

On the same day, he had ex-governor Allen of Kansas appointed to the U.S. Senate. Allen achieved "fame" as the sponsor of the infamous anti-strike and compulsory arbitration law, as a result of which he nearly became vice-president instead of Coolidge, who edged into the presidency as an alleged breaker of the Boston police strike. Allen will probably be an able leader in the campaign against the workers which the Senate will evolve.

All in all the prospects are that a very pleasant time will be had by all the imperialists, as a result of the endeavours of the all-imperialist, all-millionaire cabinet of Mellon and Hoover.

## AGAINST COLONIAL OPPRESSION

### The Indictment against the Leaders of the Indian Workers.

By A. Jones (London).

The indictment against the arrested Indian leaders has finally reached us; it is called the **Complaint of the King and Emperor**. The devoted servants of His Majesty have put all their mind and energy in the framing up of the charges against the victims of their raids. They have succeeded in producing a document worthy of the pen of the authors of the famous Zinoviev Letter.

All the arrested leaders, who belong to different trade unions, to workers and peasants parties, and to other militant organisations of oppressed Indians are lumped together and described, on the one hand as illegal conspirators, and on the other, as members of the Communist International. The Communist International itself is described as a Soviet organisation aiming at the establishment of the dictatorship of the Russian Soviet rulers all over the world. All the organisations to which the arrested leaders belong, including the League against Imperialism, are referred to as sections and instruments of the Communist International.

The authors of the King's Complaint themselves know perfectly well that the charges manufactured by them are nothing else but a string of lies and slanders. The workers and peasants parties have never belonged, and do not belong, to the Communist International. It is sufficient to read only the resolutions of the Sixth Congress of the Comintern for convincing proof that the C. I. is in principle against parties and organisations based upon two classes. The trade unions of India, including the militant unions, cannot belong to the C. I. for the simple reason that no unions are affiliated to that body. The Indian unions are not even affiliated to the Red International of Trade Unions. As to the League against Imperialism, even a child knows that its chairman is a prominent member of the Second International and his name is James Maxton. Many well-known Second International men, and men belonging to no political party who are opposed to the principles of the C. I., are active in the League against Imperialism. As regards the Communist International, even the late Curzon never dared to describe it in such a way as his pupils do in remote India. The C. I. is known to the world as the stalwart fighter for all exploited and oppressed, and only brazen forgers can dare to ascribe to the C. I. imperialist aims. It is also sufficiently well-known that the C. I. can in no way be confused and mixed up with the Union of Soviet Republics. The authors of the King's Complaint also know, of course, that the Soviet system was born in the struggle against all forms of exploitation and oppression, and that one of the first acts of the Soviet power was to establish full freedom and full self-determination to the point of separation for all nationalities who had suffered under the yoke of Tsardom. Since then the Union of Soviet Republics has always fought and is today fighting for the cause of the oppressed.

A significant feature of this affair is that the British press has not dared to publish the Complaint of the King. Not only are the British imperialists ashamed to reveal to the workers in the Metropolis their infamous "masterpiece", but they do not dare to try their prisoners in any of the important industrial cities in India itself. They have chosen Meerut as the place for the trial. Why Meerut? The reason given is that about a year ago a conference of workers and peasants' parties was held

there. (By the way, Nehru senior participated in that conference; why was not he arrested?). But other, bigger and more important workers and peasants' conferences have taken place in more prominent industrial centres of India. Further, the majority of those arrested have participated openly in the great struggles of the workers in Calcutta and in Bombay, especially in the latter. Why have these cities been avoided as the place for the trial? It is as clear as daylight that this small obscure town of Meerut has been chosen because it is situated in the United Provinces where persons are tried without juries, and where there is no pretence even of bourgeois imperialist justice. If, on the other hand, the trial were to be held in Calcutta or Bombay, or in any other industrial centre, it would unmask the lies and calumnies contained in the indictment against the prisoners. Even the British imperialists would hesitate to come forward in the city of Bombay with the charge of conspiracy against men who acted openly and who had the full confidence of the workers and peasants. They know too well that in such circumstances the trial would be transformed into great mass demonstrations against the forgers and against the authors of the frame-up. To avoid this, the imperialists in India prefer to defy their own laws in order to get their enemies into the noose.

The King's Complaint means not only the rope for 31 honest and courageous fighters, but it also means fetters for the workers and peasants parties, for militant trade unions, and for the awakening national revolutionary movement in India. The object of the coming trial in the obscure little of Meerut is to justify the new emergency laws which are directed against any form of active militant trade union organisation and all national revolutionary activities. In these circumstances, the workers all over the world, and first and foremost, the workers of Great Britain, are called upon to see that this foul conspiracy of the Anglo-Indian Government is not allowed to materialise. This outrageous document — the Complaint of the King and Emperor — must be made known to every worker throughout the world. In the coming general election in Great Britain, every candidate, and especially the Labour Imperialists, who call themselves "pacifists and internationalists" (see Snowden's recent speech), must be asked what stand he or she takes to the outrageous attack upon the Indian working class organisations and their leaders. The workers of Great Britain, having had the experience of the Zinoviev Letter, will not allow themselves to be deceived by more lies and slanders about the Communists, or the leaders of the Indian workers who have been arrested, being responsible for the bomb throwing in the Indian Legislative Assembly. This obvious provocation was aimed solely at strengthening the "arguments" of the indictment against the 31 arrested leaders.

In spite of all the efforts of the British Imperialists, the Communist International exists today in all parts of the world and is fighting for the cause of the workers and oppressed peoples. Its programme, its strategy and its tactics are very well-known. The C. I. has never favoured individual terrorism. As to the workers and peasants parties in India, which do not belong to the C. I., their programme and activities are well known not only to the workers and peasants, but also to the authors of the frame-up, and to describe them as bomb-throwers and conspirators is the deepest calumny. Individual terrorism is in no way part of the tactics of the Workers and Peasants Party. The very fact that the King's Complaint does not refer to any terroristic plots or activities is sufficient proof that the authors of the second Zinoviev Letter do not dare to come out with such arguments even before a judge whom they themselves, defying both law and tradition, have carefully selected. The stunts of the "Daily Mail" and the "Morning Post" concerning the throwing of the bomb in the Legislative Assembly are meant to poison the minds of the people and to prepare them for the sentence against the Indian leaders upon which agreement has obviously already been reached by the Anglo-Indian Government even before this farce of a trial takes place.

The indictment against the 31 leaders is based solely upon the "discovery of a conspiracy against the sovereignty of the king." The truth of the matter is that the agents of the British imperialists have themselves framed up a conspiracy against the awakening liberation movement in India. This foul and shameless conspiracy against the Indian workers and peasants must be unmasked, and the workers throughout the world, and especially the British workers, must leave no stone unturned not only to expose, but to defeat the machinations of the imperialists in India.