

KASHMIR STRUGGLE BETRAYED?

Why Maharaja Dared To Sentence Sheikh Abdulla

(SHEIKH ABDULLA has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment. As soon as the sentence was pronounced, he is reported to have been whisked away to the Jammu Jail.

Why did this happen? How have Kashmir's autocrats dared to sentence the leader of the greatest States peoples' movement our country has ever seen—a movement which has only GROWN with every day of repression? How did they dare to sentence the Sheikh AFTER the Nehru Government had taken office? These are the questions which must have risen in every patriot's mind, when he read the news of Sheikh Sahib's sentence. This inside story from Kashmir gives us the answers to these questions — EDITOR.)

WHEN Pandit Nehru was here in connection with Sheikh Abdulla's trial, he gave everybody he met the impression that the State authorities had assured him that Sheikh Sahib would be released.

It was with this assurance that he urged the leaders of the Kashmir National Conference to "call off" the movement and settle down to the business of preparing for the elections to the State Assembly under the twelve-year old constitution.

It was with this assurance, again, that Panditji sought hard to make Sheikh Abdulla "re-interpret" the slogan of "Quit Kashmir" in such a way as to make it synonymous with the now out-of-date formula of "Responsible Government under the aegis of the Maharaja."

Kashmiri Leaders Oppose

Panditji was, however, met by the firm opposition of the National Conference leaders and workers, who refused to participate in elections when their leaders and the vast majority of their best workers were in jail, when their movement was at its height.

"Elections at this time can only mean diverting the people from the struggle, elections are the escape which the Maharaja and his satellites have chosen for themselves"—this was how the National Conference leaders argued with Panditji.

But Panditji was adamant. After his return from Kashmir, he repeatedly sent messages, even orders, to the Kashmiri leaders:

"You MUST fight the elections, even if all your men are in jail. You MUST call off the entire movement. Stop

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your meetings and your posters." These were Panditji's orders. They grew stiffer from day to day.

Secret Pact Canard

The National Conference leaders wondered why Panditji was so insistent. And gradually the story evolved: Panditji has made a pact with the Maharaja. Everybody will be released. There will be a new constitution.

As soon as the officials got scent of this story, they saw in it an excellent opportunity to make the people complacent and idle. They spread it further. Anything to take the people off the path of struggle.

Gradually the rot set in. An Election Committee, whose ostensible job was merely to enrol voters, was formed. Of course, everybody said: "This does not mean we shall fight the election—it is only a precaution, just in case...."

But it was the thin end of the wedge. An "election mentality" was sought to be created. The story about the "pact" supposed to have been made by Panditji with the Maharaja began to take grip of some of the more radical leaders.

As soon as news came that Pandit Nehru was to lead the new Interim Government, a wave of excitement ran through Kashmir.

Now the whole might of India would be thrown on to the Kashmiri people. After all, the Maharaja's real power was derived from the

support he received from Delhi. Now that that was over, now that Delhi was in the hands of the Indian people, the Maharaja would collapse before the united might of the Interim Government and the Kashmiri freedom movement.

This was what the Kashmiri people thought.

There were many who listened eagerly to Pandit Nehru's broadcast. They strained to catch every single word. They expected Panditji to say something at least—a sentence even—about the Indian States, about Kashmir. He did nothing of the sort.

Kashmir's autocrats also listened in to Panditji's broadcast. His silence on the question of the States gave the line clear. New Delhi's Political Department (which is NOT controlled by the Interim Government, but is directly under the Viceroy), basing itself, presumably on inside information regarding the attitude of the new Government towards Kashmir, also cabled its instructions.

Sheikh Sahib was sentenced.

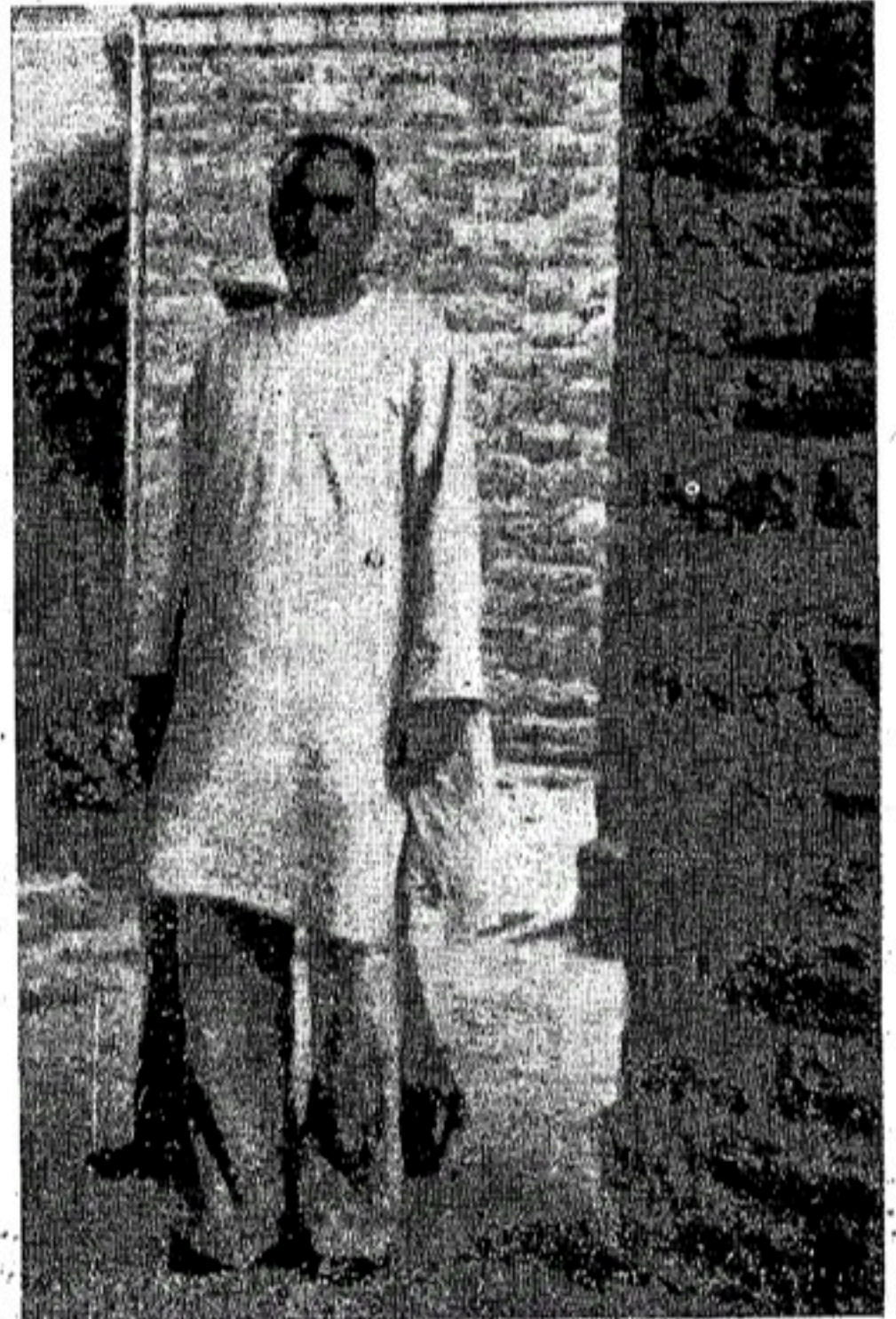
Disillusionment

It came as a shock to our people, for so many of us had believed that, with the Interim Government in power, Sheikh Sahib was bound to be released. We were sadly disillusioned.

Sheikh Sahib they dared to sentence, because they felt sure that Sheikh Sahib's greatest friends, who sit today in high offices in New Delhi, would not take any really effective step to throw the weight of India against Kashmir's autocrats.

But Kashmir is confident that the Indian people, who have thus far rallied so magnificently to her support, will not allow Kashmir to be betrayed. In that confidence, we continue the battle with a new determination.

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Sheikh Abdulla snapped inside jail.

KASHMIR'S UNDERGROUND LEADER SAFE 700 Soldiers Search In Vain

It was at 4 a.m. in the morning on September 1 that the whole mohalla of Batamalina in Srinagar was woken up, as seven hundred armed soldiers of the Dogra Army marched into the mohalla. They were headed by the Chief of Staff of the Kashmir Army, the Inspector General of Police, and the Senior Superintendent of Police.

ALL this armed might turned out in full force to arrest one man: GHULAM MOHIUDDIN, President of Kashmir's War Council. Information—"reliable" information—had reached the authorities that this legendary figure, who had continued to lead the Kashmiri movement all these months without being caught, was that night in his own house in Batamalina.

Fruitless Search

Rapidly they surrounded the house. They entered and ransacked the house from top to bottom. They questioned vigorously the women and the children in the house. There was not a trace of Ghulam Mohiuddin. They came out defeated, held consultations and rushed in again:

"He IS there, our information is absolutely reliable." Again they drew a blank. Again they searched. They filled the house with soldiers, they tapped on the walls, they searched all the houses round about. They could not find Ghulam Mohiuddin.

In the meanwhile round about, crowds began to gather. Slowly they swelled to ten thousand. The younger ones jeered at the soldiers. The older prayed that they would be unsuccessful.

Each time the soldiers came out, empty handed, there would be an exultant roar of delight. After seven hours' fruitless search, the soldiers got back into their lorries and drove away, accompanied by the derisive hooting of the people.

Each one of those ten thousand knew that Ghulam Mohiuddin WAS inside one of those houses at that time. But the police failed to find him. Many of them knew exactly where he was, and they held their breaths excitedly throughout those long seven hours.

It was a great victory. Mohiuddin is safe and will remain safe, protected by the love and the courage of the Kashmiri people.

STRUGGLE CONTINUES

THE Indian leaders, who plan compromise and surrender and live far away, keep on advising us to "end our struggle." But Kashmir has refused to accept this advice.

The Friday meetings in Khanqa-i-Maula continue as before in Srinagar. The last meeting was attended by over seventy thousand Kashmiris. Twelve Kashmiri heroes, who spoke on that day were arrested.

At the prayers in the Pathar Masjid on Id Day, lakhs pledged

ed themselves to continue the struggle, to keep alive the memory of the countless martyrs who had died in the fight.

From Mirpur and from many other districts of the State, news has been received of the formation of Village Committees to begin total non-cooperation at any moment decided upon by the Underground War Council.

The first action contemplated is mass non-cooperation with the corrupt and oppressive procurement system of the State which is so really a means of fleecing the peasantry and keeping the city poor at miserably low rations.

Kashmir's kisans are ready to refuse to surrender the fantastic levy of paddy which will be demanded of them next month. They only await the call of their leaders.

Fourteen miles from Srinagar, a bridge on the Rawalpindi-Srinagar main road has been destroyed. A collective fine of over Rs. 25,000 has been imposed on several villages in the neighbourhood of the bridge.

At Bandipore, on the banks of Woolar Lake, suddenly, the Divisional Forest Headquarters, symbol of corruption and extortion, was ablaze. The police and the military raced about in panic. A bridge was set on fire. More panic.

Indiscriminate arrests were made of twenty persons, including two well-known National Conference workers—Mukhtar Ahmed and Khwaja Mohammad Abdulla.

But the flames of revolt continue to spread.

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Where Blackmarketeers Flourish And Workers' Leaders Are Jailed

[We want all patriots to take a good look at the facts we are listing on this page. They are a glaring commentary on the Madras Congress Ministry, led by Sjt. Prakasam.]

Sjt. Prakasam has the police at his command. The White army is ever-willing to oblige. He and his Ministry have shown us the kind of stuff of which they are made in their brutal repression against the SIR strikers. They are a "powerful" lot of people.

But is their "power" only meant to crush the rising revolutionary struggle of the working-class, to defend the corrupt, White-controlled Railway Board?

The people of Madras, and in particular the Communists of Madras, have, during the Prakasam Ministry's tenure, caught red-handed the worst anti-social criminals, black-marketeters and profiteers. They have handed these guilty men over to the administration.

The Prakasam Ministry has done nothing to punish them for their murderous activities so far. They are continuing their business as before.

Why? People's Age calls upon Sjt. Prakasam to answer each one of the charges we are listing below. Why have each one of these criminals, handed over to you with incontrovertible evidence against them, been allowed to remain at large?

Sjt. Prakasam dares to fling against the SIR workers the accusation that they are helping to create famine by their strike. The working-class wants to know: When the real creators of famine—the black-marketeters and horders—are caught red-handed by the people, why do you not remember the famine-stricken, why do your police and your army suddenly become weak to act?

The Indian people must read carefully the facts given below. They are just a few out of many. The demand for the punishment of these criminals, for the detention in custody till the famine is over and their capacity for mischief at an end, must become the rallying cry of the common people.]

In Madras

● Three hundred bales of cloth had been allotted for export to Calcutta from Madras port through the S. S. Pandit which sailed on June 19. Before the ship actually sailed, information was received that it was loaded with twice the amount of cloth allotted.

Immediately, a group of Communist workers including S. Venkata Krishnan, P. Ramamurthi, P. Balachandra Menon and V. Venkataraman, personally brought it to the notice of the Textile authorities and Mr. Giri (Labour-Minister).

Timely action was, however, not taken by the authorities and the ship left the port.

Caught Red-handed--Yet Business As Usual

On Communist insistence the account books of Messrs. Murgappa and Sons, who had exported the cloth, were inspected and the Textile Commissioner admitted that it was most likely a case of black-marketing, and said that the licence issued to the firm for dealing in textile goods as well as its export quota would be cancelled.

The Textile Commissioner, however, apparently took no action in the matter because the firm is continuing to do its business as usual.

● The millionaire banker and trader, Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar, owns the South Indian Corporation. This Corporation has been exporting goods more than the quota allowed to it.

But the Textile Commissioner has allowed it to carry on its black-marketing operations even though necessary proof has been furnished to him in regard to them.

● On June 21, Communist workers reported to the authorities that the S. S. Quetta had been loaded with cloth more than the quota permitted. A search was made and with the help of Port Trust workers 15 bales of cloth worth Rs. 90,000 were seized.

The bales belonged to the G. M.B. Textile Co. of Madras and the permit was in the name of

a person who is dead. It authorised the export of 30 bales of cloth, 1,000 yards each, whereas the 15 bales on the ship contained 38,570 yards of cloth.

Here again, no action seems to have been taken against the firm.

● On the strength of a permit for 25 bales of cloth of 1,000 yards each the Umayal Weaving Establishment of Cannanore owned by Kodavallal Barrister, Alagappa Chettiar, was trying to despatch by rail, on June 27, 18 bales of cloth containing 63,200 yards.

The matter was brought to the notice of the Textile Commissioner, and the cloth was seized at the Central Station and opened in front of the owner.

This was not the first act of black-marketing on the part of Alagappa Chettiar. Two months before this, the local Communists had furnished documentary proof to show that he had been regularly exporting cloth over and above the quota allotted to him.

The authorities have, however, done nothing in the matter.

Permits For More Cloth Than Quota Allotted

● The Madura Sari Store had a quota, fixed by the Textile Commissioner, of 2,400 yards of textiles for export to Calcutta. But the Textile Department, for some mysterious reason, gave him a permit for 42,400 yards of cloth.

This cloth was loaded on the S. S. Pandit and the fact was duly brought to the notice of the authorities, who, however, took no action.

● Here is another instance of a permit being issued for greater quantity than the quota allotment. Mr. Kalayanam is a brother of the Textile Control Officer. A quota of 1,500 yards was fixed for him but the permit showed 15,000 yards!

In Coimbatore

● In June last, a lorry full of yarn was caught on its way from the Coimbatore Lotus Mill

to the black-market. This incident was reported in the Press also.

This mill is owned by Sjt. M. A. Chidambaram Chettiar, who is a relative of Raja Sir Annamalai Chettiar and brother of Sri Kumara Raja Sir Muthaiya Chettiar, M.L.A. (Madras) and a Congress Member of the Constituent Assembly!

In Madura

● Communist volunteers with the help of some motor and mill workers and handloom weavers caught a lorry full of yarn dispatched by the Madura Kodandaram Mill to Rajapalayam, without any "Tax" mark. No one has so far been punished for this act of black-marketing.

● Hamza Rautar and Kadar Rautar were selling yarn at Rs. 80 when the control price was Rs. 24-4, and on July 17, some of their hidden stock was unearthed. But they have escaped punishment.

● Another stock of 1,000 bales of hidden yarn was unearthed. It belonged to Sjt. N. M. R. Subbaraman, who is a Congress M.L.A., chief of the Harijan Sevak Sangh and claims to be a follower of Ramakrishna Paramahansa! Why are the authorities afraid to punish him?

Hoarded Rice Unearthed—But No Action

● Instances of hoarded rice have also been brought to the notice of authorities, but the culprits have gone scot free.

● Six thousand bags of hidden rice was unearthed in 13 vil-

Bezwada, September 9.
(The Madras Ministry refuses to take action against the black-marketeters. But it seems to act double-quick when it comes to throwing into jail leaders of the working-class. We want our readers to contrast the report given below of recent arrests of Communist and trade union workers in Bezwada, with the report given opposite of their shameful refusal to punish the black-marketeters — Editor.)

TODAY, the police made a big round-up of all Communist trade union leaders in Bezwada. The following were arrested:

V. V. Sastri, Advocate;
Tammina Potharaju, Secretary, City Communist Party;

Josyabhatla Satyanarayan, President, City Trade Union Council;

Malempati Bhaskara Rao, Secretary, City Trade Union Council;

Chinna Eliayya, Secretary, Municipal Workers' Union;

Vellanki Venkateshwar Rao, President, Engineering and Tannery Workers' Union;

Sobhanaori of the Youth League.

It is reported that warrants have been issued against:

C. V. K. Rao, President, Andhra Regional Committee of the All India Trade Union Congress;

lages near Madura and the information was sent with details of hidden places, etc., to the authorities by S. S. Mani of the Madura Town Communist Party, but nothing happened.

● A big quantity of hoarded rice was found in the house of M. K. Ramaswami Iyer, a director of the Madura Knitting Mill.

L. V. Ratnam, Secretary, Provincial Municipal and Local Boards Employees' Union;
T. Venkateswar Rao, Member of the City Committee of the Communist Party.

Strike Of Ten Thousand

Behind these arrests is the month-old municipal workers' strike involving 10,000 workers spread over 28 municipalities and panchayats in Andhra.

The strike was legal and peaceful. The demands were just and long-standing and the strikers won the support of several Municipal Councils. The Congress Ministers did not contest the justice of their demands.

Despite all this, arrests of strikers took place, lathi-charges were made, bans on meetings under Section 144 were imposed. But the workers stood firm.

Public Support

The public rallied to the workers' side and put pressure on the Ministry to settle with the strikers. This pressure resulted in an offer to the strikers of a 25% increase in wages and a paltry provision for Provident Fund.

This offer was totally unsatisfactory, fell far short of the workers' demands.

Yet the Central Strike Committee advised the workers to call off the strike on these terms, provided, of course, that there were the usual assurances expected in any strike, settlement of wages for the strike period, no victimisation, release of arrested strikers and withdrawal of all pending cases against strikers.

The Ministry refused to give any such assurances, thus provoking the continuation of the strike.

Citizens Intervene

The citizens of Bezwada now intervened and acted as "peace-makers". Negotiations began afresh and two hours before the arrests were made a settlement had actually been reached and an agreement signed.

By this agreement, the citizens agreed to collect funds and pay 15 days' wages to the strikers out of this fund, while the Municipality agreed to pay for the remaining 15 days, which were to be counted as "casual leave".

The authorities were a party to this settlement and yet they carried out their arrests on the plea that the arrested persons were instigating the workers to continue the strike.

If anything was provocation to continue the strike, it was the arrest of these working-class leaders.

But despite everything, the strikers stuck to their word and resumed work in the interest of the health and sanitation of the city.

The Prakasam Ministry's officers were not satisfied with merely arresting these leaders. They remanded them to custody till the 10th, though it was quite easy to bail them out.



Who's Quitting India?

RECENTLY I read a speech of Sardar Patel on the death anniversary of the great Tilak. From his speech it would appear that the British had packed all their bags and were only waiting for a ship to take them back to England.

But when I look around and see the practice of the Government I find an altogether different picture.

If Sardarji were to come to the U.P., for instance, (although it is the same everywhere) he would see for himself what is happening in the R.A.F. camps here. I am particularly referring to the biggest workshop for overhauling aero-engines in the U.P., probably in the whole of India.

At the very entrance of the workshop stand a couple of B.O.R.s with Stein guns which they never used to have in day time during all the years of war.

At least on Saturdays, the Whites come out of their workshop, of course, leaving behind their co-workers of the R.I.A.F., and march towards a place nearby. The officers give them lectures here on civil defence, some of which do not at all fit in with the so-called peaceful "Quit India" negotiations that are going on at present.

Not far from this place, some of the Whites are given target-practice with rifles, Stein and Lewis guns, etc.

I know it for a fact that they had never been so busy during the war.

They are so active now because they are panicky about the growing mass upsurge. They know well that

they cannot stay much longer in this country, but they are desperately trying to hold on to the old imperialist vow—"We hold what we have —by hook or by crook."

A RECENTLY RELEASED AIRMAN Benares, August 21.

Repression On Delhi Students

TWENTY-EIGHT Delhi students including six girls are being prosecuted for defying an order of the Chief Commissioner. Their only crime is that they participated in a 2,000-strong students' procession on August 9 taken out to observe the "Quit India Day" and to assert the elementary rights of civil liberties.

Despite the fact that the procession was entirely peaceful, it was severely lathi-charged several times and a number of students were arrested. All this happened under the regime of the hated "Careful" Government.

The really guilty persons who deserve punishment are the police officers responsible for lathi-charges and not the students.

Now that a new Government of popular leaders has been formed in Delhi, we demand that the case against the Delhi students be withdrawn immediately and unconditionally.

We earnestly hope that the Honourable Home Member will take the necessary steps in the matter.

SATYAPAL DANG,
General Secretary,
All India Students' Federation,
Bombay, 12-9-46.

12,000 SHEOGARH KISANS' MILITANT MEETING DESPITE BAN

Armed Police And Goondas Put To Flight

Allahabad, Sept. 8

On August 28, 12,000 kisans of Sheogarh in Rae Bareilly district (United Provinces) defied the ban imposed under Section 144 on the holding of any public meeting in the village of Dhikua Paharpur. Armed police stood there with lathis and rifles, fixed with bayonets, ready to charge on the mob if it acted against 'law and order'. The Raja's goondas, also armed with lathis, were there to help the police. But the kisans tore all imperialist laws and orders to pieces and the police dared not intervene.

THE Deputy Superintendent of Police asked them to disperse without holding a meeting. The kisans only laughed at him and held their meeting without taking any notice of him.

He then tried to arrest Munchi Kalika Prasad and Jitendra Tiwari, their leaders and main organisers of the meeting, but as soon as he approached the dals, the kisans stood up with their lathis to protect their leaders.

He had to give up the idea of arresting them in the meeting. Seeing their mood, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate present there thought it better to withdraw the police force from the meeting ground to another plot nearby.

When asked as to why he had retreated from the meeting place, he said it was better "to keep arms at a safe distance".

At Every Cost

The reality, however, was that his force was surrounded by lathi-armed kisans from all sides and if he had tried to create any trouble, his men would have found it very hot for them. The kisans had come prepared to hold their meeting at every cost.

Sheogarh is a small estate in Rae Bareilly district. The Raja Sahib is a Congress member of the Legislative Council (Upper Chamber) and friend of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, U.P. Home Minister.

But when Rafi Sahib assisted by Kalika Prasad and Jitendra Tiwari was leading the famous no-tax campaign of 1932 Raja Sahib was neither a Congress-

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man nor Rafi Sahib's friend.

At that time there was a reign of terror in his entire estate. His karindas aided by police dandas used to force the tenants to pay all sorts of legal and illegal dues and till now the people have not forgotten how these leaders fought against the Raja's tyranny.

But since then Rafi Sahib has become Minister for Police and has found new friends, and Kalika and Jitendra have found their way into the Communist Party through their experiences of struggles they have been leading right from those days.

Raja's Ways Unchanged

The Raja Sahib has also changed but he has changed his coat only and not his ways. Till a month ago his whip and dandas of his karindas were the real rulers in his estate. He had complete contempt for Rafi Sahib's Tenancy Act and his orders illegalising all nazaranas and ejections.

He would throw out any tenant from his land, even though he might have been tilling it for decades, and acquire it for his own use or for extorting nazarana from some other tenant by subtlety to him. And if any one dared to raise his voice against this lawlessness there was his private army to enforce his will.

Several instances of forced ejections and beatings can be cited.

Sometime ago a tenant of Dhikua village, one Babu Misra,

came to Bachhrawan Mandal Kisan Sabha office and complained that some fields, still in his name in Patwari papers, had been forcibly taken from him by the Raja's karindas.

After verifying the case Jitendra Tiwari took him to Rafi Sahib who was the Revenue Minister also at that time. Rafi Sahib told Babu Misra to occupy the fields and not let their possession pass to the Raja.

Local units of the Communist Party and the Kisan Sabha, however, thought it better to mobilise the support of the entire peasantry of the area for Babu and, therefore, decided to raise this question in a public meeting they were holding there to observe the anniversary of the 9th of August.

Brutal Assault

But on August 7, Jitendra Tiwari was severely assaulted by the Raja's goondas as he was going to Paharpur in connection with preparations for the meeting. He was abducted by them and kept in their custody till late in the night without water and food although Jitendra was ill those days.

Raja Sahib thought that it would terrorise the kisans and the matter would end there.

But he had miscalculated, because on the 9th, 6,000 kisans came to the meeting and expos-

ed his oppression and terrorism, condemned the cowardly attack on their leader, and decided to hold another meeting there on August 28.

The next day 150 men of the Raja's private army of goondas marched towards Paharpur shouting such slogans as: "We want Jitendra's blood"; "We want Kalika Prasad's blood"; "We will kill those who give shelter to them"; "We will raise Paharpur to ruins"; "We will loot the village"; "Long live the Raja and praja together!"

Goondas Turned Back

Immediately all Paharpur men and women—Hindus and Muslims—came out with lathis and warned the Raja's men not to enter their village or their blood will be spilt. They had not expected it but realising that the kisans were serious about their warning they turned round and went back.

Meanwhile, Section 144 was promulgated within the radius of some of these villages and all meetings and carrying of arms were prohibited. But this ban only applied to the kisans and not to the Raja's men.

The kisans, however, decided to defy the ban. They not only came forward to work for the success of the meeting, they also volunteered to see that the meeting was held without police interference

and that no leader of theirs was arrested.

On the 28th, jathas began marching to Paharpur from early morning. All through the ten-mile route from Bachhrawan to Paharpur could be seen groups of kisans, lathis on their shoulders, with Red flags and Tricolours shouting their slogans, going to the meeting.

After the meeting, no fewer than four thousand of them made a cordon round their leaders to protect them from the police and the Raja's goondas, and escorted them to some safe place six or seven miles away.

When the officials returned to the Raja's place, Lal Sahib of Jemrih, another Talugdar-Congress member of the Legislative Assembly, who was there all the time, shouted at them:

"You are incompetent people and have disgraced the Ministry of the Congress, the Raja Sahib, and myself by your cowardice. You should have arrested at least one of them and made some effort to disperse the crowd."

A New Kisan

But Lal Sahib probably did not know what the officials had seen with their own eyes. They had seen the new kisans of today who have no fear of the police, and whom neither bullets nor bayonets can stop from settling accounts with those who have held them in bondage so long.

News has just come that in one village after another of Rae Bareilly district, kisans are taking back the common pasture lands from which they had been kept away forcibly till now by the zamindars.



The Hon'ble Mr. Bhabha

WHEN in July the Viceroy announced the name of Sir N. P. Engineer as one of the fourteen members of the Interim Government planned by him, there was an outcry from Congress circles, and rightly. Engineer was a toady official. He had earned notoriety as the Prosecutor in the first INA case. He was NOT a representative of the Parsis.

One naturally expected that the Congress would insist on the Parsi member of the Council being a nationalist, representative of his community. A number of names automatically suggested themselves.

No one, however, could possibly think of Mr. C. H. Bhabha, for no one really knew of him—or of the "qualities" which entitled his choice by Pandit Nehru for his Cabinet.

Who is this Bhabha? He certainly does not represent the Parsi community. In fact, there is quite an uproar at his selection.

Is he then a patriot with a long record of inconspicuous service? Nothing of the sort.

Is he an "expert"? No.

Then why, in heaven's name, why? Everybody has been asking this question since his appointment.

I have not been able to get the full answer, but I have been sent the following interesting facts about Mr. Cowasji Bhabha:

● He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of two textile mills: the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills of Sholapur and the Apollo Mills of Bombay.

These two mills were notorious for their blackmarketing, and on May 26, 1944, the Textile Commissioner to the Government of India passed an order taking over the entire production of the two mills and directing that the goods manufactured by these mills would in future be distributed under the direct orders of the Textile Commissioner. (Bombay Chronicle, May 27, 1944).

There are many textile mill-owners who have an unsavoury reputation for profiteering and blackmarketing. But you have to be among the worst to get your mills taken over by the

all-too-obliging Textile Commissioner.

● Mr. Bhabha is a great admirer and a friend of Sardar Patel's. His company, at his instance, is reported to have contributed Rs. 20,000 to the Fund to build a hall in honour of the Sardar.

Apart from that, Mr. Bhabha, as one of the Directors and a big shareholder of the Mutual Life Assurance Company Ltd., is also said to have been instrumental in securing recently a specially big rise for one of its employees—Mr. Dayabhai Patel, son of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Dayabhai has been appointed Provincial Organiser of the Company's agencies, a lucrative job carrying as much as Rs. 3,000 a month as salary and another Rs. 2,000 in the way of allowances.

This is all I have been able to find out about Mr. Bhabha so far, not exactly qualifications for membership of a Government pledged to look after the forgotten man.

War Member

IF you notice that the Viceroy, in his broadcast of August 27, referred to the Member in charge of the Army, as a War Member? So we have an Indian War Member—wonderful progress this! But war against whom?

A friend of mine, a Principal of an important college in Bengal, has sent me an interesting story which throws some light on this "war" business. He was travelling early this month from Bombay to Calcutta. A fellow passenger was a young British officer, who had landed in Bombay on August 29, a new recruit for the Army. My friend was surprised. He asked:

"I heard that British soldiers in India were being demobilised. What brings you to India at a time when we are on the brink of freedom and you are about to quit?"

"Nonsense," replied the young officer. "Demobilisation of British soldiers in India was slowed down long ago. It is Indian soldiers whom we are demobilising fast."

My friend writes that this officer was going to join what he called a guerilla regiment stationed near Cal-

cutta, which was specially trained to maintain "peace" in India, and keep down the Indians from "revolting."

War against the Indian people—that is what this business seems to be, and that is what Sardar Baldev Singh appears to have been made the "Member" for. It is his duty to tell the Indian people:

● Are more British troops coming into India? Why?

● What is the size of the present British force in India? Why is it immensely bigger than the pre-war British army in India, if we have taken a step towards freedom?

The War Member had better find this out from the Commander-in-Chief, first thing. He may as well know what the "War" he is supposed to direct is all about.

Politics

ON September 9, in the Madras Legislative Assembly, a Congress MLA asked Premier Prakasam a question about the dismissal of a policeman for the "crime" of garlanding a portrait of Subhas Chandra Bose.

Sjt. Prakasam replied that "the rule that public servants should not participate in political activities held good now and it would hold good in the future as well."

He refused to give any assurance regarding the question whether, in view of the agitation of the public, he would reinstate the policeman who had been dismissed (according to the Premier) under orders of the previous Section 93 Government.

It is a strange spectacle, this. Our hearts should burst with pride when we hear of Government servants, and more especially the army and the police of imperialism changing sides and coming over to the National Congress.

But not so Sjt. Prakasam. He must uphold the rules and laws of imperialism, meant so far to crush the national movement.

If Sjt. Prakasam's logic is to be followed, all those army and air-force men who have garlanded Pandit Nehru and other national leaders all over the country should be dismissed immediately by the new War Member!

—ROMESH CHANDRA

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REPRESSION FAILS TO BREAK S. I. R. STRIKE

Workers Demand on Interim Govt: Create Proper Atmosphere For Direct Negotiations

Madras, September 16.

The reports appearing in the Press for the last four days that the SIR strike is virtually over, that the Union may withdraw it within 24 hours, is all deliberately cooked up propaganda. In spite of all the terror used to coerce railway workers in different centres to come back to work, in spite of the fact that the entire branch Union leadership throughout the line has been arrested, the strike is still continuing firmly.

This can be seen from the fact that the much boosted passenger trains which the administration is running today cover not more than 20 per cent of the normal passenger train mileage on the line. Another proof is the fact that the administration came out with a communique just two days ago that they did not propose to increase the number of goods trains now being run.

ALTHOUGH Mr. Asaf Ali in his statement calling for the withdrawal of the strike promised sympathetic consideration of the legitimate grievances of the workers, the Railway Board and Prakasam Ministry are taking up an attitude which reduces Mr. Asaf Ali's promise to a scrap of paper.

No Step Forward

Even after fullest negotiations between Guruswami, General Secretary of AIRF, and Mr. Prakasam, Premier of Madras, the latter at the instigation of the Railway Board and the Inspector General of Police, Madras, has refused to take a single step necessary for an amicable

settlement. The Union buildings at Golden Rock are still in the hands of the police. The entire property of the Union at Golden Rock has been destroyed by the police. All members of the Strike Committee and Branch Union officers are in jail or have warrants against them.

The only thing which Mr. Prakasam has consented to do is to offer to allow two of the arrested Strike Committee members, Anandan Nambiar and Ismail Khan, to be out on parole during day time and that under humiliating conditions. This is nothing but holding a loaded pistol at the Strike Committee and offering a handful of them the humiliating choice of meeting in the day time and

calling off the strike. If they do not do so, the whole lot can be thrown back into the jail.

Mr. Prakasam, at the instigation of Reynolds, refused every other democratic condition necessary for a just settlement. Over one thousand and five hundred of the Union and working-class leaders are in jail. Those who are not, have warrants of arrests against them. In the meantime, repression against strikers has been going on in full swing all over the line.

In Vikramasinghpuram a leading textile centre, 6,000 out of 6,800 workers went on a sympathetic strike at the call of the Red Flag Union on August 31 in support of the SIR workers. The Prakasam Ministry has come down on them and arrested 53 working-class and Communist leaders of the centre, including all the 42 leaders of the Textile Union.

Those arrested in that district include Pappakkulam Chokkalingam Pillai and Sindupundural Shanmugam Pillai, two of the leading Congressmen of Tinnevely.

Rly. Board's Tactics

The tactics of the Railway Board is to use Mr. Asaf Ali's statement to force the Union to surrender unconditionally to them, while not withholding even for an hour the hand of repression which has been so acute during the last three weeks.

The General Manager of the SIR, Reynolds, told Guruswami when he met him recently that he was only following the Railway Board's instructions, that the Board would not do anything in the matter, and that was for the workers to resume work and withdraw the strike.

In a statement, issued on September 15, Kalyanasundaram, President of SIR Labour Union says:

"Mr. Asaf Ali and the Con-

MOUNTING SUPPORT FOR SIR STRIKERS

"The SIR strike still continues. Every railwayman is indignant at the ruthless repression on SIR strikers. I appeal to all railwaymen of the NWR to observe September 18 as SIR DAY. Hold mass meetings and demonstrations on that day and collect funds for the SIR.

"I also appeal to other Railway Unions in India to observe the day along with the NWR. Let the administration see the solidarity of millions of the railwaymen in India with SIR strikers who are fighting for a just cause."—Mirza Mohammad Ibrahim, Vice-President of the A.I.R.F. and President of the North Western Railway Workers' Union.

One Day Strike

The workers of the GIP Railway, Itarsi, went on a one-day protest strike in support of the SIR workers. The meeting in the evening unanimously pledged all support to the workers and called upon the Madras Provincial and Central Governments to intervene at once.

"This meeting condemns the brutal repression launched against SIR strikers and declares that the Lahore railway workers will stand solidly behind their SIR comrades in their battle against a common enemy for a common aim."—Resolution passed at a meeting of delegates of the Lahore Branch of the NWR workers' Union, September 8.

"This meeting protests against the police firing and repressive measures used against the SIR strikers. The struggle of the SIR workers is the struggle of the ten lakh railway workers all over India. They are the vanguard of our struggle against the Railway Board, and they must not be alone."—Resolution passed by 8,000 workers rallied at a protest meeting in Lahore, September 11.

Textile Workers

"This meeting deplors the arrests and repression on the SIR workers under a Congress Ministry. The strikes of workers, clerks and others all over the country are an inseparable part of the broad fight

against foreign imperialism. Breaking the present SIR strike will only result in strengthening the British stranglehold in the country."—Resolution passed at a meeting of 4,000 Cawnpore Mill Textile Mill workers, themselves on strike since August 22.

U.P. Electric Workers

"This Conference strongly condemns the attitude of the S.I. Railway administration. It extends its whole-hearted support to the strikers of the SIR in its fight against the diabolical game of the Railway Administration.... They (SIR strikers) are fighting a cause common to all the workers in India and against a common enemy."—Resolution passed at a Conference of U.P. Electric workers at Allahabad on September 8. The Conference resolved to collect donation for SIR Strike Fund.

At Ahmedabad

"This meeting condemns the firing on peaceful and legal strike at Amalner and Golden Rock, SIR, and pays its homage to the martyrs. "That such atrocities took place under the Congress Ministries' regime is a grave danger to our national movement."—Resolution passed at a joint meeting of Gujarat Regional TUC; the Communist Party; the Mill Kamdar Union (Textile); and BBCE Railwaymen's Union, Ahmedabad, on September 8.

Strike Fund

Lahore, September 13. As a token of their solidarity, the workers of the North Western Railway have sent the first contribution of Rs. 500 to the SIR strikers. Not one worker on the NWR has been taken in by the bogus reports that the strike is fizzling out, which are issued daily by General Manager Reynolds. In the firm conviction that the strikers will be able to hold out, this contribution has been telegraphed to Madras.

Ahmedabad workers at a rally on September 8, collected on the spot Rs. 200 and sent it to the SIR strikers.

gress Ministry should see to it that the Union buildings and property are restored, that all members of the Strike Committee and Branch Union officials are released unconditionally and facilities offered for direct negotiations with the Railway Board so that a just settlement can be effected and workers not left once again to the tender mercies of the Railway Board, Reynolds and Harrison.

"The workers have the right to expect this of the Congress Government at the Centre. What is needed is that assurances should be specific and concrete in the interest of workers and the public. I am prepared to meet Asaf Ali on behalf of the workers on strike

and help towards a proper settlement." All the negotiations carried on by Guruswami with the Congress Premier have failed to produce any effect except the day-time parole under humiliating conditions granted to Nambiar and Ismail Khan.

The strikers justly feel that if Mr. Asaf Ali's promise is going to be carried out in a proper spirit, the least that must be done immediately is to stop repression, restore Union buildings and property, release all Strike Committee members and Branch Union officials, who have been arrested, and withdraw warrants against them, and thus to offer facilities for direct negotiations between the Strike Committee and Mr. Asaf Ali.

On The S. I. R.

MASS ARRESTS OF WORKERS AND TERRORISATION

In hardly three weeks of the S.I.R. strike, the Prakasam Ministry in Madras has created a record in repression by arresting over 1,500 workers, including 30 women and even 10 children. Even those who only sympathised with the strike are behind the bars. Countless more have arrest-warrants issued against them.

SPECIAL police for repression, biggest rumour was that Kalyanasundaram and other leaders, either in special courts for 'swift' justice, curfew at Golden Rock, Section 144 at most other centres, orders against workers' leaders prohibiting them from entering workers' colonies or station areas—all this has been done by Prakasam for the White General Manager Reynolds.

And yet this could not force the Golden Rock workers in to work on September 4, the 'final' date of admission into the workshop, announced pompously by Reynolds.

The only lesson Prakasam and Reynolds learnt from this was that the repression used till then was not enough. Immediately orders went forth. The Malabar Special Police was put on the job. Congress 'Labour Leaders' lent their services. And then, Reynolds extended the 'final' date to September 12.

Nazi Terror

The M.S.P. started the new round of repression by leading lorries with blacklegs and taking them to the workers' quarters. A worker would be called out and ordered to resume work. If he refused, as he did in almost every case, the M.S.P. would beat him up in the presence of his wife and children. But even this failed.

This Nazi terror was kept up day after day. An additional police force, additional M.S.P., were requisitioned. Blacklegs not only sat in the lorries. They pointed out every militant. Immediately the police would pounce upon him and beat him up severely.

The workers were then threatened with summary ejection, if they did not join on duty on the 12th. Rumours were spread, particularly after the whole area had been thoroughly combed out for leaders. The

workers to go back on the 12th, as the other workers on the railways and elsewhere had betrayed the S.I.R. strikers by refusing to go on sympathetic strikes.

Another method of breaking the morale was to send a Catholic priest to Christian workers to tell them that they would not be allowed to go to church if they did not report on duty on the 12th.

Militants Thrashed

The Congress controlled S.I.R. Workers' Union and the Employees' Association contributed their quota. Clad in spotless khadi, wearing tricolour badges, they moved in police lorries under local leaders like Kannan to point out the houses of the militants. If any militant happened to be out, he would be thrown into the lorry and thrashed soundly.

So intense was the terror that some of the workers who were wounded in the firing on the 5th said they would rather die than get admitted into hospital.

The campaign reached its climax when the administration and the police used Prakasam's statements in their defence, and Harrison, the hated D.S.P., proudly paraded the streets, saying that the Congress Ministry's action had only enhanced the prestige of the police.

With these weapons, the Ministry has helped the administration to beat back more of the workers into the Golden Rock workshops. But yet there are the 1,500, the unbending 1,500, whom even this terror has not cowed down and who would rather give up their jobs than go in without the call from their beloved leaders.

SADISTIC POLICE BRUTALITY

Firing On S.I.R. Strikers At Golden Rock

AN EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT

(Below is the eye-witness account by a labour organiser of the police firing at Golden Rock on the S.I.R. strikers on September 5.)

THE reign of terror by the hated Malabar Special Police, specially drafted to Golden Rock to crush the SIR strike, was intensified from September 1. Till the 4th, over 300 were arrested.

The families of workers on strike felt it dangerous to live in the workers' colony because of the brutal intimidation of the police right inside their houses. Over 50 of these families had camped in the Union building confident that it was the only safe place for them.

On the 8th, about 9 a.m., the President of the Branch Union, Ismail Khan, was arrested while on his way to the Union grounds. A meeting of Strike Committee was going on in the Union premises and a crowd of 500 workers had gathered in the Union grounds eager to get news of their heroic struggle all over the line.

Forced Declarations

The police had begun a systematic campaign of collaring the workers, taking them to the police station, and asking them to sign a declaration form issued by the General Manager Reynolds, agreeing to go back to work.

The General Manager had issued an ultimatum to the workers at the Golden Rock workshop to go back to work on September 4 or face dismissal. Workers were being coerced to sign

an agreement submitting to this ultimatum.

When this matter was being discussed, the news of the arrest of Ismail Khan came. The workers marched out of the Union grounds, faced the police and showed that Hindu and Muslim workers would stand together against police terror.

As the workers were coming out, at a distance of 100 yards from the Union gate, police from two lorries began to attack them. They beat the workers but the workers fought back heroically.

Reinforcements

All of a sudden, the police opened fire from the police station, which was another 100 yards away. Two other lorries full of the hated M.S.P. rushed to reinforce the police force fighting the workers. The workers seeing this retreated into the Union grounds. They barricaded themselves behind the Union gate.

Another set of lorries full of police arrived on the scene making a total force of nine lorry loads of police. They surrounded the entire Union grounds.

Having besieged the Union office, the police began attacking. They opened fire at the main gate on the workers who stood there heroically. Seven workers who were defending the gate got bullet wounds. Two of

them died on the spot and a third later. One of them was the leader of the volunteer corps of the Union. For about fifteen minutes the police fired in the air and on the workers at the gate.

The police now rushed with their rifles and lathis. Forcing open the gate, they began beating the crowd inside mercilessly. Men, women, and children who had sought refuge inside the Union ground were beaten up indiscriminately.

The members of the Strike Committee who were in session were dragged out and beaten. Anandan Nambiar, General Secretary of the S.I.R. Labour Union, rushed out and stood in the forefront.

Harrison, the D.S.P., egged the police to surround him, had him mercilessly beaten and taken into custody. Bhanu, the Union Office Secretary, suffering from dysentery for the last 20 days and still heroically carrying on his work, was also savagely beaten and taken into custody.

Nambiar is an indoor patient in the local hospital along with over 140 others, and his condition is causing anxiety.

Vandalism

Bhanu's arm is said to be fractured. They were beaten till they became unconscious.

The sadistic cruelty of this murderous official and his brute force of special police now showed itself. (Continued on page 8.)

SIR WORKERS GLORIOUS FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

THE strike of the 40,000 workers of the South Indian Railway will always rank as a great chapter in the history of the struggles of the Indian toiling people for life, freedom and democracy against imperialist exploitation.

Being one of the best organised sections of the Indian railway workers, the South Indian Railway workers had, under the leadership of their Red Flag Union, learned to resist the oppression of the autocratic White railway management. That is just the reason why the management opened a vicious offensive against the Union and its militant workers soon after the decision to postpone the all-India railway strike was taken by the A.I.R.F.

The S.I.R. administration, determined to smash the Union, made new rules by which it could dismiss workers without inquiry, demote them and arbitrarily transfer menial staff to distant places. By a stroke of the pen the hard-won rights of workers were cancelled and a weapon forged for victimising and dismissing Union officials and active workers.

Against this provocative attack upon the elementary right of the workers to organise, the Union proceeded constitutionally though with determination. They negotiated for months. They gave strike notice and 20 days' time for the S.I.R. administration and the Railway Board to right its wrongs.

When the strike started on August 25, the "Caretakers" were in office in New Delhi and a Congress Ministry headed by Sjt. Prakasam was in office in Madras. It was the duty of the Government of India to appoint an adjudicator to go into the grievances of the workers and it had the powers to do so.

Sjt. Prakasam stated in the Madras Assembly on Sept. 10 that he had asked the Government of India to appoint an arbitrator or conciliator in the S.I.R. dispute to avoid the strike. The White "Caretakers", as the watch-dogs of the British monopolist vested interests in the Indian railways, naturally refused to do anything of the sort.

What does the Prakasam Ministry do thereafter? Instead of taking up cudgels on behalf of the toiling men whose votes had put it into office, the Ministry begins ruthlessly cudgelling the workers in order to restore Mr. Reynolds' law and order over the heads of the 'erring' railway strikers!

War Against The Workers

Prakasam's Ministry has created a record of brutal repression which would gladden the heart of every bloodstained White imperialist, but which must make every honest patriot hang his head in shame.

In the very first week, its police broke limbs of 200 workers and arrested 160. In the second week, it let loose 1,000 men of the notorious Madras Special Police (MSP) against the citadel of South Indian Railway workers, the Golden Rock workshop colony, where 2,000 workers' families live and where the Head Office of the Red Flag Union is housed.

On September 4, these MSP hooligans—hundreds of them—run riot in the workers' colony, enter their houses, beat the women in a desperate effort to terrorise the workers into resuming work. For, Reynolds, the railway boss, had decreed that the workshop must open on September 4, but the plan failed because of workers' determined resistance.

Incensed by this, the police staged a regular war against the workers' colony the next day. They shot down four workers' leaders, wounded 100 and arrested 400 workers including women. They smashed the Union's library and occupied the office. They threw a police cordon round the colony so that not a word about the brutalities perpetrated by the police against the workers should leak out.

In Vikramasinghpuram, where 6,000 textile workers went on a sympathetic strike in support of the S.I.R. workers, the Prakasam Ministry arrested all the 53 working-class and Communist leaders of the place.

In all, 1,000 strikers have been arrested by the police in their desperate effort to crush the spirit of the strikers.

Mr. Prakasam did not say a word against these police atrocities. On the contrary, he charged the workers with staging a wanton strike to break the Ministry, and justified firing, lathi-charges and arrests under the shameless plea of 'law and order' and of self-defence of the police!

On the very day (September 2) that the Congress Interim Government came into office, it was appealed to by the General Secretary of the Union asking for immediate intervention. The Member in charge of Railways, Mr. Asaf Ali, replied only on the 8th.

"Withdraw the strike, go on bended knees to the S.I.R. boss. He will CONSIDER your reasonable demands"—was the insolent reply which would do credit to any servile agent of the White railway bosses.

He turned a blind eye towards the ghastly repression which was being staged by the police chief Harrison and by the railway boss, Reynolds, with the blessings of Sjt. Prakasam.

He refused to see Kalyanasundaram, the General Secretary of the Union, who wanted to place the facts before the Railway Member and explore avenues for settlement.

Disastrous Policy Of Congress Leadership

Maulana Azad, as President of the Congress, had given the assurance to the railway workers in July last, when they decided to postpone the all-India railway strike, that the Congress when it took office at the Centre, would redress their grievances.

Mr. Asaf Ali was 'fulfilling' that promise not by affording protection to workers, but to their murderers and their abettors.

Such is the face of the dawn of freedom that is supposed to have come with the formation of the Interim Government by the Congress under the Imperialist Plan.

Congress Ministers, both at the Centre and in the Provinces, instead of championing the cause of the workers against the attacks of the imperialist Railway Board, are coming forward as the protectors of the latter and are conducting a war against the workers in the name of 'law and order'.

Let all honest Congressmen and Socialists, who want to remain true to the traditions of uncompromising struggle against imperialism, realise what a dangerous situation this disastrous policy of the Congress leadership creates for our freedom movement.

Every time they seek to suppress the mass struggle of the workers and peasants, for livelihood, land and democracy, by damning it as a Communist conspiracy against their Ministries, they would be striking at the forces of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal struggle and playing the game of the enemies of people's freedom.

The heroic and self-sacrificing struggle of the South Indian Railway workers, who have refused to knuckle under dire repression, is a blow to the compromisers and an inspiration to all fighters for freedom. Let every Congressman and Socialist accord his fullest support to the just fight and not be led away by those who merely damn it as mischief against the popular Ministry.

Let every railway worker, every industrial worker, throughout India pledge his fullest support and solidarity with the S.I.R. strike.

All honour to the S.I.R. strikers who have carried on a glorious fight against heavy odds. It is by passing through such bitter struggles that the working-class vanguard will have to be steered before it becomes capable of leading the final revolutionary struggle of our people for power.

U.P. Ministry Plans All-Out Repression

Behind Premier Pant's Visit To Pt. Nehru

The country-wide strike-wave is sweeping through the U.P. too. The bosses refuse to increase the wages despite increase in prices and the workers are following the examples of their fighting brothers in other parts.

The U.P. zamindars are ejecting the tenants on a very large scale. Their game is twofold: eject the existing tenants now and get fat *nazaranas* for leasing out land anew, and when abolition of landlordism comes, press for a fat compensation from the Congress Ministry. As the peasants are saying, *the zamindars' aim is to get compensation twice over!* The kisan is naturally resisting the zamindars' offensive for his offensive very existence.

ON September 8, a full meeting was held. The Chief Secretary of the U.P. Cabinet was present as the Governor's representative. The agenda was the growing labour and kisan unrest in the Province. The meeting decided to recommend to the Central Government the illegalisation of the Communist Party, and, in the meanwhile, took the following decisions:

Illegalisation Of Communist Party

(1) To ban mass organisations like Trade Unions and Kisan Sabhas in places of acute unrest. The names of the famous Cawnpore Mazdur Sabha and the Kisan Sabhas of Rae Bareilly, Basti, and perhaps Aligarh, were discussed.

(2) A general round-up of Communist, kisan and labour leaders, in places where the local bureaucrats had reported "trouble expected," was decided upon.

On the 11th, Pantji flew to Delhi to meet Pandit Nehru. It is understood that Pandit Nehru told Premier Pant that he could do what he thought necessary in the U.P., but that, at the moment, it was not thought necessary for the Central Government to take any all-India action.

Quite a lot of inspired Press-tales may be put out about the Communists being "trouble-makers" and the Congress Ministry being "forced to take action." Don't believe any one of them.

Pantji Going Into Arms Of Profiteers

The following incidents that took place between the Cabinet meeting and Pantji's departure to New Delhi should tell you, first, that Pantji is rapidly going into the arms of profiteers; secondly, that full powers are being handed over to the local bureaucrats and police officers; and thirdly, that the new offensive is directed not only against the Communists, but also militant Congressmen.

On the 10th was Pantji's birthday. It was not observed either as a quiet home-party or celebrated under Congress auspices, but a grand 'at home' was arranged for the occasion by the profiteers under the leadership of the notorious blackmarketers, K.-N. Halwasiya and Pohnkarmall (both once prosecuted) and the Hallet-made Raja Ramkumar Bhargava.

The Lucknow Municipal strike was on and it was felt that if the workers demonstrated that day it would mar its graciousness. A hurried consultation among the Ministers' presentation was held and the District Magistrate, Lane, and Deputy Superintendent of Police, Jamuna Prasad Tripathi, were placed in sole charge and given full powers. Events followed in quick succession.

Sjt. Kanhaiyalal, non-Communist President of the U.P. T.U.C., was arrested. Discontent among the workers was acute. Next day, Sjt. Shibbanlal Sexena was arrested, even though he explained that if he

considered it below Congressmen's dignity to go to the District Magistrate when Sampurnanandji was there. He was refused permission on the ground that all powers had been given to the District Magistrate!

In the meantime, the police is going full steam ahead.

Material For Case Against Communists

Raj Bahadur Shambhooath, the most hated C.I.D. official in the Province, who won notoriety hunting the young colleagues of Bhagat Singh in the thirties, and who later was trained by the Government of India to be an anti-Communist expert for the U.P., is touring the districts where agrarian and labour situation is critical and collecting material to make the case against the Communists.

It is not only that the C.I.D. is being used to get information about and make the case against the Communists. The local bureaucracy is being given free rein, the same they enjoyed under the Advisers' Raj. The Lucknow happening is no exception.

The Chief Secretary has issued a secret circular to all District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police, with the Minister-in-Charge of Police,

(Continued on page 8)

by
Girish Mathur

did not lead the strike, the workers would go over under Communist influence. After him, 26 Congress workers were rounded up.

On the 12th, the Communist Party organised a public meeting expressing solidarity with the strike and demanding the release of the arrested Congress leaders. The Chairman of the meeting and speakers were arrested.

Sjt. Gopinath Srivastava, Provincial Congress leader, met the acting Premier, Sjt. Sampurnanand, to get permission to see Sjt. Shibbanlal in jail. Sampurnanandji referred him to the District Magistrate.

Gopi Babu told him that he

U.P. GOVT'S MOVE TO BAN COMMUNIST PARTY

'Foil Imperialist Game'

— P. C. Joshi's Appeal

P. C. JOSHI, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, has issued the following statement:

The policies pursued by Congress Ministries towards labour since assumption of power in the Provinces only a few months ago must cause alarm and indignation among all freedom-loving Indians.

To take but two instances.

At Amalner in Bombay Presidency peaceful workers conducting a legal strike against victimisation were fired upon which resulted in killing of nine worker-leaders and the wounding of more than fifty—a record which has beaten all the previous records of the Bombay bureaucracy.

In Madras, the Congress Ministry is ruthlessly suppressing the legal strike of the South Indian Railway workers, where out of 40,000 on strike, more than 1,000 workers, including several women, have been arrested; and at least four workers killed at Golden Rock in police firing. All this is to bolster up the prestige of the White management.

The culmination of these policies is now being reached in the contemplated banning of the Communist Party of India.

It is reliably reported that the U.P. Ministry has made representation to Pandit Nehru to take all-India action and ban the Party.

Pandit Nehru is reported to have declined to take all-India action for the time being, though he has left local action to the discretion of the Provincial Ministries to go ahead.

The danger of ban is, therefore, not far off but real. Only prompt and effective intervention by patriotic opinion can prevent it.

We look to Congressmen all over, whatever their differences with us, not to let the imperialist game of banning our Party succeed. Our Party represents the most consistent Left-wing within our common freedom movement, though formally outside the Congress organisation. The more our Party grows today the more it will contribute to the freedom struggle tomorrow.

By raising the Communist bogey brutal suppression of the working-class movement is being screened, normal trade union work is becoming impossible.

The organised working-class is today fighting the battle of the common man for a better and human life against the powerful resistance of the greedy capitalist-profiteers.

If the resurgent working-class is helped and aided, a general wage increase will be the inevitable result for every section of the toiling people, whether in factories, workshops or offices.

The Communist Party appeals to the common people to join hands with it in reminding the Congress Ministers of Nehru's pledge to "hang the hoarders." The Ministers must at least back the workers against the profiteers, and not let the police loose, declare Section 144 and introduce anti-strike legislation, nor beg off the issue by raising anti-Communism.

We appeal to our progressive intelligentsia to consider the attack on the Communist Party an attack on Socialist thought and progressive ideas and raise their powerful voice in defence of our legality, our right to preach and popularise Socialism.

Legality of the Communist Party in India is not the concern of the Communists alone; but of every Indian. It is the issue between British imperialism versus Indian freedom movement, profiteers and parasites versus the people, and reaction versus progress.

We are carrying on, and shall carry on, in the confidence that all patriots and progressives, irrespective of their own differences with us and true to their own ideas, shall raise their voice against any proposals to ban our Party, because that will mean the suppression of a section of our fighting people.

WILL LEAGUE'S ENTRY IN INTERIM GOVT. END FRATRICIDAL STRIFE?

QUEST: What is the Communist Party's attitude to the question of the League joining the Interim Government? Do you think it would be better for the country, if the League were to remain out of the Interim Government and continue civil war, or if it were to join it?

ANSWER: The alternatives posed in the question are not the REAL alternatives which face the people of India; they are the FALSE alternatives which the bankrupt policies of the bourgeois leadership of the Congress and the Muslim League place before us in the present terrible holocaust of communal tension.

Real Alternatives

With the goonda's knife over our heads, it is sought to blind us to the REAL alternatives before the Indian people which are:

EITHER compromise with the British on the basis of the diabolical Imperialist Plan which creates a new basis for British domination, splits the Indian freedom movement and crushes the Indian revolution;

OR unite for struggle to smash the Imperialist Plan and lead the Indian Revolution forward to victory.

Both the alternatives which the bankrupt bourgeois leaderships pose before us, really strengthen the imperialist game. Neither of them leads the Indian people towards a struggle to blow up the Imperialist Plan.

League's "Direct Action"

Let us examine the first alternative: that the League remains OUT of the Interim Government.

The League threatens "direct action" struggle. But NOT to smash the Imperialist Plan and win independence for India and freedom for the Muslims.

The League's aim in resorting to "direct action" is, according to its own admission, not to

by
Romesh Chandra

liquidate British imperialism but to "rescue the British from the clutches of the Congress!"

The League wants, through its threats, to get the British Imperialist Plan implemented in toto with every one of its most undemocratic features in tact—groupings, Princes and all.

In fact, the League's threats are all directed towards getting itself on its terms into the Interim Government.

Its call for "direct action" is the pressure it wishes to exert on imperialism and on the Congress to gain this end.

This call does not take Indian people towards freedom, it only acts as the spur for civil war, for communal riots, which divide the Indian people and seriously threaten to break up the Indian Revolution.

League in Interim Govt.

Will then the entry of the League into the Interim Government end the present situation of fratricidal war, will it take the country forward to freedom?

Imperialism itself wants the League to enter the Interim Government. The Tory London Times made this quite clear in a recent editorial, when it called upon the League to join the Interim Government and assured it that:

"Mr. Jinnah and his colleagues would occupy a very strong position. The know-

ledge that they would have it in their power by withdrawing from the coalition to re-create the communal deadlock would invest any stand they adopted on a point of principle with a formidable degree of authority".

This meant, in plain English: "Go in and threaten civil war at every single juncture".

In fact, the Imperialist Plan is based on both the Congress and the League working it, accepting it in full, and in alliance with the Princes, helping to take India on to the phoney freedom marked out for it, and in this way, provide British imperialism with the necessary cover to drown the Indian upsurge in blood in order that it may continue to rule us though in a new way.

Conflict Will Continue

The Imperialist Plan is such that Congress and League come together in it not to end their conflict, but to continue it on a new plane.

The League would continue to fight in the Interim Government and in the Constituent Assembly, at every single turn, for the division of India with the aid of British imperialism.

The Congress would more and more be forced to look to the British and the Princes for support on their terms against the League.

Both the Congress and the League would continue to strive to rally their following in opposite camps, to carry the torch of division into the ranks of the workers and the peasants and the States' peoples.

Thus it is an illusion to imagine that a Congress-League Interim Government would end fratricidal warfare or the efforts of the rival leaderships to split the people into hostile armed camps. The threat of civil war will continue to be used at each and every stage of the British Plan for better bargaining.

Above all, the British would be able to take full advantage of a Congress-League Interim Government to use the prestige of both parties to shoot straight at the growing actions of the workers and peasants for a decent human existence and of the States' peoples for freedom from feudal autocracy.

Way Forward

Thus both the alternatives posed by the bourgeois leaderships mean an intensification of fratricidal warfare and the increasing use of the prestige of the main political parties to crush the Indian Revolution, because, in fact, both pin their hopes on working the British Plan and compromising with British imperialism.

In these circumstances it is the task of the common people to fight this fratricidal war, to realise its disruptive power and prepare to resist it accordingly.

The way forward is for the common people to support and develop the present revolutionary wave of workers', kisans', and States' peoples' struggles, and compel their leaderships to break completely with the British Plan, the breeder of civil war, and together head a united struggle for freedom and power to the people through a real Constituent Assembly, based on adult franchise, with proportional representation and self-determination of national units.

BEHIND ARMY'S "IRON CURTAIN"

2,000 Indian Airmen's Protest Strike At Kohat

On May 17, RAF Station, Kohat (NWFP), witnessed the unprecedented scene of a complete strike by all Indian airmen of the station. Nearly 2,000 men were involved.

THANKS to the "iron curtain" behind which the Indian armed forces work the true story of the strike has not been published anywhere. The reasons for the strike and the action taken by the authorities were revealed for the first time in a letter from an Indian airman published recently in the Calcutta Communist daily Swadhinata.

There are two Indian Squadrons stationed in Kohat, the 2nd and the 7th. The Indian airmen of the station have been suffering from various difficulties for a long time—hard work and little pay, lack of the common amenities of life, bad food, bad clothing and inadequate accommodation.

Key-Men Punished
What is more, the whole of the 7th Squadron was placed under arrest. Five non-commissioned officers were picked up as ring-leaders. The usual farce of a court-martial was gone through. Flight-Sergeant Bose, Sergeant Sen and Warrant Officer Kasturilal were sentenced to two years' R.I. each and Flight-Sergeant Bhaduri and Warrant Officer Das Gupta to 1½ years' R.I. each. The fate of Squadron Leader Hassan is not known.

The five Non-Commissioned officers who have been punished are the key-men of the unit. They have seen six years' service in the 7th Squadron and are very popular with officers and men for their efficiency and good behaviour. Their punishment is resented by the entire staff of the 7th Squadron and by the other Indian airmen of the station.

Indian Officer Insulted
The growing discontent of the Indian airmen came to a head when Squadron Leader Hassan, the popular Commanding Officer of 7th Squadron, was insulted by a British airman. S/Leader Hassan put him under arrest.

Wing Commander Mehr Singh, the Station Commander, was expected to try the case. Only a little earlier, an Indian airman had been sentenced to 28 days confinement in cell for a similar offence.

W/Commander Mehr Singh left the station on the plea of duty and the Station Adjutant, a British Officer, tried the man, and, of course, the British airman was acquitted.

As soon as the news reached the Indian airmen, they went on strike. There was a total stoppage of work in the two squadrons. Mehr Singh rushed

back to Kohat. He assured the strikers that he would personally look into the matter and requested them to go back to work. The Indian airmen accepted the Indian Wing Commander's assurance and went back to work. Mehr Singh did look into the matter personally, but only to uphold the decision of his White subordinate officer.

WE DIP THE RED BANNER

SHASHI BAKAYA

WE regret to announce the death, on September 13, of Shashi Mohan Bakaya, after a brief period of illness. He was General Secretary of the Bombay Friends of the Soviet Union and the excellent work of this organisation was largely the result of his efforts.

He joined the Communist Party in 1942. Hardly 25 years of age, he was already one of its most promising cadres.

A talented poet, some of his songs have attained an abiding place in our national movement and are being sung all over the country.

We dip the Red Banner in his memory and extend our deep sympathy to his mother and to other members of his family.

GOLDEN ROCK FIRING

(Continued from page 4.)

They entered the Union Office, smashed up the furniture, tore down the flag, smashed up the mike and the arc lamps in the building. Such brutality one has heard of only under Nazi rule. The police took away all the records of the Central Executive Council of the Union.

Having smashed up the Union Office and the press, they turned their attention to the residence where the Union workers were living. There Nambyar's wife was dragged out and beaten. His 60-year old mother also was not spared.

The police have now occupied the Union grounds. Over 400 workers have been rounded up besides the 142 injured. The official figure of casualties is four but the workers in Golden Rock believe that nearly a dozen people are dead.

Some who escaped from the hands of the police after this heroic fight had what little first aid they could have in the villages adjoining the colony. The brutal atrocities of the police have stirred up public indignation; the heroic fight has steeled the strikers.

To cover up their barbarism and wanton atrocities, the M.S.P. later stopped a cart and breaking the soda water bottles on it littered the street with glass pieces and stones. The Inspector General of Police has come out with a communique that stones were

thrown on the police lorries.

Not content with their atrocities at Golden Rock, the police turned their attention to the Communist Party office at Trichy. At 2 p.m. they went in and arrested the Communists in the Party office, including B. Srinivasa Rao, Secretary of the Tamilnad Provincial Kisan Sabha, and other District Communist leaders.

In Trichy town they are making a hunt for all leading Communists.

Section 144 has been promulgated in Trichy town and curfew has been imposed in Golden Rock.

TO ALL AGENTS

Owing to the riot situation, it may not be possible for Urdu press to print copies of our Urdu Edition, NAYA ZAMANA, in time. In that case copies of Naya Zamana will NOT be accompanying copies of other editions, and agents must make arrangements to call again at the railway station for Naya Zamana copies, which will come by separate parcel as soon as they are ready.

MANAGER

U. P. GOVT. PLANS ALL-OUT REPRESSION

(Continued from page 5.)
Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai's approval, containing the following points:

* (1) They should maintain "law and order" strictly.

* (2) They will be held responsible for any breach of peace in their area.

* (3) They should use their powers in dealing with all class and communal troubles.

A much milder but similar circular was issued by the first Pant Ministry in 1939 and there was such indignant protest against it inside the U.P. Congress, that it had to be withdrawn.

The story does not stop here. The U.P. Assembly, under Ministerial pressure, has sanctioned an extra grant of three lakhs and 40 thousand rupees for new weapons for the police. The police force is being strengthened. The military police is likely to be doubled.

It is not that there is no discontent inside the Congress against this policy, but it has no vigorous and healthy champion in the Congress top. Sjt. Damodar Swaroop Seth has written a strong letter to Pantil disapproving of his policy.

But the grounds he gives are not the interests of the masses or the unity of the freedom movement, but he feels that Pantil's policy will make the Communists and militant Congress-

men heroes and martyrs in the eyes of the workers and the people!

The matter will come up before the coming Executive Council meeting of the U.P. Provincial Congress Committee and the issue will be simple:

Will the Provincial Congress leadership let the Ministry give full rein to the police to smash the workers' and peasants' movement for the right to live, or will it ensure full civil liberties to our suffering people struggling against the profiteers, black-marketeers and landlords?

During the election, Congress leaders, Pandit Nehru, Sjt. Pant, and others, promised the people to put on trial or dismiss all the White and Brown brutes who were let loose against Congressmen in 1942.

Instead of implementing that pledge, the same gang is being unleashed against a section of our own fighting people, against a brother patriotic party in 1946.

Will the criminals of 1942 be allowed to become the Congress Ministry's agents in 1946, to preserve "law and order" under Wavell Raj? In whose interest will it be? Where will it lead?

The questions are simple and the answer must come straight and quick from every Congressman of the U.P., every people's organisation, irrespective of all political differences.

● Anglo-American Designs On Trieste ● A New War Base And Colony ● Making Palestine Safe For British

AT the end of last week, the Paris Conference started its discussion on the most controversial problem of all—that of Trieste.

The facts of the problem are the following.

(1) Trieste is a predominantly Italian city with a Slovene (Yugoslav) hinterland. Before the 1914-18 war, it was in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and was a flourishing port, serving the Balkans and Central Europe.

However, after the last war, it was given to Italy by the Allies, as a reward for fighting Germany. During the two wars, Trieste suffered badly as a port—since Venice is a better Italian port for the Adriatic area—while at the same time the predominantly Yugoslav population of the countryside round Trieste was ruthlessly repressed and persecuted, being treated as virtual colonial slaves.

Post-War Situation

(2) After the war ended, the Yugoslavs have demanded that Trieste and its Yugoslav hinterland should become a part of Yugoslavia, while the Italians demand this area for Italy on the grounds that Trieste is a city with an Italian majority.

The crux of the argument is simple—and has been brilliantly illustrated by George Padmore, *Free Press* correspondent. Answering the Italian claim, he gives the analogy:

"In Liverpool there is a fair Irish population... Now supposing the Irish who have settled there for economic reasons were in a majority and De Valera (Premier of Ireland) were to demand its admission to Eire on that ground, completely ignoring the fact that the territory which it feeds is English, there is no shadow of doubt that the English would feel just as the Yugoslavs do, namely that the port of Trieste cannot be di-

forced from the Slav interior." (September 13).

(3) The British and Americans, however, did not accept the patent justice of this argument, and fought to keep Trieste and its Slav interior in Italy. Ultimately both the British and the Soviets agreed to a compromise proposal—that Trieste should be internationalised and placed under a Governor appointed by the Security Council of UNO.

Two Different Plans

When, however, the three Powers and France came to discuss the question of how the internationalisation should be put into effect, once more differences arose and before the Paris Conference, two different plans (those of the British, Americans and the French are essentially alike) have been put forward, one from the Anglo-American side and one by the Soviet.

The present controversy at Paris is about these two plans.

The Soviet plan proposes that supreme power in Trieste should be vested in the people, the Governor (appointed by the Security Council) only having the right to refer back legislation to the Security Council if the Assembly refused to accept his advice. It also proposes a customs union between Trieste and Yugoslavia and no restrictions on the right of Yugoslavs to become voters and residents in Trieste.

Thus the Soviet plan while preserving the Security Council's final supreme position, enables Trieste to play its part as Yugoslavia's (as well as that of the Balkans and Central Europe) main Adriatic port.

The British plan, however, is very different.

Here the Governor has complete veto powers; he has the right to proclaim new orders and laws; he has the duty of main-

taining peace and security; in fact he is the virtual dictator who also has "the usual reserve powers for which British Crown Colony Constitutions are famous" (Padmore).

Molotov in his speech at the Paris Conference also "compared the position of the Governor in the British draft with that of the Viceroy of India and the Governors of British colonies in South Africa." (Reuters, September 15), who would be the ruler of Trieste and not the people.

Thus, "the British plan provides for a typical Colonial legislature" where "the only appeal the natives have is to the higher authority—the Colonial office"—which in this case is Security Council where "the Anglo-Americans can manoeuvre the majority of votes." (Padmore).

Again while the Soviet plan specifically mentions the withdrawal of foreign troops from Trieste within 30 days of signing the Treaty and its demilitarisation as neutral territory where no troops should be stationed, the Anglo-Americans do not even mention demilitarisation or the withdrawal of foreign troops (mainly English and American)!

A Military Pistol

The two plans are, therefore, totally different—and it is from the British plan that emerges most clearly the real intentions of the Anglo-American bloc.

For since Trieste is of vital importance to Yugoslavia, its possession by any other power gives it a grip over Yugoslavia.

Under the British plan, Trieste would not only be a virtual Anglo-American colony, but also their military base, manned by Anglo-American troops. In their hands it would be both an economic stranglehold on Yugoslavia's progress and recovery and a military pistol pointed at Yugoslavia's heart.

The Anglo-American plan for Trieste is thus a plan to build an Anglo-American war-base against Yugoslavia.

This is why we can expect the most determined opposition from Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union to the Anglo-American proposals; for it is a key issue in the plans of reaction in both England and the U.S. to win strategic positions which will enable them effectively to dominate the Balkans and threaten the Soviet Union, and also to launch their war for world domination.

Conference Of Whom?

THE widely-publicised British-sponsored Conference on Palestine began in London last week. Neither the representatives of the Jews nor those of the Arabs of Palestine were present, but the speeches made by the British and the representatives of the Arab States, together with comments of the Press, show clearly enough what is being planned there.

At the outset, however, it must be understood that present at the Conference were not representatives of the Arab PEOPLE, but of the feudal top class of Arab chieftains who rule their countries under the general supervision of British imperialism.

In two of them, Iraq and Transjordan, British troops are stationed today and British advisers are the real rulers.

In another, Saudi Arabia, King Ibn Saud is a paid friend of the British and Americans, receiving in 1946 some £800,000 from U.S. and £95,000 from Britain as subsidies for his friendship (Reynolds News, August 25).

Syria and Lebanon have also

become virtual British colonies since the entry of British troops into these countries over a year ago.

Thus the Conference is a conference of virtual British puppets in the Arab world with their master.

And the Conference reflected this.

The key problem facing these Arab leaders is the enormous support among the Arab peoples behind the demand for freedom for Palestine and their opposition to the British plan for partition and continued supremacy of the British.

Towards New Alliance

Therefore, in answer to Attlee's platitudinous speech in which he warned of the need for considering Palestine "in the wider background of world policy," the spokesman of the Arab delegations warmly explained how the Arabs love and support the British.

But, he went on, this could be maintained only if Palestine was not partitioned, but transformed into yet another "independent" Arab State like their own, i.e., another Arab State where the top Arab feudal class will rule in alliance with the British.

This position of the Arabs has

been made even more clear by two statements:

FIRST, the statement of Emir Feisal of Saudi Arabia that if the Arab objection to partition was upheld, the Arabs would not "be unwilling to see a British base in the Nageb area (the southernmost district) in Palestine." (Reuters, September 9).

British Domination

SECONDLY, the statement of Azzam Bey, Secretary-General of the Arab League, that the Arabs generally agreed with Mr. Bevin's attitude to the "international aspects of the Palestine question"; and Bevin's attitude is well-known to be one of building Palestine as a key British military base to ensure British domination of the Middle East.

Both these show well that nothing new is going to come out of the Conference, except that the British will strive their hardest to placate their best friends (and agents) in the Arab lands with some concessions; at the same time (with the full consent of these very Arab friends!) they will take good care to ensure that their own use of Palestine as a military and oil base remains undisturbed.

September 17, 1946.

"SQUATTERS" MOVEMENT SWEEPS OVER LONDON

Communist Leader Rebutts Charge Of Anarchy

London, September 16, September 15—sixth anniversary of the Battle for Britain was dominated in London by a huge "squatters" march, sponsored by the Communist Party.

TWELVE thousand people—including a group of Indians headed by All-India Trade Union Congress Vice-President, S.S. Mirajkar—marched in support of the "squatters" and to protest against the arrest of five of their leaders, including Ted Bramley, leader of the Communists in London and member of the London County Council.

Three others of the arrested are Borough Councillors and the fifth is Stan Henderson, war prisoner for four years, who is the leader of the "squatters". The arrested were charged with conspiracy to incite, abet and help the persons to organise for trespass, etc.

Thus the movement reminds the Labour Government of its promises that Britain has entered a new phase. More than half a million people of London alone—ex-servicemen, workers—are homeless, mainly they were bombed out of their houses during the war.

Housing—A Priority Job

Housing is a priority job, but the Labour Government has failed to solve it. Blackmarket in the building trade and the pague system, known here as "key-money" are rife.

In particular the steel monopolists have been allowed to run riot in the building trade and there is widespread disappointment at the Labour Government's weak-kneed decision to postpone nationalisation of the steel industry.

The local Borough Councils are empowered to requisition vacant houses, but they have failed, especially those with Tory majority. In wealthy Boroughs, thousands of houses are vacant, to be rented at Rs. 600 per month, which the poor are naturally unable to pay.

Life is hell for them; marriages are broken up, children in unhealthy homes become sickly and die. Winter is coming on and the people are growing desperate—and it is this that has given rise to the Squatters' Movement.

The Squatters' Movement began outside London in the countryside where the homeless took possession of empty army huts. The Government first tried force, but seeing that the people are resolute, agreed to their remaining.

The Movement in London began only last week on September 8 with 1,000 homeless taking possession of luxury flats (like Bombay Marine Drive flats), called the Duchess of Bedford flats. More squatting in aristocratic quarters went on during the week, organised by the London Communists, who responded to the people's initiative.

On the premises taken over, democratic committees have been organised and they have decided to pay Rs.

30 as monthly rent.

The mass of Londoners are sympathetic, but the Tory Press has made an outcry about the threat to private property. The Labour Government always quick to surrender to Tory pressure while slow to fight it, joined in the next day and the whole Press screamed "Anarchy."

The Government then resorted to repressive measures; "squatters" were besieged by police who prevented food supplies; gas, water and electricity were cut off. The people, who went to help them, were dispersed by mounted police.

The Ministry and the Press are busy trying to dismiss the whole movement as an anti-Government stunt of the Communists.

Communist Party General Secretary, Harry Pollitt, replied in a public meeting on Thursday that the aim of the movement was simple; it was to speed up housing programme still lagging behind and protest against blackmarketing in the building industry and the renting of houses.

Pollitt said: "We will rouse the nation to the real understanding of the gravity of the problem. Seizure of the houses will stop when the local authorities will carry out the responsibilities to the homeless."

Workers In Fighting Mood

Referring to the threat of force he added:

"Let there be no mistake that if the Government wants reprisals, it will get them; the working-class is in a fighting mood and will not stand by idly to see fellow workers brutally thrown out of their present abodes."

The London Trades Council, with 600,000 members, has declared its support for the "squatters." Led by Phil Piratin, some Labour M.P.s also have put themselves on the side of "squatters."

AITUC Vice-President Mirajkar has sent a message to the squatters supporting them, and sympathetic messages have been received from the Paris Tenants' Association, who are planning to adopt the same methods.

In the face of this growing support for the "squatters," Premier Attlee has agreed to receive a deputation of "squatters"—but it yet remains to be seen whether the Government will stand up to the pressure of the Tory landlords and building manufacturers.

A great popular upsurge is spreading all over London, likely to develop into a wave of protest sweeping over the entire country.

★ INSIDE THE FORCES ★

Discipline

L. H. C. R. Singh of the Main Supply Depot at Kalyan seems to be busy sping his White masters to prove his loyalty to them.

A high ranking officer from GHQ was due to visit Kalyan Military Camp No. 3. At about 4, in the morning Lt. Singh went round the RIASC barracks, woke up the men and ordered them to get ready at once to be on parade in time. The men knew their job and took their own time.

When they reached the office, two of the clerks were put on a charge. "An action prejudicial to good behaviour and military discipline" said Lt. Singh. "Section 39 (1) Indian Army Act."

The clerks protested that they were on parade in time. Lt. Singh refused to listen to them and placed them under "open arrest." They were threatened with a court-martial.

Court Martial

A couple of days later, the unfortunate clerks were produced before the Commanding Officer of the MSD. Now they were further charged with "insubordination" under Section 27 (e) Indian Army Act.

When the clerks protested the second charge was dropped. The C.O., however, pronounced his sentence on them for "indiscipline."

They tried to explain the position. The C.O. was annoyed. He said that he was not concerned whether they were guilty or not.

This is the nature of justice in the Indian Army. There is a growing demand in the armed forces that the rule of injustice must come to an end immediately.

Is the new Indian Defence Member of the Interim Government prepared to make a thorough clean up of the

present corrupt military administration?

Victory

THE naval bosses are being forced to realise, slowly but surely, that the Indian ratings of 1946 are a different type of men.

On the 6th the HMIS Godavari was due to be moved from the "Wet-Basin" to the "Dry-Docks". Accordingly meal times of the ratings were changed—breakfast at 6-30 a.m. and lunch at 9-30 a.m.

For breakfast they got rotten half-baked chapatties. Realising the difficulties, they kept quiet and went to work without food.

They waited in vain for their next meal. When they had been without food till 12-30 noon, their usual meal time, they became restive. Their officers were unconcerned.

So, all together, they marched to their Commanding Officer. "We cannot work without food," they said.

Now things moved fast. Within an hour the ratings had their food.

The united action of the naval ratings had borne fruit in another victory.

Jai Hind Cigarettes

CAPT. Cromwell of a Gurkha unit stationed at Nagpur is in a state of panic. "Jai Hind" cigarettes are the cause of all his worries. A manufacturer's agent recently came to the unit centre to book orders for this brand of cigarettes.

When Capt. Cromwell heard of this he was furious. He threatened to sack the canteen contractor if he dared to sell "Jai Hind" cigarettes and ordered his men to throw the agent out.

Poor Capt. Cromwell is afraid that if his men smoke these "seditious" cigarettes they will start greeting him with "Jai Hind".

(From Our Forces Correspondent).

HELL IN TENNESSEE

Biggest Act Of Terror Against Negroes

[Below we give an account entitled 'Hell in Tennessee' describing the biggest act of terror against the Negro people in post-war U.S.A.]

It is by the well-known U.S. Communist, Robert Minor, who visited the scene, and the article appeared in the American left-wing magazine New Masses. A few weeks ago we gave in People's Age an account of the post-war drive against U.S. labour organised by big business and the Truman administration.

A drive against the Negroes (see box on this page for details) has been launched by these same social forces in order to suppress the rising democratic movement and to keep the U.S. safe for big business rule in the post-war era.—EDITOR.]

THE mother joyful over her boy's return, had gone with him to a shop on the public square to get the small radio they had left for repair. They paid the charge, but found that the radio did not work. She, Mrs. Gladys Stevenson, made a bitter remark that she was compelled to pay though the radio was not fixed. The white clerk followed her out of the store and, on the sidewalk outside, slapped and kicked her.

James C. Stevenson, nineteen, Navy veteran, had been thousands of miles across the seas since he volunteered at seventeen with his mother's permission. He had come back from a world-wide war of liberation to see his mother kicked and beaten on the sidewalk of his native town by a member of the "superior race." He knocked hell out of the white man with a punch worthy of Joe Louis and Dorie Miller rolled into one.

Thereupon mother and son were set upon by some of the passing white men about town. For them it was rather startling to see the white clerk bounce off of Jimmy Stevenson's fist into a plate glass window, crash through it and lie on the sidewalk bleeding from cuts caused by the breaking glass.

Policemen Join In

Seeing the white men attack her young Navy man, Mrs. Stevenson ran to the drug store and called several people to help get a policeman, because her son was being beaten. The policemen came, including the police chief, took a look, saw it was between whites and Negro, and began kicking and beating Jimmy and his mother, whose clothes were almost stripped from her.

The bleeding white clerk was taken to the hospital, the middle-aged Negro mother, hardly able to stand after the beating, was taken to jail, together with her son. Late in the afternoon they were released on bail and went, not to their home, but to a home of friends for privacy and quiet.

Before the hardware store closed that evening, a Negro customer overheard a white customer say, "We are going to hang two Negroes tonight. If I don't hang them Negroes, I hope somebody will put his rope round my neck." The Negro customer quickly slipped out of the store and went down to "Mink Slide" to give warning.

As darkness came on, messengers went from house to house and all lights in the Negro settlement were extinguished.

On the public square two of the orators continued to exhort the thirty or forty men who were there with rifles and pistols to "go into Mink Slide and get the Negroes. There is no martial law yet," they said, "so come on and get them now; didn't they shed our blood?"

Uniformed policemen heard them, but said they were drunk, and did nothing. More men with rifles, some shot-guns and pistols, came walking and in autos, making about fifty in all. The orators grew fervid, but still the little knots of white men with firearms just stood around and did not start the march to "Mink Slide."

by
Robert Minor

It seems that the shutting out of the lights in the Negro section made them uneasy. It is possible also that they knew that a ring of youngmen of "Mink Slide" had posted themselves as sentries in the dark streets around the section, armed with some fourteen shot-guns loaded with bird-shot, a few small pistols and two target rifles. The march on "Mink Slide" did not begin.

Four policemen got into an automobile, saying they were going down into "Mink Slide" to get Jimmy Stevenson and bring him up to the white section around the public square "for his own protection." Though Jimmy's home was with his mother in another part of the town it was known that he had been invited by friends to come to the more populous Negro section to be more secure for the night.

A Negro employed by a phosphate mine or another plant in

Struggle For Democracy In Southern U. S. A.

Recently a big campaign to organise all workers, Negro and white, in the Southern States was launched by the U.S.A.'s most powerful workers' organisation, the Congress of Industrial Organisations (CIO).

It was the CIO that led the recent post-war strike struggles of the 20 lakh organised workers for better living conditions and democratic rights and won big wage increases for 40 lakh workers.

It is being backed by the American Federation of Labour (AFL) and Negro organisations like the National Negro Congress.

The South is the traditional (and also today's) stronghold of U.S. reaction. It is the 'poll-tax' Southern Democrats (Truman's L-Party) in alliance with the Northern Republicans (the party of Hoover and Dewey) who dominate the U.S. Congress and rule America in the interests of big business.

The Southern drive of CIO is aimed to win the same democratic rights for the Negro people as their white brother workers have already won.

That is why it is being denounced as a 'Communist plot' by "white supremacy" advocates like Senator Bilbo and Congressman Rankin. It is these same men who support President Truman, Foreign Secretary Byrnes and Senator Vandenburg in their policy of U.S. intervention in China and a third world war to establish total U.S. world domination.

the suburbs, finishing his day's work after dark, came into town and, knowing nothing of what was going on, bought a ticket to the Jim Crow balcony of a movie theatre. Surprised to find not a single other Negro in the theatre, he became alarmed and left.

Reaching the street he saw a white man get out of an automobile with a rifle, and a little further he saw another standing with a large pistol in his hand. The Negro broke into a run, headed down into "Mink Slide" and said that a mob was coming.

Exchange Of Shots

The four policemen in their car, with guns ready, approached the darkened Negro settlement, their headlights turned high to flood-light the blacked-out Negroes' homes and shops ahead.

There was an exchange of shots, and the four policemen, firing back at the Negroes' homes, drove hastily away, each of the four bleeding from

birdshot wounds.

The turning back of the policemen with this shot-gun fire prevented the lynching of a veteran.

The seven hours gained was enough for Jimmy Stevenson to slip out of another side of town in a car with some friends and go—nobody knows where.

Hundreds of state highway policemen and members of the National Guard came into Columbia throughout the night, finally numbering 500. But they didn't go into "Mink Slide." All night they camped around the Negro section, waiting for daylight.

At 5 A.M. they moved in with machine-guns, rifles and tommy-guns blazing. The local and nearby Press tells frankly of the fury of the uniformed mob, wrecking two blocks of shops, stores and homes with machine gun fire, then entering houses, smashing tables, chairs, doors, windows, store fixtures, in order, as the newspapers say with satisfaction, to make the Negro section uninhabitable.

Negroes Arrested

More than 100 Negroes were placed under arrest, the police in frank naivete explaining that the reason for arrest of many was that they were obviously leaders of the community.

About fifty or seventy-five were given the "third degree" for several nights and days.

On the fourth day, three young men were being put through the ordeal to extort something to use as "evidence" for the indictment. Deputy sheriffs and policemen placed several loaded firearms within reach of the three while they

bloody "race" struggle.

NEGROES IN THE U. S. A. —A SUBJECT PEOPLE

ONE of every ten Americans is a Negro (U.S. population, 136,000,000; Negroes 13,000,000).

More than half of the United States' 30,000,000 farm population is in the South; but the South has only a little more than one-third of the country's farmland, in value the proportion is even less—28 per cent of the total.

Yet the overwhelming majority—four out of every five—of the Negroes live in the South and here most of the land is owned by whites.

What this means for the Negro people is shown by the following figures:

	White	Negro
AMONG FARMERS.		
Average size of Farm.	140 acres	60 acres
AMONG TENANTS.		
Average size of Farm.	120 "	40 "
AMONG CROPPERS.		
Average size of farm.	40 "	20 "

50.9 per cent of white farmers own their own farms; only 20.8 per cent of the Negro farmers own theirs.

Two out of every five Negroes on land are landless labourers.

The textile industry is the main industry in the South. In 1940, only 26,000 of 635,000 workers were Negroes.

A common saying applied to Negro workers is "first to be fired, last to be hired!"

In the North where the Negroes are a tiny minority, for white workers in large cities it is \$1720, for Negroes \$1095 (1935-36).

In the ten southern 'Negro' States, for white children the expenditure is \$49.30 per pupil, for Negro children only \$17.04 per pupil.

The typical Negro of more than 25 years in the USA gets only 5.7 years' schooling as compared with an average of 8.8 years for the typical white man.

So far as higher education is concerned, Negroes are not admitted to the State universities or private white colleges in any of the Southern States. Some States support small Negro colleges, but none of them have as high standards as the

and every progressive force in the world that there shall be not one single additional victim among the Negro people of Columbia beyond the two who have been murdered.

I have never seen James C. Stevenson, Navy veteran, age nineteen. But he stands, in the centre of the picture and symbolises the whole character of the event and the nature of the campaign that is bound to follow, the quality of the great human forces that will come to the defence of the intended victims of the police lynching.

The cowardly commercial Press already senses this, and

RACIALISM RUN RIOT

- "Dr. Thomas Richardson, Deputy Coroner of the Webster Parish, today said that John C. Jones was beaten to death last Thursday night in the first Louisiana lynching since 1936." (United Press of America message August 21, from Minden, Louisiana, USA, in the Bombay Chronicle).
- "Twenty-one Pittsburg Negroes were picketing outside the White House to reinforce a demand for federal action in the recent Georgia lynchings... They carried signs proclaiming: 'Bloodstains are on your hands—investigate.'" (Associated Press of America message from Washington, August 16, in the Bombay Chronicle).

These are just two instances recently published in the Press in India. Here are some others:

- In Rockport, New York (traditionally the most advanced of the American States), three Negro brothers in U.S. army uniform were halted late at night, while on their way home, by a drunken policeman, who shot one of the brothers and wounded another seriously. No action was taken against the policeman.
- In the southern State of Georgia, four Negroes—two men and their wives—were driving down the road in their own car. They were halted by a gang of Ku Klux Klan, dragged from the car and murdered on the spot. The Ku Klux Klan is a secret society of white Americans called so because of the white hoods and white sheets they wear. Its policy is based on the 'white supremacy' racial theory. Its practice is to organise anti-Negro extermination campaigns. The newly-elected Governor of Georgia, Gene Talmadge, is a Negro-baiter and friend of the Ku Klux Klan.
- In North Carolina, another southern State, a Negro war veteran was beaten and blinded by a policeman's club, then brought before a judge—judges are white—who sentenced him to 30 days' on the chain gang or a 50 dollar fine.

Now comes the struggle which will enlist more and more allies and swell into a tide that cannot be stopped until the victory is won. It must be a point of honour for all of the labour movement

(Continued on page 11)

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—by Sharaf Athar Ali

DEEDS OF HEROISM AND BROTHERLY UNITY

The Bombay riot, starting precisely to plan at the same hour in both Hindu and Muslim localities, claiming both Hindus and Muslims, men and women, old men and kids as its victims, is far from over.

EVERY hour the orgy of murder, stabbing, arson and loot grew.

Desperate efforts were made to carry the flames to the working-class.

On September 1 at one chawl in Parel, a car deposited lots of mysterious looking black bottles. (Two days later just in front of this house murders were committed).

Throughout the next night there was a rain of stones and brickbats on Hindu and Muslim chawls in Kala Chowki. At Sewri hundreds were gathered to "defend" a Hindu temple. Stabbing cases took place near Kala Chowki and Lal Baug. Balls of fire were thrown at each other's chawls at night.

Goondas under a notorious strike-breaker at Lal Baug looted Muslim shops. A lorry with goondas, brandishing daggers and shouting fanatical slogans, rushed through the working-class areas. All this was done in broad day-light.

The police played their part in provocation by wantonly arresting workers en masse while leaving the goondas free.

Trapped Hindus Saved

And yet except near the usual goonda resorts in these areas, the working-class as a class kept away from the riots. The heroism of the common man helped to fight back this menace.

The day the riots started, when murder stalked the streets, two Hindus found themselves trapped in the heart of a Muslim area near Null Bazaar.

But suddenly two burly Muslim workers rushed to them. Taking these Hindus under their protection, they brought them to a neighbouring Hindu locality.

But how to go back? And then the Hindu citizens were roused. Some of them accompanied their Muslim brothers back to the Border Land, safe over the "Frontiers". A fraternal debt

was paid.

At Dadar, a middle class locality, a Pathan was seen bleeding. At once his colleagues from the 'Pedhi' sprang to their feet. It would have been a first rate battle had not Ram Thankar, a Communist, who lived nearby, promptly intervened.

Facing the Pathans, he appealed to them to go back, and not add to the blood already spilt. So forceful was the appeal that even the wounded Pathan saw the point. He too prevailed upon his colleagues not to come out. He was soon rushed to hospital, a disaster was averted.

Peace Committee

Zakeria Bunder, in working-class locality, has a mixed population. When the news of the riots reached these men, they got together to form a Peace Committee. Shetty, a Red flag-leader in the Firestone Company, actively helped.

Twice the neighbouring goondas tried to attack the people here, but Hindu and Muslim volunteers foiled their game.

But the police, who were so far not on the scene, now intervened. On the person of one of the men here, they found a pen-knife. At once they pounced upon him, arrested him and violently beat him up.

When a responsible member of the Peace Committee intervened on his behalf, he too was beaten up at the Police Station.

At Lal Baug, shop-looting was the craze for two days. A mob was out to loot every Muslim shop. Their slogan was "No Muslim Shall Live Here." No passer-by dared intervene.

But five workers of the Red flag refused to play the coward; as the goondas came along they warned them. And the way they did it, the goondas had to take them seriously. The shop stands safe to this day.

A similar story comes from

Bhendli Bazaar. Like their Hindu brothers in arms elsewhere, the Muslim goondas too here started a free looting of shops. But here too were Red flaggers.

No Looting Here

Two Pathan drivers made it a point to resist their co-religionists every time they saw them attempting this dirty work and saved a number of Hindu shops.

Royal Navy drivers have only recently come under the Red flag. But in this worst trying period, they showed that they had well assimilated its teachings.

Two of these Pathan drivers saw two of their Hindu colleagues being assaulted by Muslim goondas. Resisting or even dissuading them was to invite the murderer's dagger on themselves.

And yet the two Pathans did the impossible. Throwing back the goondas they rescued their colleagues, took them to their own rooms and later to a place of safety.

Not A Lone Battle

And the working-class was not fighting a lone battle. At places here and there Bombay's common citizen too stood up to blunt the edge of provocation and save his neighbour and himself. Kennedy Bridge in Girgaon is a mixed area. In reply to the Muslims putting up Black flags there, the Hindus too had hoisted the Tricolour. Stones were thrown, people even started evacuation. The stage seemed set for worse things to come.

But that night representatives from both the communities got together. Both agreed to keep the peace and not to hurt each other's feelings. Both removed their flags. The tension was eased.

While all the known Dadas and their gangs in working-

Goondas Suffer Defeat

It is worth noting that Kulkarni was victimised from Government service because he had sympathised with the GTS strikers some weeks ago. Moreover, in this particular case, the GTS authorities had just then promised such protection to their drivers!

It is against such provocation by the police and by the well organised goonda gangs that the workers of Bombay have refused to be drawn into this fratricidal war. And despite the loot and murders that have been staged here the goondas have had to admit a major defeat at the hands of Bombay's Red flag workers.

—by P. B. Rangnekar



CANADA'S ANTI-COMMUNIST SCARE--ITS LESSON FOR INDIA

WARMLY and enthusiastically, six months to issue its report: of the Old Ma of Bombay, the course, it issued a number of 'interim' Times of India, leapt forward reports, generally feeding the anti-Communist campaign by indicating that last week to welcome the report of Soviet espionage in Canada. The Royal Commission appointed to the activities of a "widespread cons- investigate the Russian "espionage" piratorial organisation directed from Moscow" were being unravelled.

Entitling its editorial "The Communist Technique", it builds up a big pages long — was published and the theory that the report is "an ex-cooked-up fake character of the ens- of Communist methods", and tire incident, was presented to the ends by warmly commending the naked eye of any man honest words of the chief witness in the case, enough to want to learn the truth. an ex-Soviet citizen and former cipher-clerk in the Soviet Embassy in Canada, Igor Gouzenko, that "the Communist Parties in democratic countries have changed long ago from a political party into an agency net of the Soviet Government."

Indictment Of Reaction

Of course, the editorial (and the summary of the Commission's report published a few days before) do not deal very much with what the report really reveals.

In fact, the report contains much that is a damning indictment, not of the Soviet Government or the Communist movement in Canada, but of the very dangerous game of provocation that is today being played by the Canadian agents of Anglo-American Big Business.

The story begins on February 15 of this year, when the Canadian Government sprang on an astonished world the news of the uncovering of a "big spy ring" in Canada; and Reuters added the spice to the news that the spy ring was a Soviet spy ring.

Immediately the Anglo-American Press took their cue—and for some-time the newspapers were full of "news" about the extraordinary nature of the "conspiracy", the involvement in it of leading Communists in Canada, and so on.

On February 20, the Soviet Government issued a statement, stated that in the latter part of the war, certain individual members of the staff of the Soviet Military Attaché had obtained some secret information of no great importance and that in view of this "impermissible" activity, both the Military Attaché and his staff were recalled.

The statement also pointed out that the Canadian Government could easily have settled the matter by ordinary diplomatic channels but was not doing this, preferring to utilise the incident to launch an unbridled anti-Soviet campaign.

Delay And Mischief

And the report about which the Times of India waxes so eloquent only confirms the truth of the Sovietly quotes).

A "Royal" Commission, set up to enquire into this 'conspiracy', took

Finally, on July 15, its report—733 pages long — was published and the theory that the report is "an ex-cooked-up fake character of the ens- of Communist methods", and tire incident, was presented to the ends by warmly commending the naked eye of any man honest words of the chief witness in the case, enough to want to learn the truth. Here are the key points:

Facts Of The Case

The entire report is based on the interrogation and evidence of Igor Gouzenko; as the Commission admits, of all the other witnesses examined (over 100), not one confirmed his story; they either denied it completely or else said they knew nothing of it.

Gouzenko, when he decamped from the Soviet Embassy, took some secret Soviet documents with him. But the report deals very little with these genuine documents (which in fact referred to the unimportant information referred to in the Soviet Government's statement).

Instead the report spends many pages on some documents which (as the report admits) were mere scraps of paper, strips torn from a notebook, containing "mysterious" references—according to Gouzenko.

These scraps were painstakingly examined by the Commission and Gouzenko built up his entire story on them. (Note again nobody else confirmed the truth of Gouzenko's story).

And despite their anxiety to shield their star (and ONLY) witness, the Commission is forced to admit: first, on one occasion Gouzenko was caught out lying; secondly, there were several cases of "inaccuracy", (presumably forged documents!); thirdly, many people accused by Gouzenko had been wrongly accused!

Accusations Blown-Up

So much for the evidence. Now for the conclusions:

Accusation No. 1—that the Soviet had given instructions to Canadian political leaders (i.e. Canadian Communists).

The report says: "We have to state that we have no confirmation concerning that part of Gouzenko's depositions where he speaks of the transmission of political directives." (This, in fact, totally negates that part of Gouzenko's evidence which the Times so approving-

Accusation No. 2—that the Soviet had asked for the registration of all citizens of Russia and Ukrainian ori-

gin who wished to return to the Soviet because it aimed at "creating secret Communist detachments" out of them.

This also, the Commission admitted, was totally baseless.

Accusation No. 3—that the Soviet, through its huge spy network, had got valuable information about the Atom Bomb.

Here again, the Commission says that the Soviets had not tried to get the secret behind the Atom Bomb—for, in fact, no one in Canada had that information.

The Commission also admits that even the information got by the Soviet "was of no value or of very insignificant value"—though it tries to cover up this admission by pleading that "it is impossible to estimate the total volume of information received by the Russians."

Reaction's Technique

Thus the main accusations made by the Press on the basis of Gouzenko's platitude of lies were repudiated in the report itself.

And as a postscript to this incident, it should be remembered that Igor Gouzenko (when he fled from the Soviet Embassy to give the world the tremendous "news" about the Soviet-Canadian spy ring) was forced to run away, not because of his eager desire to serve the cause of truth, but because he had embezzled a considerable sum of money!

And this is the real truth of the Igor Gouzenko case. Of course, in its trial many innocent Canadian citizens were convicted on the evidence of this embezzler and common informer; but even the Commission, hard though it and Gouzenko tried, could not prove their main point—that "the Communist Party was always an agency net of the Soviet Government."

Of course, that will not disturb the Times of India editor; for he well knows that Indian Communists are the stoutest enemies of British imperialism's machinations in India; and for him, even the evidence of a common liar, despite its repudiation by the Royal Commission, comes in useful in his general anti-Communist campaign.

And in this, after all, he is only following in the footsteps of Churchill and Hitler—who never forgot how useful a weapon anti-Communist lies were in their continuous struggle to divide and disrupt the progressive movement.

Mohan Kumaramangalam

HELL IN TENNESSEE

(Continued from page 10)

has hardly dared to mention Stevenson's name. Newspaper editors deliberately throw a screen of vagueness around every reference to the person who is the very centre of the affair. To them he is just an anonymous Negro.

The Cowardly Press

The Daily Herald of Columbia, for example, refers to his mother and him as a "Negro woman and a man who said he was her son." This apparent idiocy is necessary to obscure the fact that a courageous young Navy veteran defended his mother. "It's a wise man who knoweth his own father," but everyone knows his mother.

The Press is touting the white clerk who assaulted the middle-aged Mrs. Stevenson as "William (Billy) Fleming, twenty-eight, discharged Army veteran," in the hope that this will obscure the character of the struggle that is going to rally hundreds of thousands of veterans to defend Jimmy Stevenson.

Let those who will, in the name of the veterans, defend the beating of an aged mother. The rest of the world—for the honour of the American veterans—must defend the veteran Southern town- and through-out the Southern countryside to sweep away the whole Jim Crow relic of human slavery.

member of the "superior race" and the coming of her son to her rescue sums up the saga of a people finding its way out of slavery.

This is the way it will be seen all round the world—in every village of China and India and Africa, where people will tell how Jimmy Stevenson came to the defence of his mother, and will say it symbolises the turning point of history for the American part of a thousand million oppressed people.

Jim Crowism Must End

Every phase of the inferior position imposed upon the Negro people must be raised in the great public struggle that must come in this case—including every aspect of segregation, separate schools, Jim Crow cars, exclusion from hospitals. Separation itself must be attacked, and not merely what is hypocritically called "equal, though separate, facilities." Segregation is the beginning of lynching.

Every incident of this brutal case must be made a part of the basis for a fight that will ring around the world and give new vigour to the struggle, in every Southern town- and through-out the Southern countryside to sweep away the whole Jim Crow relic of human slavery.

AITUC Most Representative Organisation Of Indian Workers

Bogus Claim Of Indian Federation Of Labour Blown Up

Chief Labour Commissioner's Report

The AITUC has secured a resounding victory. It has successfully proved that the claim made by the Indian Federation of Labour to represent Indian workers is completely bogus and has forced the Government of India to recognise the AITUC as the most representative organisation of Indian workers.

The Government of India have accepted the Interim Report of Mr. S. C. Joshi, Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), who was appointed to make an enquiry "in order to ascertain as to which of the two organisations, viz., the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour, is the most representative of workers in the country."

Methods Adopted

Describing the methods followed by him during his enquiry he says that he dealt with the two organisations in the light of the material supplied to him by the AITUC and the IFL and the affiliated Unions of each one of them and also the information obtained in the personal inspections made by him and other officers of the Industrial Relations Machinery.

He applied different tests in different directions and came to the conclusion which are tabulated by him as in the box.

The table shows that in regard to the average paid membership, Province-wise, the AITUC is more representative in 13 Provinces and the IFL in one, viz., Bihar, and that industry-wise the AITUC is more representative in 12 industries and the IFL in one, viz., mining.

It may be pointed out that the above conclusion showing that the IFL is more representative in the Province of Bihar and in the mining industry was drawn by Mr. Joshi on the basis of the information supplied by the IFL and its affiliated Unions, even though he had a report from Dr. Seth, Regional Labour Commissioner, Calcutta (who was requested by him to make personal enquiries into the actual working of the Unions in Bihar and Bengal), "giving unfavourable remarks on the working of the Unions affiliated to the Indian Federation of Labour", as he did not prefer to rely upon it for his conclusions and make personal investigations.

During the course of observations on what he saw at the

IFL Unions

The state of affairs which Mr. Joshi witnessed in some of the major Unions affiliated to the IFL in Bihar and Bengal during his personal visit on 29th and 31st July, 1946, is revealing and shows how utterly bogus are the IFL Unions.

During the course of observations on what he saw at the

by
MANEK GANDHI
Asstt. Secy., AITUC

Indian Colliery Mazdoor Union, given as an appendix to his interim report, he says that,

"The Jharia Branch of the Union shows a membership of 12,078 and 11,890 for 1944-45 and 1945-46 respectively. The rate of subscription is Rs. 0-2-0 per annum. Neither account books nor vouchers could be produced, as they were said to be with the Auditors for some time past.

No Account Books

"No accounts for 1945-46—either fair or rough—have been maintained. Similarly, minutes of proceedings of the meetings, either rough or fair, have not been maintained, although I found a fair Minute Book maintained from the

time the Union was established in which minutes of the two meetings held on 24th of April and 24th of May at 4 p.m. have been entered, though not signed.

This Minute Book also contains a heading on each separate page stating that meetings were held on 24th of each successive month from June 1945 to March 1946 at 4 p.m. Names of members present have also been written. The rest of the page, however, is completely blank.

It is rather curious that meetings should be held on the 24th of every month and that too at 4 p.m. In fact in the file I noticed a Circular of the meeting to be held on the 19th May. The same has been signed by the members of the Committee. There is, however, no reference to this meeting in the Minute Book."

Office Locked

"The office of the Asansol Branch of this Union which is said to have a membership of several thousands is locked for several months. I was told that the office has been closed and the Union was not functioning."

Mr. Joshi also visited the office of the Indian Federation of Labour, Jamshedpur, which claimed a membership of 23,000. In course of his observations of what he saw at the office of the Union he says,

"Neither Membership Register nor account books were produced, as they were said to be kept by Mr. Homi before he went to America in April

last... Neither Membership Register nor account book either fair or rough, for the 1946-47 is maintained.

"There is no membership subscription now prescribed. It was decided that in view of the present economic difficulty no fee should be received from the members....

"The registration of this Federation of Labour was cancelled in July 1945 for not submitting Annual Returns and some other technical reasons. Thereafter it was decided to form a new Union and it was said that old members should be treated as members of the new Union without any payment.

"Since April 1946 only less than two hundred rupees have been collected by way of donations and about 70 members have filled in their forms. There are no other records to show the membership or actual working of the Union.

"From the correspondence file I could see that the Head Office of the Indian Federation of Labour had paid Rs. 500, being only a part of the amount asked for, to this Union with a view to keeping up its registration. I could not get any explanation as to why this amount was paid.

"In any case it is very doubtful if the Union has a membership of 23,000 as claimed. At the most for the year 1945-46 the Union can have a membership of less than 3,000.

"On the whole, I am of the opinion that even in the Province of Bihar and in the Mining Industry, the Indian Federation of Labour cannot now claim to be more representative."

TUC Gaining Popularity

The above conclusion of Mr. Joshi is also borne out by the Minister for Labour, Government of Bihar, who in his letter, dated July 18, 1946, addressed to the Government of India, says:

"That the influence of the Indian Federation of Labour is definitely on the wane and barring the sugar factory Unions in one district of Saran, the influence of the Federation in the rest of the Province is now negligible. On the other hand, the All-India Trade Union Congress is fast gaining popularity."

Mr. Joshi concludes his report by saying that,

"Between the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour, the former claims a larger number of affiliated Unions, with a large membership and a larger representative character, both Province-wise and industry-wise, and evokes a response from a large percentage of its affiliated Unions, a response which reveals an increase in membership by as much as 44 per cent, and increases substantially the representative character in both the directions.

"The average paid membership confirms the same finding and the subscription basis lends additional support to it.

"The All-India Trade Union Congress, therefore, passes all the different tests in a better light than the Indian Federation of Labour."

the property of some confiscated. They have warned the President and the General Secretary of the Union against holding meetings in the premises of the workshop and having any contact with the Press.

In the case of disbursement of the relief also they have refused it to a number of departments.

Against this combined offensive, the workers are fighting back. And their record so far is a clear indication that victory will be theirs.

STRENGTH OF THE AITUC AND THE IFL

A. MEMBERSHIP	AITUC	IFL
Membership claimed by the Central Organisation:	427	193
Membership as ascertained from the information supplied by affiliated Unions.	4,83,227	4,80,479
Percentage of Unions responded.	326	134
Variation in Membership	6,96,595	3,13,807
	78.7	69.4
	plus 44 p.c.	minus 43 p.c.
B. REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER.		
Claimed by the Central Organisation.		
(a) Province	8	6
(b) Industry	9	4
Ascertained as stated above:		
(a) Province	30	4
(b) Industry	12	1 Mining.
C. AVERAGE PAID MEMBERSHIP		
(a) Province	13	1 Bihar.
(b) Industry	12	1 Mining.
Percentage of Unions information about whose subscription rates is available.	69 p.c.	59 p.c.
Percentage of membership to the total paying less than 12 annas per year as subscription.	22 p.c.	33 p.c.

N. W. RLY. MEN BATTLE AGAINST REPRESSION AND DISRUPTION

Workers Uniting Under Their New Union

On the North Western Railway, India's biggest railway, has started one of the biggest campaigns of repression and disruption. While the management demotes and victimises leading workers, the police have started prosecution against others. To add to this, the Muslim League is struggling its best to have a 'Muslim workers' Union'. The Congress Socialists have joined hands with confirmed strike-breakers and Government title-holders to 'revive' discredited Unions.

AGAINST all this, 20,000 workers have rallied under the banner of the N.W.R. Workers' Union, led by worker-leader MIRZA MOHAMMED IBRAHIM. And they are forcing the bosses to yield.

By their mighty symbolic strikes all along the line on May 1 and earlier, these workers had exposed the thoroughly bogus character of the two existing 'Unions' on the railway, the N.W.R. Union, led by one Ram Awtar, a rabid communal loyalist and confirmed strike-breaker, and the other, the United Union of N.W.R., led by one M. A. Khan, a Royist.

Workers Form New Union

Towards the end of June, the workers formed a new union, the N.W.R. Workers' Union. As thousands of Muslims and other workers started rallying under its banner, the Punjab Provincial Muslim League appointed a Sub-Committee to start its own Muslim Workers' Unions. Mian Amiruddin (Mayor of Lahore), Khalil-ul-Rehman (ex-General Secretary) and Maulvi Daud Ghaznavi, ex-President of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, formed this Sub-

For some time, this annual general meeting could not be declared open for want of quorum, for only 24 people were present. Later some local puppets dropped in and the show started.

As against this, 300 delegates attended the general body meeting of the NWR Workers' Union. Hardly three months old, the Union has already 20,000 workers on its rolls.

Victory Will Be Theirs

It was this strength that enabled the Union to force the bosses to disburse their interim relief before the Id; and to force them to pay overtime as part of the wages. The administration had to withdraw cases against 12 leading workers of the Union including Jagdish Chander Dang, General Secretary of the Union, Amar Singh and Liaq Ahmed (President and Secretary, respectively) of the Lahore Branch of the Union), and other leaders.

It was under this Union that 1,500 workers of the General Stores, Lahore, successfully struck work because the bosses refused them their pay before the Id. Loco Shed workers, workers of the Carriage and Wagon Staff and Traffic Staff all stopped work and forced the bosses to give them their dues.

But the administration is not without its friends. The active disruption initiated by the CSP and the League has encouraged them to demote, suspend, convict or otherwise punish 36 workers so far. They even got

Strange Bed-Fellows

But if the League leaders would not learn their lesson out of this, nor would the Congress Socialists who have lent their whole-hearted support to Ram Awtar's Union.

At the annual General meeting of this Union, on August 21, were to be seen on the dais the queer combination of loyalist Ram Awtar and Congress Socialist Tilak Raj Chaddha, M.L.A. And along with them in the Union, was no less a person than Rai Saheb Lala Ram Jaiwaya Mal Kapur, M.B.E., as one of the prominent office-bearers; anti-Communism was the necessity that made such strange bed-fellows!

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