

# THE COLONIES

## In India

The following is a report of Mr. Singaravelu Chettiar's speech delivered before the 37th Session of the Indian National Congress. Owing to delay in transmission, we were unable to publish it earlier. It is noteworthy that none of the Indian nationalist papers, even those who indulge most freely in talk about "the masses", published more than a few words of this stirring address.

Mr. M. Singaravelu Chettiar, in supporting the Labor Resolution, spoke as follows:

"President, Comrades in this Hall, Fellow-workers, Peasants of Hindusthan, Ryots and Tillers of the Soil of Hindusthan:

I have come before you today to speak as a fellow-worker, on your behalf. I have come here as a representative of the great World Movement represented by that great order of the World Communists, to give you the great message which Communism offers to the workers of the world. I come to offer you the greetings of these workers,—of the Communists who are interested in securing you your liberty, your home, your food and your clothing.

Comrades, we all know that the Congress is fighting for your rights, the right to lead a free life in our country, and these rights ought to be secured for us all. We do not want the accumulation of power in a few or fewer hands. We want power enough to enable us to be fed properly, to be clothed properly. These are the essentials we want. Our Congress must pledge itself to this. The World Communists have pledged themselves to assist the Congress in securing these rights to you. Comrades, the Communists all over the world have a common faith in the greatness of our cause and in the justice of our demands. Therefore, you must understand that they are here in spirit to help you to obtain these rights and to attain Swaraj. Let us welcome them.

Comrades and Workers. You know not your own strength. Once you realize yourselves, the ignorance that blinds your eyes will vanish, and the world will be yours. In the land of Ukrainia, in far-off Russia, there is a tradition of a huge giant called the Vee, whose eyelids were so long that they touched the ground. He could not see anything lying beyond him. His drooping eyelids are now being slowly lifted. He is now beginning to see beyond the frontiers, beyond the hills and mountains, beyond the seas and oceans. Through the workers of Russia, the workers of the whole world,—of India, Asia, Europe, America and Australasia, have become one in comradeship. They know no frontiers, race, caste nor class. They have all pledged themselves to work for that comradeship. We Communists believe in the real brotherhood of the world workers, and the workers of India must help to realize this unity. Therefore ye bourgeoisie, know that the workers of India are also awakened. Know that like their comrades abroad, they now see beyond the hills, beyond the seas and oceans, encompassing all the world workers in real comradeship. You cannot neglect them today. They have now realized their strength.

Today, the Indian laborer can be called the Cinderella of the East. To her have been assigned the bitter things of the world,—all the famines, pestilences, diseases and miseries of the world, all the cares and anxieties of the world. But beware, you rich men. While labor has given you all the good things of the world, you have kept her in the background; while all the time ministering to your wants, you have neglected her. By her skill, devotion and industry, you are enjoying all the luxuries of the world. But the change is fast approaching, when the bourgeoisie will sink into merited neglect. Cinderella, the Labor of India, will reign supreme. Indian labor is awakening, and is coming steadily and surely to her rights.