF LENIN

—VOLUME 6: From the Bourgeois Revolution to the Proletarian Revolution. 1917.

Rs. 1-4.

Lenin's writings of that epochal period during which the Bolsheviks, under the leadership of Lenin, led the Russian workers and peasants on the road to the October Revolution. The writings arranged in 5 parts, deal with: The February Revolution and its Prospects; Internal Party Questions; The Proletariat and the Party on the Road to October; The Peasantry and the Party on the Road to October; The October Revolution and its Significance.

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—V. M. KAUL

Around the World

The Veto Question Again

A BATTLE royal was waged inside the United Nations Organisation (UNO) held in San Francisco, more than a year ago, over the question of the "veto" when this principle of "Five Power Unanimity" for decisions on all matters (except procedural matters) in the Security Council was distorted as "Five Power Dictatorship."

The principle was ultimately accepted, but the impression was sought to be created that this 'undemocratic' provision was the result of Soviet obduracy as it militated against the interests of the small nations whose cause was now being championed by men like Churchill and Eden, who, in fact, have always trampled underfoot the rights of weak and helpless countries!

Cleverly the imperialists hid their intentions beneath honey-sweet talk of "rights of small nations", "democracy", etc.

These democratic catchwords and arguments—as Molotov described them—misled Indian public opinion also, which has, generally speaking, been suspicious of the veto.

In almost every session of UNO the veto question has come up in one form or another. But in the General Assembly of UNO now in session there is a more concerted and determined attack against it. This, of course, as we shall presently see, is not without a purpose.

But we should first examine anew what are the true implications of the veto and whether it really is such an "undemocratic" provision.

Satellite States

It is important to bear in mind that the member-States of UNO are not all fully independent or equally strong. Out of the 59 odd States constituting the Organisation, more than 30 are satellite States of Great Britain or the United States.

They are economically dependent on these two big capitalist countries and in some cases, e.g., Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, etc., even British troops defend the territories against their own people!

Thus, the world's biggest capitalist

State, the USA, and the world's biggest imperialist State, Great Britain, could together muster enough votes, were it a question merely of winning a simple majority, for any measure they wanted passed, however undemocratic and against the interests of the people it might be, and this they could achieve without themselves having to bear the odium for it by just remaining neutral and as good democrats, submitting to the decisions of the majority!

That is why they campaigned so doggedly—were, in fact, still campaigning—against this principle of unanimity for it deprives these Great Powers of the protective screen of their satellites and forces them to take the decisions openly and frankly before all.

Big Power Responsibility

UNO is essentially an instrument for the preservation of peace. And peace cannot be preserved, and war avoided, unless all those Powers capable of making war on a world-scale—i.e., the Great Powers as they are called—act in unity. For once this unity breaks, it automatically means war, whatever the other member-States (e.g., Iraq or Haiti or the Philippines) may have to say in the matter.

Further, as long as capitalism lasts, war as an instrument of foreign policy will remain—the big monopoly-capitalists in Great Britain and the USA will always be seeking for favourable opportunities to unleash the dogs of war to grab small countries, for dumping their goods, for investing capital, for getting cheap raw materials and labour.

Equally, they have not yet given up hope of destroying the land of vic-

tence with its successful planned economy is a call to the peoples of the world to overthrow the capitalist rule with its chaotic brutish economy.

But it is important to see that their evil designs can only be foiled by their own people—not by pious resolutions and protests; and the people will have a better chance of doing so if the monopoly-capitalists can be made to face their own and other peoples squarely and justify their actions before them; if they are not able to pursue their aggressive ends under the shield of majority decisions of UNO where their puppets can be made to dance to their tune like marionettes.

No Cover For Aggression

The Big Power unanimity principle thus prevents UNO from being used against the Soviet or against any free nation. For, the power of veto which Soviet enjoys will be employed by it to stop aggression under cover of the United Nations Organisation.

Therein lies the hope of small nations and not in the grandiloquent and hypocritical talk of imperialists.

It is significant that the barrage against the veto should have assumed such vehemence now.

The fact of the matter is that the resurrection of this controversy is an attempt on the part of England and the United States to draw a red herring across the trail of the General Assembly; it is an attempt to divert the attention of the people from the really important issues which have come up for discussion and settlement.

● There is the question of racialism against Indians in South Africa and the forthright advocacy of India's

cause by Soviet spokesmen.

It is interesting to note that all those who had raised such-a-hue-and-cry over the veto and had waxed so eloquent in its condemnation as an anti-democratic provision have all of a sudden become tongue-tied when a palpably unjust instance of flouting of all principles of "democracy" and "equity" and "equality" of nations has come up before UNO.

Again, there is the question of a Trusteeship (Cunfeti) for colonies. M. Molotov took a firm stand on this:

"Is not the prestige of our organisation being undermined by the fact that in nearly two years it has failed to create trusteeship. Not a single step has been taken along this path by countries which would not let go their firm hold on mandates of Palestine, Tanganyika, Togoland, New Guinea, etc., confining themselves to writing unsatisfactory drafts."

Not very pleasant for the colonial Powers, of course! No wonder, they fight shy of such matters coming in to the limelight.

● The Soviet Foreign Minister has also called for reduction in armaments and made four clear and unambiguous proposals in this regard.

Support To Soviet Stand

All these issues are so important and so clearly in the interests of world peace and progress, that this time at least, Indian papers like the Bombay Chronicle have not allowed their attention to be side-tracked from them and have supported the Soviet stand at UNO.

But there is no doubt that as the key issues (described above) come more and more into the foreground at UNO, the 'diversionary' attack on the 'veto' will also be stepped up by reaction.

Therefore, it is all the more important today that we in India should see clearly what is behind this campaign, recognise the true colour of the men and powers sponsoring it and refuse to be side-tracked and rushed into what is obviously the camp of the murderers of Indonesia and ravishers of Greece.