

BENGAL WINS BACK ITS HEROES

PEOPLE'S AGE

VOL. V. No. 8,

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 1946

As. 3

All Pre-Reform Prisoners To Be Released

REMEMBER the 18th of April 1930! On that day, a handful of young fighters of Chittagong declared war the death against British imperialism.

They did not lead a great war into battle—nor did they have a great deal of arms.

But they had great passion for freedom which does the impossible. They had sworn to lift a curse of slavery from the jaws of men or perish!

They say the tree of liberty is sated with the blood of men. The blood of eleven young martyrs, who fell on Jalalabad Hill, beyond Chittagong town, was our first offering.

But it was not the last. The shots that rang out on that day are still remembered every Chittagong home. The mother in our Chittagong members that great epic—as her own child had died in action.

These first shots did not wash imperialism. But a flame was set alight which nothing could put out.

Imperialism tried to crush the spirit of those who were taken prisoner. But the gallows and the Andamans only hardened them.

The flame of revolt spread to all Bengal, all India.

It does not burn in middle-class homes only—which gave birth to the Chittagong revolutionaries. It burns in the heart of every Indian kisan, every Indian worker.

'Shatter the chains of slavery'—is the cry on every lip.

That is why a 12-year-old Calcutta school-boy—shot down during the Azad Hind Fouj demonstrations—died telling his mother: 'I am dying for my country, mother!'. The old man marched with the young and joined their frail voices to the robust voice of youth, saying: 'Death to imperialism!'

That is why, also, the blood of Hindus and Muslims mingled in our streets when our brothers in the navy rose against imperialism.

Or look at the way the common people—in Calcutta, in Bombay, all over—marched for the victory of our postmen on all-India general strike!

Listen to Kashmir standing solid to a man—saying 'Quit India,' 'Quit Kashmir'.

Everywhere today the tide is swelling—the tide of workers, kisans, the PEOPLE in revolt!

It was this revolutionary humanity which stormed the Bengal Assembly only the other day with the cry: 'Ain sabha—sunoon, sunoon! Rajbandider mukti chail!' (Listen! You of the Bengal Assembly! Let go your political prisoners!).

That is why they had to throw open the jail gates. Nobody has the power to keep them from us any more.

After 16 to 17 years — they will be with us again. We greet them with the deepest love in the world.

A new spirit is abroad today. The entire people have taken the revolutionary road. The spirit of April 18th is in the blood of our people.

The people of this country don't want to dream of independence which comes by bending the knee to imperialism.

They look to the Bengal revolutionaries to take the people forward on the road to the final struggle for power—which will wipe away the shame of centuries of slavery and open a new era of freedom.

-Kalpana Dutt

THE WARRIORS OF CHITTAGONG



Ambika Chakravarty



Ananta Singh

Ganesh Ghosh

THEY WILL ONCE AGAIN BE IN VANGUARD OF REVOLUTIONARY BATTLE FOR FREEDOM

NAME	CASE	SENTENCE	TERM SERVED WITH REMISSION (Approximate)
1. Ambika Chakravarty	Chittagong Armoury Raid Case	Transportation for Life	16 years.
2. Ananta Singh	Do.	Do.	17 years.
3. Ganesh Ghose	Do.	Do.	Do.
4. Sukhendu Dastidar	Do.	Do.	Do.
5. Sahal Ram Das	Do.	Do.	Do.
6. Subodh Choudhury	Do.	Do.	Do.
7. Lakshman Sen	Do.	Do.	Do.
8. Leknath Bai	Do.	Do.	Do.
9. Samli Chatterji	Watson Attempt Case (Calcutta)	Do.	15 1/2 years.
10. Nalini Das	Cornwallis Street Shooting Case (Calcutta)	Do.	15 years.
11. Jagadananda Mukherji	Do.	Do.	Do.
12. Kamakhya Ghose	Burge Murder Case (Midnapore)	Do.	13 1/2 years.
13. Sukumar Sen Gupta	Do.	Do.	Do.
14. Saktigopal Sen Gupta	Do.	Do.	Do.
15. Provat Chakravarty	Inter-Provincial Conspiracy Case (Calcutta)	Do.	12 1/2 years.
16. Situnath Dey	Do.	Do.	10 1/2 years.
17. Jiten Gupta	Do.	Do.	12 1/2 years.
18. Prafulla Sen	Titagarh Conspiracy Case (Calcutta)	14 years	11 1/2 years.
19. Bishullesh Bhattacharji	Hill Mail Dacoity Case (Dinajpore)	Transportation for Life	13 1/2 years.
20. Pran Krishna Chakravarty	Do.	Do.	Do.
21. Suren Kar	Charmuguria Mail Loot Case (Faridpore)	Do.	16 1/2 years.
22. Suresh Das	Armenian Street Dacoity Case (Calcutta)	Do.	Do.
23. Bitaj Dev	Comilla Spy Murder Case (Tipperah)	Do.	15 1/2 years.
24. Anulya Roy	Dacca Spy Murder Case (Dacca)	Do.	14 1/2 years.
25. Waren Ghose	Dinajpore Conspiracy Case (Dinajpore)	15 years	Do.
26. Manoranjan Banerji	Governor Murder Attempt Case (Lebong, Darjeeling)	Transportation for Life	13 1/2 years.
27. Hem Baitshi	Rangpore Conspiracy Case (Rangpore)	Do.	15 1/2 years.
28. Mokshoda Chakravarty	Bathua Dacoity Case (Chittagong)	Do.	14 years.
29. Priyada Chakravarty	Do.	Do.	Do.
PRE-REFORM SECURITY PRISONERS RELEASED AFTER FULL SENTENCES SERVED, BUT REARRESTED			
30. Madhu Banerji	Governor Murder Attempt Case (Lebong, Darjeeling)	10 years	3 1/2 yrs. after rearrest
31. Sukumar Ghose	Do.	Do.	Do.



Chittagong Armoury Raiders shot at Jalalabad Hill, Chittagong. Left to right:

1. Naresh Roy.
2. Tripura Sen.
3. Bidhu Bhattacharyya.
4. Hari Pal (Tegra).
5. Mati Kanungo.
6. Prabhas Bal.
7. Unknown.
8. Sudhansu Bose.
9. Rajendra Das.
10. Madhu Datta.
11. Pulln Ghose.

KISAN BATTLES IN PUNJAB

More Support For Harsha Chhina Struggle District Muslim League Joins In Officially: A Whole Jatha Of Congressmen Courts Arrest

By our Correspondent.

In the face of the worst repression of the coalition Government the kisans are continuing their struggle. The Lahore Central and Borstal Jails are now full with kisan prisoners, whose numbers till yesterday was 500. A peep into the jail conditions is a sharp exposure of Lala Bhimsen Sachhar, the Congress Ministry who is in charge of jails. The prisoners are not regarded as politicals and are given the worst food possible. They are not allowed to sleep in the open (as all politicals are allowed in the terrible summer months) and are locked in their cells after 8 p.m.

BUT the spirit of the kisans is not to be damped. "Continue the struggle and don't bother about us", they said to a visitor yesterday.

They are, however, not taking the treatment of the jail authorities lying down. Under the leadership of the Vice-President of the Punjab Kisan Committee, Sardar Achhar Singh Chhina, they are fighting back. On August 10 they went on a one-day token hunger strike and have told the authorities that they will go on hunger strike again after eight days if their grievances are not removed by that time.

The morcha is gaining strength every day and support is coming from all quarters.

Congress Backing

The jatha that courted arrest at Harsha Chhina today consisted entirely of Congressmen. This batch was led by Baba Inder Singh of Gaggobua and included Sardar Yadvinder Singh and Sardar Sarwan Singh, prominent local Congressmen.

The Amritsar District Congress Committee at its meeting adopted a resolution supporting the kisan morcha and promising it all help.

Sardar Avtar Singh Sidha, General Secretary of the Amritsar Dist. Congress Committee, has written a letter to the Provincial Congress (PCC) urging the Provincial Congress to take up the cause of the kisans who are now fighting the corrupt Irrigation Department and whose cause is just.

The Working Committee of the PCC at a meeting at Amritsar on August 8, adopted a resolution sympathising with the kisans in their struggle. It also appointed a Sub-Committee to go into the whole dispute between the kisans and the Government, and to try for a settlement.

League Support

The Amritsar District Muslim League is officially supporting the MORCHA and it has issued a poster calling upon the Muslim peasants to join their Sikh and Hindu brethren in their common fight against the Govt.

About a dozen meetings have been organised by the Muslim League in the area addressed by Chaudhri Nasrullah (MLA and General Secretary of District Muslim League) in which the fullest cooperation was offered to the Morcha Committee. The League at these meetings collected about Rs. 200 which has been handed over to the Morcha Fund.

In five jathas the Muslim League sent its volunteers and about 20 Muslim Leaguers are already in jails.

The League is also planning to send jathas which would consist only of Muslim League volunteers.

The Punjab Kisan Committee observed Morcha Day on July 28. Reports from Sheikhpura, Ambala, Lyallpur, Hoshiarpur, Ferozepur, Patiala, Gujranwala, Kalsia State, Moga, and other places, indicate that big meetings were held in all places where the kisans pledged their fullest support to the kisan

the villagers who give shelter to their leaders. The police has attached the property of Communist leader, Kaka Singh, and the cattle belonging to Hazara Singh Dhundra.

The arrested kisans, before they are brought to Lahore, are produced before some Magistrate in Amritsar. And till they reach the Lahore Jail which often takes more than 20 hours, they are given food worth only three annas. They are handcuffed on the whole way from the jail to the Court and back.

Kisan Determination

The kisans have refused to submit to such humiliation and there have often been clashes between the kisans and the police.

On August 8, at Gharinda, Jathedar Jahen Singh Buri, the ex-President of the Amritsar Golden Temple, was produced before the trying Magistrate. The people who had gathered there wanted to give some gur to their leader. The police took objection to this but the kisans were determined to honour their leader. A clash took place and the Jathedar's handcuffs were broken.

The Punjabi kisan is confident of victory.

struggle in Amritsar District. After August 20 the kisans would march from all these districts to join the morcha at Harsha Chhina.

Seeing the unbeaten spirit of the kisans the Government has placed the whole area under police control.

Police Repression

Anybody who takes active part in organising the morcha is put under arrest. The police go round with 'blank' signed warrants in search of kisan leaders. They organise raids in villages, beat up people and abuse kisan women. Frantic efforts are being made to arrest the local kisan leaders. But the police game is always foiled by the unity of

Another Morcha Starts In Chottala, Hissar Muzharas Resist Ejection From Land

Another kisan struggle has been started in the eastern Punjab, and up to August 15, 120 people have been put under arrest.

PLACED in a remote corner of the Province adjoining Bikaner State, the sturdy Jats of Hissar have been the bulwark of imperialism for many years. There has been very little political movement in this Haqa and reactionary Hindus like the late Sir Chhoturam represented the kisans in the last Assembly.

But of late, a new awakening has come to the peasantry of this area and for the first time they gave a crushing defeat to toady Unionist Hindus and elected Congressmen to the Assembly.

In four villages—Chottala, Teja-khara, Bharukhara and Asakhera—live 6,000 Muzharas (tenants) ruled by 20 landlords. Nineteen of them behave like little tyrants putting to shame the atrocities of the autocrat of the neighbouring Bikaner State. The only exception is Choudhri Sahib Ram, Congress M.L.A., who sides with the tenants in their battle against landlords' oppression.

There are 45,000 bighas of land in an area owned by 20 families. The Muzharas have been tilling this land for the last 200 years. In return the poor Muzharas had to give begar (free labour) 'salami' of Rs. 5 to landlords for every marriage in tenants' families and a hundred other similar feudal dues.

And today the Muzharas are being ejected from the land—the land which they have ploughed for 200 years and made fertile by their toil.

For more than a year the struggle between the Muzharas and the landlords has been going on. On the intervention of the Government officials, Congress leaders and Ministers, agreement after agreement has been reached between the landlords and the tenants. But each time, the landlords have ultimately backed out.

An Year Old Struggle

In November, the landlords issued notices of ejection on 120 Muzhara families. But the kisans organised a social boycott of the landlords. Afraid of the people's unity the landlords were forced to come to terms with the Muzharas again.

This happened on June 15, but less than a month later, the landlords backed out once again. According to the terms of agreement reached, no tenant could be ejected within two years. Notices were served again on 153 Muzhara families ejecting them from their land—a total of about 6,000 bighas.

The Provincial Congress set up a Committee led by Sjt. Thakurdas Bhargava, Central Congress M.L.A., to enquire into the whole affair. This Committee till now has done nothing and the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee is still awaiting its report, while the Congress leaders are sitting quiet. The tiny tyrants of landlords refused to give land to any Muzhara until he accepted their own terms.

Landlords' Terms

They are—
*(1) All crop must be brought to a common place and Muzharas would have no right over it till the landlords' supervision is over.

*(2) Tenants are not to cut even branches of trees.

*(3) Tenants cannot take even a piece of green fodder to their homes.

*(4) One thousand bighas of land will not be leased to the Muzharas.

The Muzharas were asked either to accept these terms or leave the Haqa where they have lived for the last 200 years.

Unable to accept these conditions, the Muzharas formed their own Committee to fight back the landlords, to assert their right to the land they have ploughed for the last 200 years.

On August 2, instigated by the landlords, a police force raided the village Chottala, centre of the Muzhara movement, with a view to "teach the Muzharas a lesson."

They went round spreading terror in the village, threatening and abusing men, women and children. The police force indiscriminately started beating up the people wherever they came across them. They did not bother to know who was who.

As the Coalition Ministry failed to redress their grievances, the Muzharas started satyagraha from August 8.

On being requested to intervene by Ch. Sahib Ram, Congress M.L.A., Lala Bham Sen Sachhar, Congress Finance Minister in the Coalition Ministry, has asked to meet him (Sachhar) at Simla.

Before leaving for Simla, Ch. Sahib Ram in a Press statement said:

"I cannot understand the Congress Minister's policy. On the one hand, Mr. Sachhar assures me that he has taken the matter in his own hands, and on the other, Section 144 is promulgated in my village and repression continues there."

Chaudhri Sahib Ram has also informed the Punjab Ministry that if the Chottala dispute was not settled soon he himself would lead the tenants and court arrest.

PCC Supports Kisans

The Punjab Provincial Congress Committee has passed a resolution supporting the demand of the Muzharas.

The latest news is that the arrested satyagrahis, who were lodged in Sirsa Jail, resorted to 48 hours' hunger strike on August 10 and 11, as a protest against the barbaric treatment meted out to them in jail when they were made to go without drinking water.

They have asked the jail authorities to redress their grievances immediately and have declared that they would be forced to resort to hunger strike from the 15th if these grievances are not removed. August 13.)

BOGUS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

FAILING to crush the spirit of the kisans the Coalition Government have announced a Committee to enquire into the Mogha question.—But who are on this committee?

Excepting Sardar Pratap Singh, Congress M.L.A., Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke, Akali M.L.A. and Ch. Nasrullah, League M.L.A., all the other 11 members are just officials and Government stooges. An I.C.S. officer is to act as chairman of the Committee. Mr. A.M.R. Montague and Rai Bahadur D. K. Khanna, the two Chief Engineers, who should have been put in the dock as the people responsible for this anti-kisan remodeling scheme, have been made judges by including them in the Committee.

On the Committee is Sardar Sardul Singh, toady landlord, who got elected to the Punjab Assembly after defeating the Congress and Akali candidates. There are three Unionists who were defeated in the last election by the Muslim League.

Not a single member of the Morcha Committee has been included in it.

Ch. Nasrullah, the League M.L.A., has already refused to serve on such a Committee.

The kisans expect no justice from such a Committee and they know they will have to fight out their own battle. When the Committee meets at Amritsar tomorrow, (13th) they will hold a demonstration outside the Irrigation Office.

American Friends Of India

I HAVE just received a letter from an American friend of mine who was in the U.S. Army in India. He tells me that a new organisation called "American Friends of India" has been organised by American ex-Servicemen "who have lived and learned in the India-Burma theatre."

In a leaflet outlining their purposes and aims, they place sharply the real position in India, writing:

"Colonial shackled India means imperialist rivalry, poverty, recurrent famine, political and social suppression, a breeding place for World War III."

Believing this, they have put before themselves, the task of implementing the following programme:

1. Disseminating to the public the TRUTH OF INDIA'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE; EXPOSING THE DISTORTED AND PREJUDICED INFORMATION which virtually monopolizes our Press. We know that the fostering of an enlightened public opinion in regard to the causes of India's economic and social backwardness, its throttled political life, is the most important contribution we can make towards a democratic India.
2. Mobilizing the American people in support of political and economic independence for India, which are the essential prerequisites for the realisation of the Four Freedoms in India.
3. Pressing our Government to exert all of America's strength in support of the Indian people's just demand for independence and democracy.
4. Promoting an appreciation of the richness and beauty of Indian culture as a part of our common cultural heritage by means of more



extensive inter-cultural relations and other media available."

In the name of these very good friends of India, I am writing through you appealing to all Indian political and social organisations to co-operate with this newly-formed organisation, "American Friends of India," giving them all assistance in the form of publicity material etc., in order effectively to spread in America the full truth about the battle for India's freedom. Its address is:

American Friends of India,
58 Park Avenue, NEW YORK 16,
U.S.A.

A. K. SWAMY,
Bombay, August 16.

Ex-Servicemen's Association

YOUR readers will be interested to know that an Ex-Servicemen's Association has been formed here and we are busy putting our case before the public.

We called a public meeting on July 29 and it was attended by two thousand persons. Speakers pointed out the shabby treatment being meted out to ex-Servicemen and compared it with the promises made by the British at the time they recruited us.

What is clear to us ex-Servicemen is that we have to fight with the rest of the country to end British domination and we mean to do it.

We hope that similar ex-Servicemen's Associations will be organised all over the country.
Kumbakonam,
2-8-48 EX-SERVICEMAN

Education In Gwalior

AS a result of years of agitation by the Gwalior State Students' Federation, the State Government have this year opened First Year classes in Medicine and Commerce. But they have provided for only 40 students in each subject and even that with unhealthy reservations. As a result, hundreds of students have been refused admission.

There is an unprecedented rush to study Biology which is taught only in the Victoria College, Lashkar, in the whole of the State, and here too there is accommodation for only eight students.

To our great surprise the classes in Arts subjects have been reduced to only one section, instead of three as before. There is only one hostel in the cap-

ital with 45 seats. The student minimum demands are:

*1. Opening one more section each for Arts, Commerce and Biology.

*2. Introduction of shift system to meet the problem of accommodation.

*3. Immediate acquirement of the huge kothies of the State Sardars, which are lying vacant, and converting them into cheap hostels.

The State must carry out these measures. If it does not, Gwalior's students are ready to act. In this struggle, they hope, they will have the support of all patriots in India.

R. G. BARNAL,
18-7-48,
General Secretary,
Gwalior State Students' Federation.

Trial Of A Patriot

Goa's Lokmanya Fights Portugal

"I have never made a secret of my political opinions. For 18 years since my return from Europe, I have ceaselessly proclaimed my views. They are expressed in my articles and my pamphlets. The whole world knows my sympathies are with the Congress. There is no need for any witnesses."

THIS was the proud statement made by Tristao Braganza-Cunha before the Court Martial in Panjim, capital of Goa, just before he was sentenced to eight years' transportation.

The defence exposed every prosecution witness to be "unreliable" so thoroughly that it would have been to the satisfaction of any Law Court in the world. But the Portuguese Court had its orders, the judgment was already prepared.

"Witness"

Who were the witnesses the Portuguese procured?

SABILLO MARTIUS—a Goan lawyer man who had earned notoriety because of the sensational forcible conversion to Christianity of a Hindu girl. The Portuguese had been compelled to demote him. He was one of the most hated men in Goa.

COTACRUZ was another witness, a reputed loafer, notorious for his part in the abduction of a girl.

And the third witness was the Military Commandant of Margao!

These were the only people who would testify against Cunha. Portugal could find only the scum of the earth to play Judas.

The evidence they gave was fantastic, contradictory, obviously taught and rehearsed.

One said, "Cunha is a Bolshevik". He could not answer the

by
Our Correspondent

question "What is a Bolshevik?"

Another mumbled in such a way that no one could hear him.

And so on.

It was a farce from beginning to end. If shouting "Jai Hind" is a crime, if being a Congressman is a crime, if hoisting the Tricolour is a crime, then Cunha was guilty, a hundred times guilty. And these were all the charges against him!

Scare

The Portuguese were scared of the crowd outside the courtroom. They were afraid that once they pronounced their dastardly sentence, the crowd would march to the rescue of their leader.

And so immediately after the judgment had been read, they rushed Braganza-Cunha out of Panjim in the dead of night, across by ferry to the hated Agoada Fort.

Here they kept him in a dingy hole, with no air and a cold wall, wet with slime.

Cunha, who was already weak, thanks to the inhuman treatment he had received, developed bronchitis. The Jail Doctor was called in. He insisted on Cunha being removed to a drier room. The Portuguese thought it was a "ruse" for Cunha to escape! So they insisted on calling in on a Special Medical Board of three doctors from Panjim. And only when they pronounced the patient seriously ill was he removed to a slightly less damp room.

Here too there was a permanent guard of Negro soldiers, who never left Cunha's side.

Appeal

The Portuguese then offered Cunha the right to appeal. To whom? To the same judges with three more army officers added! Cunha refused.

Instead Cunha and his lawyer decided to appeal to the High Court in Lisbon. They knew perfectly well that the Portuguese Courts were all appendages of the dictatorship. But Cunha decided on this course of action in order to place the whole case of Goa and expose Portuguese Fascism, before Europe, in a public trial in Lisbon.

Look out now for the voice of Cunha in Lisbon, thundering at Portuguese imperialism in its very heart. They have taken him away in chains to a life of hell in some African colony. But Cunha is determined to fight on—wherever he can—in chains, in prisons—for the liberty of his beloved Goa.

Cunha will do his part. The Goans left behind here must do theirs.

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE BENGAL ASSEMBLY

By Nikhil Chakravarty

August 13 to 15—three days in the Bengal Legislative Assembly—three days full of lessons.

The discussion on the abolition of the zamindari system....

TWO of the biggest zamindars of Bengal, both of whom bask under the Congress wing, were on their legs today. The first was Sitansu Kanta Acharyya.

Maharaj Kumar of Mymensing, with a family estate fetching 12 lakhs a year. He came over to the Congress from the Mahasabha just before the elections. He declared that he would hand over his zamindari to a National Government, but concluded by urging the House to think twice before such action was taken.

The other speaker was Bengal's biggest zamindar, with an income of 50 lakhs a year, the Maharajadhiraj of Burdwan, who has recently been returned to the Constituent Assembly as a Congress candidate. He openly spoke in defence of zamindari and demanded adequate compensation.

Both were loudly cheered by the Congress benches with Sjt. Kiron Shankar Roy thumping the benches as they spoke.

But the Communist MLA Jyoti Basu, who made a stirring attack on zamindari, was barracked, and attempts were made to prevent him from speaking by the very same Congressmen—led by Niharendu Dutta Muzumdar, that "political chameleon," expelled from the Communist Party and now basking as a Congress MLA.

Cheer the zamindars—jeer at those who want to end zamindari—Is this the patriotism of the Bengal Congress of today? And the result: The Ministry

gets away with shelving the whole issue.

Aug. 14.

The Assembly is discussing the Bengal Government's Labour policy, a European MLA, R. B. Whitehead, is talking, condemning "irresponsible strikes" as retarding industrial progress.

Whitehead quotes from Pandit Nehru to condemn the postal strike, quotes from Mr. Giri to attack the working class. He calls on the Bengal Ministry to take stern measures and quotes in support of the work of the Bombay and Madras Congress Governments!

The Congress MLAs applauded Whitehead vigorously all the way.

What will the mazdoors say when they hear that the hated European bosses are quoting the Congress leaders with approval, to receive the plaudits of the Congress MLAs? They know the White sahibs have not changed their skin.

Aug. 15

Premier Suhrawardy announces that orders have been passed for the release of all Pre-Reform Prisoners. Sjt. Kiron Shankar Roy congratulates the Premier. There are wild scenes of enthusiasm.

We won this victory NOT by cheering the zamindars or the White Bosses, but by the united might of the common people of Bengal—Hindus and Muslims—fighting them, forcing them to surrender.

Subscribe

New Times

For 24 Issues Rs. 12

A fortnightly journal devoted to questions of the foreign policies of the USSR and other countries, and to current events in international life.

Russia Today

Yearly Rs. 2-12

The monthly organ of the Russia Today Society of Britain, giving the latest political and cultural developments in Russia and her role in world affairs.

American Review

of

Soviet Medicine

Yearly Rs. 24

This periodical, published in London (six issues in a year) in cooperation with the American-Soviet Medical Society, New York, gives an account of the latest developments in Soviet medicine, which medical practitioners in our country will find of immense value.

New Theatre

Yearly Rs. 10

This monthly reviews the development of progressive drama in England, makes constructive criticisms of current plays, and tells us all that is happening in the world of English drama.

Please write to any of our bookshops at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Nagpur, Lahore, Poona, Calcutta, Bezwada and Trivandrum.

August 25, 1946.

A PATRIOT'S NOTEBOOK

Why The Tommies Are Here

I HAVE just come across an army order, dated June 21, on the intriguing subject: "Reasons for British Troops Serving in India!"

The introduction to this order begins:

"It is known that there are many British Army personnel arriving here, having no clear idea as to why it is necessary for them to serve in India. This state of affairs must be rectified...."

And so the order suggests that "to clarify the position", lectures should be arranged for "ALL troops fresh from the United Kingdom, as soon as possible after their arrival."

And then are laid down the general lines which lecturers are to follow in their talks:

"(a) Until such time as India is handed to some form of Indian Government, Great Britain is responsible for the government of the country. This carries with it the moral obligation of preserving peace, to ensure which the presence of British troops is required, since in the all too frequent communal troubles, they alone have the completely neutral attitude.

"(b) The British Commonwealth and India have a great and interlocking relationship, mercantile, strategical, financial and sentimental" (1).

"(c) Many British citizens live in India and a great deal of British investments are held there by the Government and the people of Britain.

"(d) India is going through the throes of a great constitutional reform. In the heat of the feelings aroused, disorder may occur on a large scale if there is not somebody to keep the ring.

"(e) The British soldier is, therefore, in India to carry out the British Government's obligations of MAINTAINING THE PEACE, and as such, he helps—

(i) to preserve Empire interests; (ii) to allow reform to take place without too much disorder. (iii) to safeguard his fellow-countrymen."

It is altogether a brilliant piece. Of course the Blimps who drafted these points for lectures begin with talking of "neutrality," of "keeping the ring," of "maintaining the peace", of helping through the "great constitutional reform," of the "sentimental" "great and interlocking relationship" between Britain and India. I do not know whom they think they fool.

"Neutrality", "Sentimentality"—Blah!

We know the Blimps' neutrality: it only means they shoot "without distinguishing between men, women and children. It only means that they are no where to be seen when there are communal riots but all-too-present, when Hindus and Muslims unitedly march on the British.

As for the "sentimental" relationship between India and Britain—we know what it is. It is the sentiment aroused by the memory of Jallianwala Bagh, of Ashi and Chinar, of the military butchery in Calcutta and Bombay in connection with the INA and RIN demonstrations.

But all this honeyed talk is just blah, which is meant to sugarcoat the truth: the "mercantile, strategical, financial" relationship between India and Britain; the "British investments" in India; "to preserve Empire interests."

Yes, that is why the British soldiers are here. And that is why till they quit, the Empire continues to lord it over India.

Sahib Bahadur

A BOMBAY Government Press Note dated August 14, runs:

"Large sections of the public, particularly in the mofussil, are ignorant of the correct mode of addressing officers of the Government. For instance, Collector of a district is often addressed as "Sahib Bahadur", Mamladar as "Rao Sahib" and a Police official as "Bhausahib".

"It is obviously not desirable that such incorrect forms of address should continue or be accepted, as the use, or rather the misuse, of such honorific titles conveys false notions in the minds alike of officers and the public, especially by special titles as "Rao Sahab" and

"Khan Sahab" are conferred by special grant only.

"The Government has, therefore, requested all its officers to discourage the public, who are ignorant in such matters, from addressing them in any but the correct mode, viz., "Sir," and to take every opportunity of impressing on the public the need for discontinuing the use of the incorrect and the misleading modes of address."

The Indian people want to change the present relations between the bureaucrats and the masses. And they expect a Congress Ministry to help them do this. But is this the way?

Whose Ignorance?

You talk of the "ignorance" of the common people which makes them call the Collector "Sahib Bahadur," the Mamladar and the Police official—Rao Sahib and Bhausahib. But it is not ignorance, Sjt. Kher—and you ought to know it. These titles are only part of the terrible dead-weight of slavery which our alien imperialism has beaten into us.

The way to end it is not to ask everybody to call officers "Sir," not to label it "ignorance" and to sneer at it as the White sahibs have always sneered. But to change the Police State into a People's State.

Your paper orders won't do it, Sjt. Kher. Only when officers derive their authority from the people will the Police State and the slave rules it enforces upon us come to an end.

And you are doing little to whip the insolent bureaucracy into obedience to the people. You condoned the RIN firing by refusing to launch an enquiry. You presented medals to the police for their villainous part in the days of the RIN strike. You set a disgraceful example to the whole country by having tea with the Governor and fawning upon him.

You are helping the "Sahib Bahadurs" to remain "Sahib Bahadurs"!

A Minister "Corrects"

THE Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Home Department (Political), has sent a letter to our Editor, asking us to put in a "correction" to an item appearing

in this column last month, under the title "The Guns of Satara".

I had told the story then of the visit paid by Mr. Morarji Desai, Bombay Home Minister, to Satara, where he had called upon the revolutionary fighters of that district to hand their guns over to the Congress. I reported how Mr. Desai had shamed these valiant fighters by asking them to hand their guns over to a high police official who was accompanying him.

Now the Home Secretary writes to ask us to put correction in our paper and say that:

"It is now learnt that this statement is incorrect and that the guns were received by the Minister himself."

Unfortunately that is all the information sent to us by Mr. Desai through this very official source. We received an eye-witness account of Mr. Desai's meeting in Satara and have checked it up as far as we could. We would be very happy to publish a complete contradiction, because it would be a pleasure to know that Mr. Desai did not shame the Satara heroes, but honoured them.

More Information Wanted

But in order to do that, we would be grateful if Mr. Desai, or (if he insists on using the services of a Sahib) his Home Secretary, would answer the following questions:

- Was there a police official with Mr. Desai, sitting on or near the stage?
- If Mr. Desai technically received the guns, what did he do with them? Did he not hand them over to the police immediately, in the presence of those who surrendered them?
- Did Mr. Desai make no reference whatsoever to the police officials in his speech? If so, what? Was it condemnation of their atrocities? Or was it a reference to their right to receive back the people's arms?
- What had Mr. Desai to say exactly about the heroes of Satara and their work for the national cause?

It is very necessary for us all to get a complete picture of the Satara business, and I hope Mr. Desai will be good enough to furnish us with his answers, which we will be glad to publish together with our own correspondent's full report.

These incidents which APPEAR small are really vital to the whole future of our country.

Ramesh Chandra

Calcutta In Grip Of Insane Lust For Fratricidal Blood

Working-Class Areas Escape Mass Frenzy: Only White Sahibs Move With Impunity

August 17

CALCUTTA is now in the grip of a communal orgy the like of which was never seen before—not even in the big riot of 1928. The Muslim League's 'Direct Action Day' on the 16th turned into an open civil war between Hindus and Muslims.

In the glorious Hindu-Muslim demonstrations against the British in November 1945, in February this year, during the naval rising, and as recently as a fortnight ago in the general strike in solidarity with the postal strike—every Hindu or Muslim was safe, only the White Sahibs and British troops were unsafe. Today, only the British troops and British civilians are safe in the streets of Calcutta.

Passions Fanned

Embers of communal passions were fanned all through last week. Nazimuddin, Bengal Muslim League leader, made vile attacks on the Congress on his return from the Bombay League Council meeting.

The Bengal Muslim League Ministry declared the 16th a public holiday despite the well-known and strongly-felt opposition to this move, which was thought to be 'dictatorial'. It was apparently a move to 'avoid clashes' on the 16th—but the storm it raised defeated its very purpose.

The Congress Parliamentary Party staged a walk-out from the Bengal Assembly when this vital decision of the Government's was not allowed to be discussed. They followed it up by holding protest meetings in which bitter attacks against the Muslim League were made.

In some League circles too preparations for a show-down on the 16th went on.

As against this, efforts were made to turn the 16th into a mighty anti-British demonstration of solidarity of Hindus and Muslims.

Communist Efforts

The Communist Party exerted itself to preserve the unity of the working-class through extensive campaigns in the entire industrial belt around Calcutta—stressing the importance of maintaining the peace and making the day one of Hindu-Muslim solidarity against British imperialism.

Jyoti Basu, Communist Labour M.L.A., announced that this would be done through strike or without strike according as the Hindu and Muslim workers themselves decide democratically in each case.

The Calcutta Tramway Workers' Union by a resolution decided to observe strike despite differences with the League's stand—to bring about Hindu-Muslim solidarity against the British.

Abul Hashem, Secretary of the Bengal Muslim League, issued an appeal saying that the fight was against British imperialism and not against the Hindus.

Hell Let Loose

But from the early hours of the 16th, hell was let loose in Calcutta. It is impossible as yet to give full detailed accounts of the day's happenings as most of the people I know are marooned in different localities. Nobody was immune from attack except the British troops—not even the ambulance cars.

In the morning, there was a minor clash at Manicktola when some shops were being forced to close down. Similarly, in the Burra Bazar area there began indiscriminate and unprovoked stabbing—followed by organised looting of shops in the whole locality.

It is known that frenzy gripped even political elements to such a degree that they took sides and at least refused to come out in joint Peace Squads. Red flag volunteers were hooted and threatened in the Burra Bazar area by them for sheltering refugees.

Conflagration Spreads

In Raja Bazar, in Cornwallis Street, which is in the heart of North Calcutta, the conflagration spread like lightning. At the Ripon College hostel, Muslims tried to hoist the Muslim League flag—which brought Hindu students on the streets. At Vivekananda Road, Hindus raided Muslim girl students' hostel. Muslims in turn attacked the Victoria Institution for girls and stabbed the durwan.

In Wellington Square a pitched-battle took place between two groups. It is reported that stones were flung at a nearby mosque and a Muslim youth was found stabbed. Immediately, a Muslim crowd made an attack on the house of Dr. B. C. Roy and tore off the iron gate. A gentleman from the

pore stated that any seaman found participating in the rioting will be expelled from the Union and evicted from the area, and Muslim seamen rescued many Hindu women and children. It was on the 16th also that the All-Bengal Muslim Students' League squad went round shouting through loud-speakers: "Communal riot will only help our enemies."

The Indian Red Cross, the Indian National Ambulance Corps, the Pakistan Ambulance Squad and the People's Relief Committee squads picked up the dead and wounded, and casualties numbered 2,000 at least. Hospitals were filled up by the evening.

Police Behaviour

Most amazing was the behaviour of the police. At many places looting took place right under their noses, but they did not stir. At places they said: "We are not to blame." At other places, they said, "We have orders not to interfere." British Sahibs

have rapidly gone up and may very well exceed 500.

Feeling of mass hysteria was not manifest today but cases of murder were piling up. Even a women's hospital in Alipore was threatened. Gruelling stories of torture are also coming of limbs torn apart, living human beings thrown from the third floor of buildings. And along come wild rumours which are making things worse. Many still marooned include Fazlul Huq and Congress leader Ashrafuddin.

Reports from the working-class belt indicate that hysterical frenzy has not yet contaminated the workers and murder and arson have not yet spread there: the jute belt from Hajinagar, Kankinara is reported quiet and so are Kidderpore and Matlabuz. At Narkeldanga a joint Hindu-Muslim squad of railway workers was still working.

Governor's Homily

On Saturday night military pickets were posted in many

The Gharpar University Hostel was attacked and six students—except only one who had stayed behind—were hacked to death. In Mirzapore Street, one entire family of 17 was killed.

In Bhowanipore dead bodies tied together by rope were found on the street.

In Ballygunge one whole bustee has been gutted and one inhabitant of the bustee went back with a rescue party and found the whole bustee demolished and dead bodies littered the place and it was with difficulty that a man who had nearly lost his head could be snatched away from the place.

Cases of cold-blooded butchery we have personally seen: on Gariahatia Road in broad daylight, groups of people armed with rods and lathis killed unprovoked passing individuals as you kill rats. Today there is no such thing as humanity or civilisation left in this wide city, there is just insane lust for blood that has overpowered men.

Political Leaders Meet

When the leaders of various parties met on Sunday in a conference, the idea of joint peace squads, though appreciated by all, was not regarded as practicable and there was an overwhelming demand for more armed pickets to crush mob rule.

Hospitals are full and there is no accommodation for more wounded; cases admitted reveal horrible tortures were inflicted on them; there was an old woman over 70 with stabs on the breast, skull broken and then incised and lacerated with knives. Everywhere you see heart-rending scenes of devastated families. I visited a number of thanas each of which is packed with refugees who have turned complete destitutes.

Warring Zones

Calcutta today is divided virtually into so many warring zones of Hindus and Muslims and hardly any link remains between one zone and the other. The only people today who move about with impunity are the White Sahibs.

Military pickets are moving in the affected areas and also rescuing the people from danger zone. A Government spokesman says that more than 10,000 have been rescued from one zone to the other but many more have been evacuated by non-official relief bodies and by individuals.

Bankim Mukerji with a group of Communists has been miraculously rescued.

Colossal Death Roll

The death roll according to the Statesman is between 2,000 and 3,000, though other sources think that it may be 5,000.

Material losses unbelievable, and worst victims are petty shopkeepers, market vendors and city poor.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal today said that the situation in North Calcutta is now definitely under control. He said that the city was divided into six zones for the purposes of health as conservancy is precarious but could not say when the work would begin in view of lack of hands. Trams would be running from this evening while lorry transport for Government offices would start on Tuesday.

The whole city is eagerly and desperately waiting for the first definite signs of a return to normalcy. For even in the midst of the all imposing edifices of civilisation Calcutta is yet the ghost city where the savage rules and the man has fled.

OUR CORRESPONDENT'S STORY OF CALCUTTA RIOTS

house implored the crowd to stop. A Communist, Mansur Habib, bravely intervened and after great and heroic effort dissuaded the crowd from breaking into the house.

Looting Of Shops

There followed looting of shops all along Dharamtola Street and Suren Bannerjee Road and even the Ananda Bazar Patrika office was attacked. In Entally, the Bengal Congress Committee office and the office of the newspaper Bharat were attacked—the latter was heavily damaged.

As soon as the news of the first assaults came, the Communist Party leaders contacted other parties and jointly Suhrawardy, Dhiren Mukherji (Congress Whip in the Assembly), Communist Bhupesh Gupta, toured different areas in a car. In another car went Muslim League leader Osman, the Secretary of the B.P.C.C. Kalpada Mukherji, and Communist Labour leader, Mohammed Ismail. But the situation was already going out of control.

At League Rally

Despite this, at a 2-lac strong Muslim League rally, Nazimuddin made fierce attacks at the Congress. Suhrawardy irresponsibly threatened the Congress if it tried to hold power. Only Ghazanfar Ali of the Punjab, and Abul Hashem made anti-imperialist speeches.

At 8 in the evening, Suhrawardy in a statement claimed that the situation was improving—just when it was going out of control.

All day, trade unionists fought bravely to keep the working-class areas safe and united. But with dusk the situation worsened in Bellaghata and Kidderpore and also in the middle-class areas of Ballygunge and Kalighat.

Large-scale arson started at night in different areas and even some bustees were set on fire. Streets became scenes of free fights and large-scale stabbings. Hindus in Muslim areas and Muslims in Hindu areas were victims of unspeakable atrocities.

Fighting Back

But determined efforts were made to fight it back. The Seamen's Union at Kidder-

moved about freely—glad, I am sure, that Hindus and Muslims were at each other's throats in this city where their position has been the weakest.

On Saturday, assaults, looting and arson increased—curfew was declared, Section 144 imposed, the armed police called out.

But some signs of a return to normal were also seen. The Communist leaders contacted other Party leaders all day and in the afternoon a joint appeal was issued signed by Suhrawardy, Akram Khan, Nazimuddin, Abul Hashem, Hamdul Haque and Neoruddin from the League; Sarat Bose, Suren Ghosh, Kiran Shankar Roy, Niharendu Dutt Mazumdar from the Congress; Bhowani Sen and others from the Communist Party; and a local Sikh leader.

A Deep Scar

The great united upsurge of workers and clerks that Calcutta was witnessing in the last few days received an ugly setback through the folly and mutual recriminations of the leaders of the Congress and the Muslim League. Lives and goods were destroyed on a scale unknown before—but much more serious is the deep scar that this nightmare will leave in the hearts of Bengal's Hindus and Muslims.

August 18

SUNDAY the third day of Calcutta's harrowing ordeal has not seen any appreciable abatement of the crisis. Last night saw some large-scale clashes, both in North and South Calcutta. More than 900 calls came for the fire brigade throughout the day.

Cold-Blooded Murders

From Saturday looting was supplemented by cold-blooded murders. In the Muslim area of Park Circus many cases of murder of Hindus in their own houses were reported. And in Ballygunge's Hindu neighbourhood I have seen with my own eyes Muslims done to death without provocation.

The extent of loot, apart from arson, is feared to be much greater than at first estimated: it must easily be worth over one crore rupees. As for casualties, the number of deaths

parts of Calcutta, and armed pickets were patrolling the streets. Governor Burrows in a broadcast gave a homily: "It is discreditable that on the eve of self-government, the largest city in India should be victim of mob rule." The sound of frequent shootings at night could be heard with shouts of "Jai Hind" and "Allaho Akbar" alternatively.

Sealdah Station out of action, not one newspaper except the Statesman and Ananda Bazar Patrika, post offices closed, streets filled with refuse, street lights unlit, closed shops, markets closed; trams, buses, schools, colleges closed, even telegrams not delivered.

Signs Of Returning Life

But from Sunday noon signs of returning life are dimly visible; first was the opening of pakori-bhaji vendors' shops in the Esplanade, and second was the news that at Maulali Darga local Hindus and Muslims met, and after talks a joint peace procession with Congress, League and white flags shouting "Hindu-Muslim ek ho" came out on the street.

There is also the report of a Hindu sadhu in Burra Bazar giving shelter to six Muslims. But he was soon spotted and had to save himself from mad fury.

Communist Krishna Binode Roy and his family were rescued to safety by a Muslim landlord.

But there is yet a long way to go before anything like normal existence is possible in Calcutta.

August 19

DURING the last two days we have been able to go round many parts of the city and get an idea of the appalling horror of what has happened in Calcutta.

In Wellington Street, Harrison Road, Ghittaranjan Avenue, Russa Road, corpses in gruesome state were found strewn along the way; among them were those of old men and of tender innocent kids defaced and battered.

Gruesome Atrocities

In many places, houses were set on fire with inhabitants inside and at other places residents were murdered wholesale.

★ Warning Signal Of Calcutta

★ A Policy Of Desperate Gamble

★ Dilemma Before Congress Interim Govt.

The unprecedented fratricidal war, the brutal and sadistic butchery of over three thousand, the arson and loot in thousands of houses and shops, which have paralysed the life of Calcutta since the 16th of August — are a grim warning signal.

THIS bloody harvest is the immediate result of the blind and suicidal policy adopted by the Muslim League leadership in Bombay on July 29 — the policy of launching "direct action" which could only be against the Congress.

When the League leadership proclaimed with a fanfare that it had rejected the imperialist plan, that it had now broken with constitutionalism and was now launching on the path of "direct action" to fight imperialism, to win Free Pakistan in Free India, the followers of the League — the bulk of the common Mussalmans — were elated with joy that their leadership was at last going to fight the British and this would lead to the common struggle of Hindus and Muslims for freedom and bread.

The Communist Party had warned that the Muslim League leadership was neither fighting the British nor the imperialist plan. On the contrary, the Muslim League leadership had openly declared that they were fighting to rescue and restore the imperialist plan, which had conceded them the compulsory grouping of six Provinces (the substance of Pakistan), and which they said the Congress was threatening to upset by its "brute majority" in the Constituent Assembly.

League Stand

Mr. Jinnah had said that he was out to rescue the British Government from the clutches of the Congress! It was clear the League leadership was fighting the Congress. It was for a compromise with imperialism on the basis of the plan, which it feared was being upset by the Congress leadership in its own favour.

The League leadership had not said one word against the perpetuation of the autocracy of the Princes, against the denial of democracy and of representation to the people of the States.

It had not said one word about the withdrawal of British troops.

It had acquiesced in, no, even insisted on the Viceregal veto remaining in the proposed Interim Government.

It had agreed to every one of the undemocratic features of the plan — long term as well as short term. It was seeking a compromise with imperialism and wanted with its help to share power in groups B and C of the plan — arbitrarily constituted, without the democratic vote of the people and denying self-determination to nationalities contained therein.

In every one of his successive statements since July 29th, Mr. Jinnah has been labouring the point that it was the League which had accepted the Cabinet Mission documents of May 16 and June 16 in letter and in spirit, and it was the Congress which had really rejected them and was entering the Constituent Assembly and the Interim Government with a view to torpedo them.

He suspected that the British Government might yield to Congress pressure and agree to modify the scheme. Had they not scrapped the interim plan of June 16, under Congress pressure, even though the League had accepted it?

He thought he too must use pressure tactics to make the British stick to their scheme and resist Congress pressure.

So Mr. Jinnah decided to launch upon a dangerous and desperate gamble. He calculated that the British Government was not going to allow its pet scheme to be so easily sabotaged by the Congress.

After all the Labour Government had taken over the scheme from the Tories. And had not Mr. Churchill and the Tory Press already screamed against the Congress 'extremist' interpretation of the scheme? Had they not warned that if the Congress failed to carry out the scheme in the spirit of compromise in which it was conceived, they should not expect "British blood and treasure" to be spent in upholding them (the Congress) against a Muslim revolt?

So Mr. Jinnah persuaded his All-India League Council to revise its decision of accepting the plan and to announce its decision to launch "direct action" ostensibly to achieve the Muslim demand, but in reality to bring pressure upon the Congress and the Government so that they both guarantee the strict implementation of the Cabinet Mission's Plan.

Did not Mr. Jinnah know that his 'direct action' launched by the Muslim League, with the

his desperate gamble despite the warning signal of Calcutta.

A Diabolical Game

And it suits the British imperialists very well indeed. They know very well that their rule in India is faced with a mighty challenge of a post-war revolutionary upsurge whose rumblings began to be audible from the time of the INA demonstration in Calcutta and the RIN mutiny in Bombay and which have grown ever louder with the mounting country-wide strike wave.

Despite the sharpening Congress-League conflict which divide the Hindus and Muslims into hostile camps, workers and the common people — both Hindus and Muslims have come together in ever bigger joint demonstrations. Only sixteen days before these bloody events of August 16, lakhs had demonstrated in solidarity with the all-India postal strike.

Imperialism knows well that this upsurge had to be smashed and scattered in time if it was not to develop into a united struggle of all Indians to end its rule.

Their basic plan to achieve

by G. Adhikari

bulk of the Muslims of India backing it and directed mainly against the Congress, could not be anything but a disastrous country-wide fratricidal war of Muslims versus Hindus of an unprecedented magnitude? He knew the grave danger and that is just the reason why he hurried the desperate threat.

Miscalculation

He calculated — or rather miscalculated — that the British would immediately yield to the threat; they (the British) would not surely go to the length of supporting the Congress against a Muslim revolt!

He probably did not expect the British Government to turn so easily to the Congress with the offer to form a government in the face of the League threat. He rejected the Congress offer for cooperation because he still hoped that the British would not dare allow the Congress to form an Interim Government without the League and face a civil war.

Even after the grim events of August 16 and 17 he continued to hope in the same way. In a statement issued by him on August 18, he says:

"Now the question is whether this majority is going to be installed in power, on its own terms, by the British Government to rule the Mussalmans and the minorities with the help of British blood and treasure?"

"It is inconceivable that Mr. Attlee, the Prime Minister, could have ever meant this — the forcing of any such arrangement upon the Muslims and others which must and would result in unprecedented and most dangerous and disastrous consequences."

Certain conclusions follow from this. Mr. Jinnah perhaps even now hopes that a Congress-managed Interim Government would not still materialise; "British blood and treasure" (mark the phrase borrowed from the Tories!) would not be forthcoming to set it in power.

And if it does come, Mr. Jinnah threatens the country with "unprecedented and most dangerous and disastrous consequences" — a phrase which being uttered on August 18, has definitely to be understood in terms of the gruesome fratricidal carnage of Calcutta.

Mr. Jinnah, it seems, is determined to go ahead with

this is to draw the Congress and League leaderships into compromise with itself and the Princes into a single reactionary front to crush the people's struggles.

For a time it appeared as if the imperialists were the most ardent advocates of Congress-League agreement — though, of course, it really meant that they were trying to trap both into the scheme by the most amazing tricks of double-dealing.

When this failed and the Muslim League defection and its direct action threat faced them with the threat of a civil war, the imperialists did not knuckle under the League threat as Mr. Jinnah expected. Instead, they (the imperialists) are proceeding with the most callous calculations to use the civil war situation to their own advantage.

Trap For The Congress

Their game is simple in outline though diabolical in content. Let the Congress take the Interim Government and face the League's direct action. The civil war that will flare forth, as well as the military action that will inevitably follow in its trail, would serve as very good weapons to steamroller the dangerous common popular upsurge.

And it would not be "British blood and British treasure" which would have to be used to impose Congress rule over Muslim regions of India. As the ghastly experience of Calcutta shows, it will be Indian blood that would flow and in plenty, and it will be Indian treasure that would be destroyed for the greater glory of the Empire and for the perpetuation of British imperial rule over all India.

But you cannot clap with one hand alone, says an Indian proverb. The League leadership's gamble with the threat of civil war would not by itself give the chance to the British imperialists unless Congress leadership too joined in the game from the other end.

That is just the reason why after the League's defection and its threat of direct action, the Viceroy with the consent of the British Cabinet made "a new kind of approach" to the Congress.

They obviously want to attract the Congress into the In-

'League "Struggle" Leads To Civil War, Not Anti-Imperialist Fight'

P. C. Joshi On Calcutta Events

Bombay, August 19, 1946.

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

THE shocking news from Calcutta is a grave warning to all freedom-fighters, all Hindus, all Muslims. It needs the biggest heart-searching by all Leaguers because the 16th was to be their day of dress-rehearsal for direct action.

It is no more a matter of argument but has already been tragically proved on the streets of Calcutta that the League "struggle" does not touch the British imperialists at all but directly becomes actual anti-Hindu struggle.

The propaganda of the League High Command that the British have let the League down and that an "Anglo-Hindu conspiracy" is on, only serves to cover their own compromising policy as regards British imperialism, and in the mind of the anti-British common Muslim only brings the Hindu as the enemy to be dealt with first.

The solitary voice of a few League Leftists that their struggle is against the imperialists and not against the Hindus, does not alter the situation at all, and, however worthy their own motives, they only bring grist to the mill of their own Rightist compromisers and provocateurs.

The real struggle against the British Imperialist Plan can only be a joint Hindu-Muslim struggle. The Communist Party cannot obviously have anything to do with the League "struggle".

The more the League provocation grows, the more shameless become the efforts of the Congress leadership to maintain "law and order" with British bayonets and police. Talk of civil war from the League side becomes the moral justification of the Congress High Command for entering the Viceregal Executive and for talking of having a show down with the League.

This way only the British game succeeds. The more the Congress and the League fight each other the longer they stay in India.

What could be more humiliating than Mr. Jinnah appealing to the British Cabinet to stick to their White Paper and not trust the Congress or Pandit Nehru talking with the Viceroy of Congress readiness to deal with the League threat.

It is the British conspiracy set in motion by the Cabinet Mission's award that is working itself out.

The Communist Party took the initiative to fight the flames of fratricidal war in Calcutta, contacted leaders of other parties, brought out peace squads, and above all kept the working-class out.

The Communist Party will rouse the common Leaguer and the common Congressman to see how suicidal and pro-British is the policy of their own leaders and seek their co-operation over and over again for common struggles over common issues, and thus pave the way for the final common struggle against the British Imperialist Plan.

Let us not forget that in the same Calcutta where this unprecedented communal riot has taken place an equally unprecedented joint hartal of 16 lakh Hindus and Muslims also took place only a fortnight ago in solidarity with the postal strike.

The Communist Party works to liquidate the forces that brought us the latest shame and to strengthen the forces that were our last glory of a united working-class action commanding the support of all Calcutta citizens.

The one leads to the British staying in India, the other to our ordering them to quit.

terim Government and face it with the choice: crush the League revolt or conciliate it.

Now it is quite clear that the Congress cannot conciliate the League without agreeing to bow down before all the limitations and restrictions of the Cabinet Mission's Plan as conceived by its authors and as demanded by the League. The Congress has already rejected that position.

The only alternative with which the Congress leadership would be faced when it enters the Interim Government is to be ready to crush the League revolt and master the flames of civil war. The "new kind of approach" is only to yoke the Congress leadership to this job and not as they suppose, to enable the Interim Government to function as a free Provisional Government.

But the Congress leadership has still faith in the Cabinet Mission's Plan. It nurses the illusion that both the Interim Government as well as the Constituent Assembly are stepping stones to freedom. It hopes that the "new kind of approach" is a gesture to the Congress to give it a free hand to shape the Interim Government.

Grim Prospect

It calculates that once they are in the seats of power in the Interim Government with the British military at their disposal they would be in a better position to meet the threat of League's direct action and bring it to the path of conciliation. It is as great a miscalculation as that of the League in gambling with direct action. Pandit Nehru's reference to how the Interim Government would deal with direct action threat called forth Mr. Jinnah's retort: "He talks with confidence for he relies upon the shelter and support of Field Marshal Wavell."

But the grim reality is that while the League leader waves the threat of civil war against the background of the ghastly Calcutta scene, the Congress President is entering Wavell's Interim Government and would soon be waving British guns against the League. The prospect is an open civil war in which the Congress and the League would be lined on opposite sides. It would be pleasing only to the British imperialists. The Congress leadership would then be as much responsible for the fratricidal war as the League leadership.

This situation has arisen because both the Congress and the League leaderships are pursuing policies of compromise with imperialism on the basis of the Cabinet Mission's Plan, which each is trying to turn in its own favour.

The Way Out

The situation can yet be saved and the imperialist game to use the outbreak of the civil war to crush the growing united mass upsurge of the people, can yet be defeated.

But this is possible only if the pressure of the common people can make the Congress turn away from the bankrupt policy of compromise with imperialism and to take the path of struggle on the basis of one central unifying slogan —

All power to the people — Constituent Assembly based on adult suffrage with proportional representation and guaranteeing self-determination to every nationality.

This is the only way to avert the impending threat of civil war, which imperialism is hoping to capitalise, and to create a situation in which the anti-imperialist Muslim masses can be drawn into a joint struggle and thus pave the way for a Congress-League joint front.

Military Accounts Clerks Down Pens

FIGHT AGAINST MASS RETRENCHMENT

The clerk from the Military Accounts Department is on strike. He has followed where his brothers in the R.I.N. R.I.A.'s led, where the pen and telegraph kept. Yet another Government employee has defied Service Regulations and Defence of India Rules to strike, strike at a callous imperialist Government.

In the third week of July these clerks framed their demands. In the first week of August the Military Accounts Clerks' Association (M.A.C.) issued their demands. These demands would be accepted by the Government. The Press reported it as "a failure of negotiations." But the clerks all over the country knew that the imperialist had been shown. They accepted the challenge. The strike is on! It will be on all the necessary heads down.

Why have the Government chosen to force 700 salaried clerks on their knees with less than 15 days' notice? Sustaining a big defeat in the past?

Against Retrenchment
The first demand of the clerks is that there should be no retrenchment. Months ago the Government had retrenched 10 per cent of their staff. They threatened strike and forced the Government to stay off the retrenchment, pending decision of the Tribunal.

Strike Widespread
Against all these hardships, but above all against the "retrenchment" the clerks are on strike. They are simultaneously on strike at various places as Calcutta and Kharagpur, Lucknow and Jabalpur, Bangalore and Mysore, Aurangabad and Dindigul, Jaipur and Allahabad, etc.

The Military clerks are feeling retrenchment of 10 per cent of their staff. Out of 15,000 who man the temporary service, 15,000 will be on the streets. All that they had asked for, these military clerks, was that their "services should be extended to war service," so that they might be exempted from retrenchment.

At Lucknow
In their recent strike a month ago at Lucknow these clerks had forced their boss, the Field Controller of Military Accounts at Amliha, to retrench the men he had arbitrarily discharged and withdrawn the charge sheets against most of the staff.

For More Pay
What the clerks demand is a starting wage of Rs. 125 for graduate clerks and Rs. 75 for the ungraduate clerks. A Government which could increase its defence budget considerably during the war, did not feel obliged to increase the pay of its clerks, one year after the war.

Even the M.A.C. later returned that "there would be no retrenchment for eight more months." When despite the agreement, retrenchment did take place, they asked him to keep his promise to support their support to position.

Stones, Not Bread
The M.A.C. had demanded these salaries—Rs. 10 to Rs. 75 for the first year, Rs. 75 to Rs. 125 for the second year, Rs. 125 to Rs. 150 for the third year, Rs. 150 to Rs. 175 for the fourth year, Rs. 175 to Rs. 200 for the fifth year, Rs. 200 to Rs. 225 for the sixth year, Rs. 225 to Rs. 250 for the seventh year, Rs. 250 to Rs. 275 for the eighth year, Rs. 275 to Rs. 300 for the ninth year, Rs. 300 to Rs. 325 for the tenth year.

Under the M.A.C. scheme the ungraduate teacher (annual pay) who forms 94 per cent of the total complement will start on Rs. 18, for the first five years, he does not get a pension. Then he gets a pension one per cent after 10 years, two per cent after 15 years, three per cent after 20 years, four per cent after 25 years, five per cent after 30 years, six per cent after 35 years, seven per cent after 40 years, eight per cent after 45 years, nine per cent after 50 years, ten per cent after 55 years, eleven per cent after 60 years, twelve per cent after 65 years, thirteen per cent after 70 years, fourteen per cent after 75 years, fifteen per cent after 80 years, sixteen per cent after 85 years, seventeen per cent after 90 years, eighteen per cent after 95 years, nineteen per cent after 100 years.

For More Pay
The M.A.C. had demanded these salaries—Rs. 10 to Rs. 75 for the first year, Rs. 75 to Rs. 125 for the second year, Rs. 125 to Rs. 150 for the third year, Rs. 150 to Rs. 175 for the fourth year, Rs. 175 to Rs. 200 for the fifth year, Rs. 200 to Rs. 225 for the sixth year, Rs. 225 to Rs. 250 for the seventh year, Rs. 250 to Rs. 275 for the eighth year, Rs. 275 to Rs. 300 for the ninth year, Rs. 300 to Rs. 325 for the tenth year.

Under the M.A.C. scheme the ungraduate teacher (annual pay) who forms 94 per cent of the total complement will start on Rs. 18, for the first five years, he does not get a pension. Then he gets a pension one per cent after 10 years, two per cent after 15 years, three per cent after 20 years, four per cent after 25 years, five per cent after 30 years, six per cent after 35 years, seven per cent after 40 years, eight per cent after 45 years, nine per cent after 50 years, ten per cent after 55 years, eleven per cent after 60 years, twelve per cent after 65 years, thirteen per cent after 70 years, fourteen per cent after 75 years, fifteen per cent after 80 years, sixteen per cent after 85 years, seventeen per cent after 90 years, eighteen per cent after 95 years, nineteen per cent after 100 years.

For More Pay
The M.A.C. had demanded these salaries—Rs. 10 to Rs. 75 for the first year, Rs. 75 to Rs. 125 for the second year, Rs. 125 to Rs. 150 for the third year, Rs. 150 to Rs. 175 for the fourth year, Rs. 175 to Rs. 200 for the fifth year, Rs. 200 to Rs. 225 for the sixth year, Rs. 225 to Rs. 250 for the seventh year, Rs. 250 to Rs. 275 for the eighth year, Rs. 275 to Rs. 300 for the ninth year, Rs. 300 to Rs. 325 for the tenth year.

Under the M.A.C. scheme the ungraduate teacher (annual pay) who forms 94 per cent of the total complement will start on Rs. 18, for the first five years, he does not get a pension. Then he gets a pension one per cent after 10 years, two per cent after 15 years, three per cent after 20 years, four per cent after 25 years, five per cent after 30 years, six per cent after 35 years, seven per cent after 40 years, eight per cent after 45 years, nine per cent after 50 years, ten per cent after 55 years, eleven per cent after 60 years, twelve per cent after 65 years, thirteen per cent after 70 years, fourteen per cent after 75 years, fifteen per cent after 80 years, sixteen per cent after 85 years, seventeen per cent after 90 years, eighteen per cent after 95 years, nineteen per cent after 100 years.

Of course, earlier the All-India Federation of Military Accounts Unions (A.I.F.M.A.U.)—the national organization of these clerks—had suggested how the retrenchment could be easily avoided by adjusting the national pay scale. These suggestions were only accepted to produce for civilian clerks. But in the case of Railwaymen's Federation the suggestions were turned down as a "matter of policy."

This is why the clerks are today on strike!
They have joined the battle in the full consciousness that they are up against an unscrupulous enemy. The lies and falsehoods that he reported to be crushed the clerks are too fresh and too loyal to be forgotten. But they also know he is perdition.

Even the M.A.C. later returned that "there would be no retrenchment for eight more months." When despite the agreement, retrenchment did take place, they asked him to keep his promise to support their support to position.

Under the M.A.C. scheme the ungraduate teacher (annual pay) who forms 94 per cent of the total complement will start on Rs. 18, for the first five years, he does not get a pension. Then he gets a pension one per cent after 10 years, two per cent after 15 years, three per cent after 20 years, four per cent after 25 years, five per cent after 30 years, six per cent after 35 years, seven per cent after 40 years, eight per cent after 45 years, nine per cent after 50 years, ten per cent after 55 years, eleven per cent after 60 years, twelve per cent after 65 years, thirteen per cent after 70 years, fourteen per cent after 75 years, fifteen per cent after 80 years, sixteen per cent after 85 years, seventeen per cent after 90 years, eighteen per cent after 95 years, nineteen per cent after 100 years.

Under the M.A.C. scheme the ungraduate teacher (annual pay) who forms 94 per cent of the total complement will start on Rs. 18, for the first five years, he does not get a pension. Then he gets a pension one per cent after 10 years, two per cent after 15 years, three per cent after 20 years, four per cent after 25 years, five per cent after 30 years, six per cent after 35 years, seven per cent after 40 years, eight per cent after 45 years, nine per cent after 50 years, ten per cent after 55 years, eleven per cent after 60 years, twelve per cent after 65 years, thirteen per cent after 70 years, fourteen per cent after 75 years, fifteen per cent after 80 years, sixteen per cent after 85 years, seventeen per cent after 90 years, eighteen per cent after 95 years, nineteen per cent after 100 years.

Under the M.A.C. scheme the ungraduate teacher (annual pay) who forms 94 per cent of the total complement will start on Rs. 18, for the first five years, he does not get a pension. Then he gets a pension one per cent after 10 years, two per cent after 15 years, three per cent after 20 years, four per cent after 25 years, five per cent after 30 years, six per cent after 35 years, seven per cent after 40 years, eight per cent after 45 years, nine per cent after 50 years, ten per cent after 55 years, eleven per cent after 60 years, twelve per cent after 65 years, thirteen per cent after 70 years, fourteen per cent after 75 years, fifteen per cent after 80 years, sixteen per cent after 85 years, seventeen per cent after 90 years, eighteen per cent after 95 years, nineteen per cent after 100 years.

Under the M.A.C. scheme the ungraduate teacher (annual pay) who forms 94 per cent of the total complement will start on Rs. 18, for the first five years, he does not get a pension. Then he gets a pension one per cent after 10 years, two per cent after 15 years, three per cent after 20 years, four per cent after 25 years, five per cent after 30 years, six per cent after 35 years, seven per cent after 40 years, eight per cent after 45 years, nine per cent after 50 years, ten per cent after 55 years, eleven per cent after 60 years, twelve per cent after 65 years, thirteen per cent after 70 years, fourteen per cent after 75 years, fifteen per cent after 80 years, sixteen per cent after 85 years, seventeen per cent after 90 years, eighteen per cent after 95 years, nineteen per cent after 100 years.

Under the M.A.C. scheme the ungraduate teacher (annual pay) who forms 94 per cent of the total complement will start on Rs. 18, for the first five years, he does not get a pension. Then he gets a pension one per cent after 10 years, two per cent after 15 years, three per cent after 20 years, four per cent after 25 years, five per cent after 30 years, six per cent after 35 years, seven per cent after 40 years, eight per cent after 45 years, nine per cent after 50 years, ten per cent after 55 years, eleven per cent after 60 years, twelve per cent after 65 years, thirteen per cent after 70 years, fourteen per cent after 75 years, fifteen per cent after 80 years, sixteen per cent after 85 years, seventeen per cent after 90 years, eighteen per cent after 95 years, nineteen per cent after 100 years.

Accounts (which he is the boss of both!)
Already efforts are being made to disrupt the ranks in the name of religion. But as in the case of railwaymen and postmen such attempts are doomed.

As I interviewed two members of the General Council of the A.I.F.M.A.U., they said, "We are prepared for quite a long battle. When they could produce for 20 days a strike in so essential a service like post and telegraph, we shall be under-taking for many days if we expect him to concede a quick victory. But we know our growing unity is bound to lead to victory."

Only two days ago at Poona, we held a meeting of our clerks. They had so far not seen in the Federation. But in the meeting alone, we decided to start a strike.

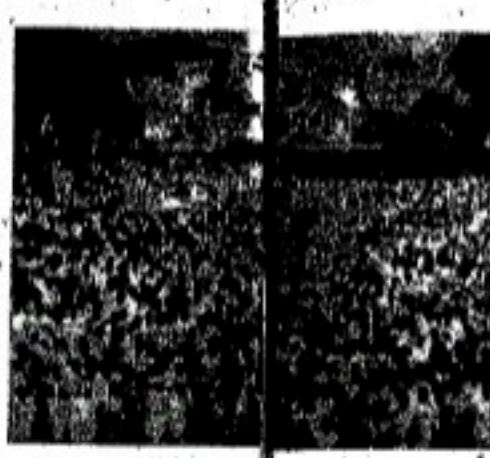
What the M.A.C. forgot is, we are clerks of 1947. We have seen our people looking up the R.I.N. the R.I.A., and adding their blood for them. We have seen them supporting railwaymen; we have seen them supporting their support to position.

What they are a part of our people and on any count we are fighting a just cause. We are not entitled to the same support from them? Yes, they are. And they shall win.

What they are a part of our people and on any count we are fighting a just cause. We are not entitled to the same support from them? Yes, they are. And they shall win.

What they are a part of our people and on any count we are fighting a just cause. We are not entitled to the same support from them? Yes, they are. And they shall win.

What they are a part of our people and on any count we are fighting a just cause. We are not entitled to the same support from them? Yes, they are. And they shall win.



A Demonstration of Railwaymen's Federation (left) and jute workers.

REPRESSION OF PICKETERS

The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed.

The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed.

The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed.

The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed.

The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed.

The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed. The police staff of the Military Accounts Dept and W.A.U. are being repressed.

Workers' Upsurge In Bihar

UNPRECEDENTED STRIKE-WAVE

(By Our Special Correspondent)

Altogether I give a chart of the strikes which have rocked Bihar in the form of an unprecedented post-war upsurge of industrial workers.

By the month of May the Bihar workers had taken to the streets. The result was that the workers went away to their villages and the Bihar Ministry was forced to call a meeting with the workers to discuss their demands.

Another Congress Socialist leader, one Shyam Bhanu, in order to anticipate the consequences of the strike, called the shop-owners to meet on a number of days.

Following on the tactics of these leaders, in some places like Bihar and Patna, the Bihar Ministry also is trying to exploit the backwardness of the workers, and create a dual potential union.

The role played by the Congress Socialist Party and other Left groups during these strikes is not very glorious.

For instance, when a strike broke out in the Bihar State, the Bihar State Government called the workers to "go back to their villages."

These results have helped Bihar workers, the Bihar State Government, the Bihar State Government, the Bihar State Government.

These results have helped Bihar workers, the Bihar State Government, the Bihar State Government, the Bihar State Government.

Strike Name	No. of Workers Involved	Days	Location	Result
1. BIRHAR State	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	Appointment of Advisory Board (No. 100000000)
2. Patna (State)	1,000	10	CPI	State conference
3. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
4. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
5. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
6. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
7. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
8. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
9. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
10. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
11. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
12. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
13. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
14. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
15. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
16. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
17. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
18. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
19. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference
20. BHOJIPUR (State)	1,000	10	CPI & CPM	State conference

BOMBAY PRIMARY TEACHERS LET DOWN

What Premier Kher's "Concessions" Amount To

Forty-two thousand primary teachers all over the Province had fought a strike for 84 days in March-April this year. They fought it for a living wage! They called it off on Sir Kher's assurance of "sympathetic consideration." After three months, the Ministry has come out with its proposals. It was heralded with a fanfare of trumpets as part of Kher's "mighty plan of education."

With regard to the grant of increased dearness allowance, the Government had, in April 1946, offered to finance the additional expenditure with retrospective effect from July 1944 and not later than the 1st of January 1947.

The result is a number of these teachers have already resigned the teachers their State. In some districts even the Government promise has not been kept.

Of course, the teachers' organization has unanimously condemned the scheme. Their slogan is "No to Kher's plan!"

IN JALNA

Complete strike of the Jalna Municipal Corporation workers. The Jalna Municipal Corporation workers have gone on strike. The Jalna Municipal Corporation workers have gone on strike.

Complete strike of the Jalna Municipal Corporation workers. The Jalna Municipal Corporation workers have gone on strike. The Jalna Municipal Corporation workers have gone on strike.

Complete strike of the Jalna Municipal Corporation workers. The Jalna Municipal Corporation workers have gone on strike. The Jalna Municipal Corporation workers have gone on strike.

Complete strike of the Jalna Municipal Corporation workers. The Jalna Municipal Corporation workers have gone on strike. The Jalna Municipal Corporation workers have gone on strike.

10,000 MADRAS CORPORATION WORKERS ON STRIKE

Police Savagery, Employment of Black-legs, Invocation Of Criminal Tribes Act, All Fail

About 10,000 workers of the Madras Corporation are on strike since Aug. 12. They came out together. They are fighting also together, under the common flag despite the ten so-called Municipal Employees' Unions in the field, despite the savage police savagery under a Congress Ministry, despite the Ministry promulgating the hated Criminal Tribes Act in the city (demanding of the 500 scavengers of the Corporation daily reporting to the police station), despite the Ministry and the Corporation trying to employ black-legs at Rs. 10 per day!

The Municipal Corporation workers are on strike. The Municipal Corporation workers are on strike. The Municipal Corporation workers are on strike.

The Municipal Corporation workers are on strike. The Municipal Corporation workers are on strike. The Municipal Corporation workers are on strike.

KASHMIR IS FIGHTING WITH RENEWED COURAGE

Preparations For No-Rent Campaign

An inspired message has been sent out by certain Press correspondents here, which suggests that the Kashmir movement has ended, that we are all busy now "preparing for the coming elections." This is a lie. Kashmir is fighting with renewed courage.

AUGUST 9 was observed throughout Kashmir as a protest day against the barbaric treatment meted out to prisoners in State jails. Meetings were held in every single city and processions were taken out in a large number of places.

Round the Hazrat Bal mosque, where a week earlier the people had put a whole army contingent to flight, Kak's soldiers were spread thickly to prevent any gathering being held on its premises.

Suddenly, without any warning from within the mosque, the slogan "Kashmir churh do" rent the air. One by one a mighty crowd had slipped past this cordon and a huge meeting was in full session long before the police could send the alarm and muster strong enough to effect the arrests of the two big leaders who were addressing the crowd.

In Badgaum, Abdul Rehman Rahot, the popular kisan leader, made a whirlwind tour of the whole area, rousing the peasants for militant action to storm the Srinagar Bastille.

No-Rent Campaign

"We will not pay for our own slaughter!"
"Down with slavery!"
"Quit Kashmir."

by
Our Correspondent

The whole of Mirpur and Poonch are ringing with these slogans as preparations continue for a mass no-rent campaign.

The heroic peasant masses have paralysed all communications between Poonch, Kotli and Mirpur, to prevent the brute Dogra army entering into the villages on their murder tours.

The police are searching village after village for Mohammed Shafi, the underground leader of the Jammu War Council. But again he has slipped out of their hands, as he rushes up and down Jammu, organising kisan councils to launch the no-rent campaign.

Authorities In Panic

The authorities are already in a panic. They have posted fully-armed pickets all along the main roads throughout the area, meant to assist the village officials in the forcible realisation of land revenue.

But the kisans of Mirpur and Poonch are undaunted and are going ahead with the organisation of their village kisan councils. Already 215

such councils in the main village centres have been formed.

Mirpur's no rent campaign may even spread to the whole State.

Release Kashmir Heroes

THE news from Kashmir's jails is serious.

In Jammu Province there are some 300 prisoners. They are being made to live on a ration of barley, mixed with wheat, when the vast majority are used to rice and nothing else.

All of them are being treated as "dangerous criminals," and are being compelled to spend the hot summer nights in tiny, suffocating cells.

On August 9 began another hunger-strike by the prisoners. This is the last weapon left to them to save their very lives. Already three prisoners have died of the inhuman conditions inside jail. Now the condition of Mr. Ghulam Mohiuddin Hamdani (a High Court lawyer), Professor Pandit Salig Ram Shangloo and Pir Mohammad Afzal Shah is precarious and is causing grave anxiety.

TIMELY INTERVENTION PREVENTS COMMUNAL RIOT

By wire from our Correspondent

Patna, 18th Aug.

Prompt and joint action by Congress, League and Communist leaders saved Patna from a serious communal riot on the "Direct Action Day," when Hindu and Muslim students of a local English High School came to a clash with one another.

THE trouble started on the question of hoisting the League flag on the school building. The Congress flag was hoisted on August 9 despite the protest of Muslim students. That was still flying and the Muslim boys are reported to have pulled it down. This led to a clash among students and later among non-students.

Brickbats were freely thrown and even lathis were taken out. But soon the situation was brought under control, only six or seven students receiving injuries.

Mr. Jaffar Imam, M.L.A., leader of the Provincial Muslim League, Sjt. Singheshwara Prasad, ex-Secretary, Patna District Congress Committee, and Sjt. Indradeep Sinha of the Communist Party, soon arrived at the scene of the clash and brought the situation under control. Police and officials too came and made a parade of their might.

Communist Initiative

While the police were yet pouring in tens, a "Peace Squad" of local Communist workers soon came to the place and rushed through the affected localities shouting unity and anti-British slogans. The squads were followed by the Communist propaganda van, fitted with loud speakers which covered a wider area.

This eased the situation to a great extent and all present praised the promptness of the Communists, but certain elements could not hide their dislike. The police and officials vainly

sought to stop the van shouting slogans, because in their view it disturbed "law and order." And anti-Communists were found whispering, "It is the Communists who have caused this riot. Don't listen to their slogans."

Joint Peace Squad

In about two hours' time a joint "peace squad" of Congress, League and Communist leaders was on the streets fighting panic, contradicting rumours and appealing to the people to keep the peace. This peace squad was composed of two Congress leaders, Sjt. Singheshwara Prasad and Trivedi Parmanand, two League leaders, Syed Jafar Imam and Syed Badruddin Ahmad (Secretary, Provincial League), and one Communist leader, Sjt. Indradeep Sinha.

This joint peace squad moved in a motor van fitted with loud speakers and covered the whole seven-mile long extent of Patna till about one in the night. At every street corner hundreds of people gathered to listen to the message of unity and went back determined never to fight among themselves.

There was no further clash or incident in any part of the town. But mischievous and provocative reports appeared in the local Press the next morning. So the joint Congress-League-Communist squad once again moved into the town congratulating the people for having kept the peace and warning them against falling a prey to provocation and interested propaganda.

AUTOCRACY AND FEUDAL EXPLOITATION WILL REMAIN INTACT

Real Nature Of Hyderabad Reforms

The following statement has been issued by MAQDOOM MOHIUDDIN and P. VENKATA RAMAYYA on behalf of the Communist Party of Hyderabad.

EVEN a casual perusal of the Government communique on reforms makes it clear that the Government is not at all prepared to make any change in the present system of autocracy and medieval feudal exploitation of the people. The Legislature to be set up has practically no power at all. Its decisions on any of the subjects are not at all binding on the Government. The Executive and entire bureaucratic machine can go on with their old corrupt and repressive practices, without check and without being answerable to anybody.

A powerless and nominal Legislature will be filled with reactionary, feudal and other vested interests by making careful provisions for the elimination of the real representatives of the people.

Narrow Franchise

Through the various devices of functional representation, nominations and appointments and the narrowest franchise covering barely one per cent of the population almost all the interests except those of urban and labour sections, will return only out and out reactionaries. On the whole in a House of 132 members there will be 48 members (36%) belonging to the official bloc composed of the Executive Councillors and the nominated members. The feudal and vested interests, like the Patils, Sarfeksas, Jagirs, Bankers, etc., get a direct representation through 20 members.

The 32 seats allotted to 'agriculturists' to village pattedars, and tenants, will also in effect go to the worst exploiters in the rural areas who will all be allies in the feudal camp. The bloc of the vested interests will thus be 52 strong commanding 40% following in the House.

The middle class and common people will be represented in the Assembly only through the urban labour seats and these together account for 32 members comprising 24%, i.e., less than 1/4 of the whole Assembly.

This further means that the dominant feudal and other

vested interests and the present bureaucracy will be firmly entrenched in the new Legislature commanding over 76%, i.e., more than 3/4 of the members.

It will be clear from the above, that the present autocratic and corrupt system of Government will be kept intact, the inhuman feudal exploitation of people will continue, and the sufferings and miseries of the common man—whether he is a Hindu or a Muslim—will, as a result, continue unabated.

Bait For Muslims

To hide this reality and mislead a section of our people, Government is parading before the Muslims the parity, and even majority representation, granted to them in the Legislature and other bodies, and the provision, in effect, of separate electorates.

Certain reactionary Muslim leaders may consider this award of the British imperialists and feudal bureaucracy as a God-send; but we warn the common Muslims—peasants, workers and middle class—not to fall a prey to it.

It is an ingenuous attempt of the British and feudal reactionaries to divert their attention from the real issue of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, the inhuman exploitation and "zuloom" of the feudal and vested interests, and the urgent need to have power for the people, to establish a democratic people's Government which alone can handle and solve these problems in the interests of the people.

The Government is deliberately pushing these issues into the background and is frantically trying to divide, the growing ranks of the people's organisations on Hindu-Muslim basis by dangling the benefits of majority representation, etc., to the Muslims.

People Astir

But the people can no longer be deceived and the unity achieved during years of hard common battles cannot be destroyed. Thus in a recent speech at Se-

cunderabad, Maulana Mazhar Ali Kamil had said that Muslims had ruled this State for the past 600 years but common Muslims were as exploited as others.

Similarly this fictitious and totally undemocratic majority representation gets nothing for common Muslims. Under this guise only the reactionary Muslim jagirdars and other vested interests will get into the saddle.

What is needed is power to the people to abolish the feudal exploitation and the corrupt administrative system and create prosperous conditions for both Hindus and Muslims.

No Change Of Heart

These reforms must disillusion all those who are thinking in terms of 'concessions' by the Princely order and the value of the pious declarations by our Congress leaders of change of heart among the Princes. These reforms are a part of the British plan to entrench themselves in the States and use them as strategic position for preserving their hold over India as a whole with the help of the Princes.

All progressive forces must set their face against this reactionary and useless scheme, unite their forces to fight for achieving full democratic Government in the State in which the minorities' interests will be protected through proportional representation and through religious and cultural safeguards.

BOMBAY TEACHERS

(Continued from pages 6-7)

coming Conference in December will decide the steps they will take to combat this.

Whatever the eulogists of the Ministry may say in its favour, Sjt. Kher thought it advisable to rush it into print, overriding the signed request of 58 Congress MLAs to place it before them, before it was given the official stamp. He dared not concede this elementary democratic right to the Congress Assembly Party. And that is its condemnation.

The teachers will certainly revolt against this unabashed injustice. Will the 58 Congress MLAs support them?

KASHMIR FUND

Servicemen Contribute

We have received the sum of Rs. 24/10/- from the men of the Bombay Signals, and Rs. 5/- from those of the I.S.M.E. for our Kashmir Fund.

We also acknowledge the receipt of the sum of Rs. 64/4/- from the men of the R.I.A.F. (under No. 2(1) Group), Bangalore accompanied with the following letter:

Dear Editor,

We the Indian Airmen under No. 2(1) Group, knowing the heroic people's struggle, salute the hundreds of Kashmiri martyrs of July 1946. Our whole-hearted sympathy goes to Sher-i-Kashmir for the firm courageous and noteworthy leadership. Will you, please, see that this small amount of Rs. 64/4/0 reaches the heroic leaders and the struggling people?

Men of the R.I.A.F.,
(Under No. 2(1) Group),
Bangalore.

UNDER POLICE RAJ IN DELHI

Communist Leaders Arrested For Postal Strike

IN the early hours of the morning on August 15, the local police raided the Commune (Communist Party's residential quarters), the office of the Textile Mazdur Sabha, the house of the Party lawyer, and arrested Y. D. Sharma, Asst. Secretary of the Delhi Committee of the Communist Party of India, M. Yamin and Shakil Ahmad (Delhi P.C. member) and Mr. Janardan Sharma, Delhi Party lawyer.

During the course of the day the police also arrested two more Communist workers, Sewa Singh and N. N. Manna.

All these Communists are leaders of several trade unions; Y.D. Sharma is the Secretary of the Delhi Provincial Trade

Union Committee; M. Yamin is the President of the Tramway & Electricity workers' Union; Shakil Ahmed is the President of GNIT Bus Workers' Union; Janardan Sharma is the Secretary of the P.W.D. workers' Union; Sewa Singh is the Secretary of the N.W.R. Workers' Union, and N.N. Manna is the Secretary of Delhi Flour Mills Workers' Union.

These arrests have been made under section 31 (A) of the Defence of India Rules, for having supported the postal strike on behalf of their respective unions.

The full story of Delhi Government's policy of repression against the people of Delhi will be given next week.

Out Now!

SALUTE TO KASHMIR

by Ramesh Chandra

As. 4

This small booklet tells us the gripping story of the heroic people of Kashmir—their rich land, their miserable living conditions and the proud record of their national movement. The book throws fresh light on the "Quit Kashmir" movement and shows us our duty towards a people who are fighting a battle which is an integral part of our own freedom movement.

Please write to any of our bookshops at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Lahore, Nagpur, Poona, Bezwada, Calcutta and Trivendrum.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

BRITISH MISCHIEF IN DARDANELLES TURKEY PLAYS IMPERIAL GAME

THE Soviet note to Turkey, asking for a revision of the Montreux Convention regarding the Dardanelles, has been seized upon by the Anglo-American reaction for yet another barrage of anti-Soviet propaganda.

The issue the Soviet has raised is in the essence a simple one. Under the Montreux Convention, Turkey was responsible for seeing that in times of war, the Straits would be barred to warships of Powers hostile to the countries bordering on the Black Sea.

The Soviet is today pressing that since during the war against Hitler, Turkey proved incapable of preventing "enemy Powers from using the Straits for military purposes against the Soviet Union," in future the responsibility for ensuring this should not be that of Turkey alone but of the Soviet Union and Turkey jointly.

Pro-Nazi Policy in War

What are the facts? It is well known that during the war many armed German merchantmen were allowed to penetrate into the Black Sea and cause untold harm to Soviet shipping. These acts helping Germany arose directly out of the pro-Nazi policy of Turkish reaction, also expressed in the fact that 90% of Turkey's exports during the war went to Germany.

In fact, the real nature of Turkey's "neutrality" was well summed up by the imperialist London Times (today a great defender of Turkey's right to oppose Soviet "encroachment"), when it wrote in February 1944 that:

"While paying lip-service to the Anglo-Turkish alliance, (Turkey) has no intention of executing her obligations (against Germany) arising out of it; and arguments and demands are mere subterfuges put forward to evade the issue."

Today Pro-British

Of course, if since the second

world war ended, Turkey had decisively turned away from the anti-Soviet pro-Fascist path it had pursued, it is possible that the Soviet could have entrusted the defence of the Straits to Turkey. But in fact Turkey has even more closely linked herself with today's Fascists, the Anglo-American reaction.

Last May Sefton Delmer, Cairo Correspondent of the rabid Right-wing London Daily Express, revealed that Turkey had become a key base of Britain in its Middle-Eastern strategic plan.

Instance, since the British aim at creating an Eastern bloc composed of Turkey, the Lebanon, Syria (where British troops still exist — M.K.), Iraq and Transjordan (both of which are virtual British Colonies — M.K.). (—July 15, 1946.)

On top of all this Turkey is keeping up a 15 lakh standing army whose upkeep eats half its budget; it is trying to reach an understanding with the British puppet Government in

by Mohan Kumaramangalam

He reported that it had already "received some war materials and will be receiving more," while the equipment of the Turkish Army and its internal bases had been so organised that the British when they advanced northwards from their Middle-Eastern bases, "would find there equipment and installation fitting our own!"

Britain Using Turkey

So also, it is known that Britain is today using the Turkish Government to build up an anti-Soviet bloc in this area. This began with the visit to Turkey in February 1945, of General Nuri es Said, Britain's chief agent in Iraq, when a complete understanding was reached between the General and the Turkish Government regarding their co-operation in any war with the Soviet.

This first step was followed up recently with the visit of the Lebanese President, Sheikh Bishara el Khoury, to Turkey. And the Jerusalem correspondent of the "Morning News" has revealed that in Turkey it is said that:

"Turkish diplomats extended the invitation at British

Greece; and one of Turkey's most-known publicists, Yalcin, is freely allowed to write regularly calling for an Anglo-American atom war against the Soviet because "diplomatic negotiations are just a waste of time."

Rule Of The Rich

This foreign policy of subservience to British dictates is reflected in an internal policy that is equally reactionary.

Turkey's national income is the lowest in the world, the wartime trade with Germany benefited only the rich speculators, and the only result for the common people was a steep rise in prices, today many times the pre-war level.

Simultaneously workers' conditions have sharply deteriorated; restrictions on the use of woman and child labour have been abolished; there are no rest days and hours of work have in cases been increased to as much as fourteen hours a day; trade unions are still illegal.

Equally bad is the fate of the peasants, three quarters of the population who are still living and tilling the soil in the most primitive manner, the major part of their produce going to the "agas" (big landowners).

Growth Of Communist Parties

(Continued from page 10)

In 1939, the Communist Party has grown to 50,000; in Malaya the Party is the leader of the workers and rapidly growing to be the leader of the entire people.

In the Middle East and Arab lands, the Communist movement, despite bitterest repression, is beginning to achieve leadership in the workers' movement and to give the call for all-out resistance to British imperial hegemony.

S. America

In South America, the post-war era has seen a big rise in the number of Communists—because only from them have come the clearest lead to battle against U.S. capitalist domination of these countries. Total membership of all the Communist Parties must be nearing ten lakhs; in Brazil alone it is over a lakh and a quarter (when galised in Spring, 1945, it had membership of only 4,500!). Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Argentina also have strong Communist Parties.

Last come Britain, its Dominions, and the U.S.A., where the Communist movement is comparatively less influential; here too, however, it is growing (the membership in Britain is 50,000, when before the war it was about 15,000) and is bound to grow faster as a people watch their Labour imperialists drag them into economic crisis and poverty while

the Communists alone sharply warn that only a radical break with the imperialist system can take their peoples to happiness

Speed Of Growth

It is this way the Communist movement has grown, attracting all those who saw the need of change, for change from an old decaying order to a new rising order, from capitalism to socialism.

● In April 1917, there was only one Communist Party—that organised and led the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, its membership was 80,000.

● In 1929, world Communist membership was 16,76,000, out of which 4,45,300 (25%) was outside the Soviet Union.

● In 1935, membership was 31,48,000 (out of which 7,58,500 (again about 25%) was outside the Soviet Union).

● Today in 1946, membership must be nearly 2,00,00,000, six times the 1935 figure, twelve times the 1929 figure, and out of it, about 140 lakhs is outside the Soviet Union, i.e. 70% One in every hundred persons in the world is a Communist.

March To Socialism

At the same time, under the leadership of Communists, fifty crores of peoples of Europe and Asia (Soviet Union, democratic China, Indo-China, Eastern Europe) have broken the back of the old imperial system and are

pushing forward to establish real social and economic freedom.

"The spectre" of which Marx wrote ninety-eight years ago, has grown into a mighty force.

And this despite all repression and murder—75,000 Communists were killed by Hitler in France, and there is no country in the world where leading members of the Party have not been in jail for their clear-cut political activities, and many where the Parties have been illegalised and fought on from underground.

The enemies of the people—in every country—see this growth and that is why there has never been a time before, when such an anti-Communist barrage of slander has spread the world over. They talk of "foreign agents," "bondits," "inhuman discipline," different abuse in different lands; they talk of banning and annihilating Communist Parties.

Indestructible!

But Communism is indestructible—this is the lesson of the last hundred years, and particularly of the last twenty-five years. It is indestructible because it heads the challenge of the new to the old, because it points the path to revolutionary change from moribund dying capitalism to rising and glorious socialism.

And the political structure of the Black Sea and, therefore, of the country remains as undemocratic as ever; the Frees "is subject to tyrannical pressure" (comment of the newspaper Tan, which was later suppressed), while the elections held last month were held under conditions of virtual terror, allowing little or no scope for opposition parties to put their views before the people.

In fact, Turkey has all the well-known features that mark the backward semi-colonial countries of the Middle East that today are the virtual colonies of British imperialism.

Soviet's Just Demands

It is clear enough that for the Soviet in this situation to rely on the Turkish Government to keep enemy warships out of the Dardanelles would be ludicrous; for in fact Turkey is rapidly becoming Britain's colony in all but name and relying on Turkey amounts to relying on Britain, partner in the present world-wide war-mongering campaign against the Soviet.

At the same time it is also clear that the Soviet cannot allow this state of affairs to continue; the Anglo-Americans try to call the Dardanelles an "international" waterway; actually the Dardanelles is only a waterway along which to enter

the Black Sea and, therefore, of vital importance ONLY to the nations bordering on the Black Sea.

(And it is interesting to note that neither of these two self-appointed guardians of international waterways as far as the Dardanelles are concerned, Britain and America, has come forward to give up their own exclusive control of the two most vital truly international waterways, the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal!)

Thus the real truth about the Soviet stand on the Dardanelles is simply this: she does not wish to allow British imperialism to use the Dardanelles and, therefore, to use Turkish territory and the Turkish people as pawns in Britain's game of war for consolidation of her empire and destruction of the Soviet.

Soviet Taking No Chance

The Soviet see how far the present regime in Turkey has already moved towards transforming the country into a British colony and, therefore, the Soviet is taking no chances but demanding that she herself have a hand in ensuring the effective defence of the Straits against British imperial aggression, directed against her vital Caucasian oil fields and rich Ukrainian industrial belt, two life streams of Soviet economy, both of which border on the Black Sea.

★ INSIDE THE FORCES ★

STRIKE?

By their united pressure the ratings of HMIS "Shivaji" at Lon-ava have forced the authorities to grant their legitimate demands.

Three Hindu festivals fell on August 13. As has been the custom the ratings expected a holiday. The Executive Officer, however, declared it to be a working-day. Surprised and discontented the ratings went to their workshops, but they were not willing to work.

The trouble started at the fitting-shop. The Training Commandant rushed to the spot. "Carry on your work," he shouted.

The ratings were adamant. "We have to offer prayers today at the temple," they said.

So they were marched off to the Regulating Office, where the T.C. and the Commanding Officer questioned them. "Why have you refused to work? Don't you want to stay in the Navy?"

They all gave the same reply:

"We have refused to work because you are preventing us from offering our prayers on the occasion of our religious festival. We certainly want to remain in the Navy, but under better conditions, where our elemental rights are not trampled upon."

The authorities were afraid that the "trouble" would spread. "Stand Easy" was piped and all the ratings were made to "double up" to the Cinema Hall. The C.O. warned them about indulging in such "senseless activities."

No rating was allowed to speak. But the C.O. saw the reactions of his speech on their faces. He had to yield. It was "pipe down" and no work in the afternoon.

The ratings had won! Let the Naval bosses beware, for this is the way to a People's Navy.

NEWSPAPERS

"Keep the armed forces away from the people"—is the law laid down by the brass-hats of G.H.Q. The best way to do that is to prevent the Indian servicemen from getting the true news of the mass upsurge against British imperialism that is developing all over India.

So, very few newspapers, and mainly toady papers like the Times of India, the Civil and Military Gazette and the Statesman, are allowed to enter the recreation rooms of the Indian troops. Indian languages papers are, of course, never supplied.

* At the RIAF Camp at Worli, near Bombay, only ten newspapers are supplied for over 700 airmen.

* At the RIAF Camp at Walton,

near Lahore, only one copy of the Civil and Military Gazette is issued to 300 airmen.

* At the IAOB Depot Battalion at Jubbulpore, there is only one copy of the Statesman every day for nearly 1,200 men.

The sailors, soldiers and airmen are wondering what happens to the money allotted for their welfare and education. They want more nationalist and Indian languages newspapers.

MESSING

ABOUT 70 airmen, living in the RIAF Camp at Worli, work at the Base Reception Depot, over two miles away. Everyday they have to walk back to their camp for their meals. This unnecessary strain on these airmen can easily be prevented by opening a mess for them at the B.R.D. or by providing them with transport.

Even at the mess at Worli things are in a bad state. Since the last RIAF strike the food has slightly improved. But the authorities are trying to disrupt the unity of the airmen by providing better food for the South Indians than for the North Indians.

Fortunately the airmen can see through the disruptive tactics of the authorities and they are united in their determination to get better food for all.

DISCRIMINATION

DISCRIMINATION dies hard in the RIN.

Recently four Indian school masters of the RIN were selected for further training in the U.K. as Radar mechanics. On August 13 they reported to the Embarkation Officer at Alexandra Docks.

The White officer refused them accommodation in the ship. "You Black Indians," he said, "cannot be allowed to travel with White men!"

The school masters reported the matter to the Port Officer, who intervened and they were finally allowed to sail.

The White sahibs of the RIN have not yet learnt their lesson from the RIN strike.

—OUR FORCES CORRESPONDENT

WORLD COMMUNISM--VANGUARD IN BATTLE

★ AGAINST IMPERIALISM ★

"A spectre is haunting Europe, the spectre of Communism"—so wrote Karl Marx ninety-eight years ago in the famous Communist Manifesto.

Today it is no longer a "spectre," an idea, that is haunting the minds of the rulers of not only Europe, but the entire capitalist world. For, the Communist movement, founded so long ago by Karl Marx, has grown into a mighty force, a force no one can ignore, a force the ruling-class of every country fears and hates above all other.

WHY this fear? Because the Communist movement is a movement that directly challenges the existing capitalist social order as unjust and historically outdated, the biggest obstacle in the onward march of humanity.

It is a movement that consistently and determinedly aims at destroying root and branch this existing order with its brutal oppression and exploitation and at replacing it by a new order, a socialist order, based on the emergence of the toiling people as the rulers and owners of their country.

A Mighty Force

When Marx wrote his famous words that have traversed the years of time, but still remain true, as true as when he wrote, Communism was an ideal, Communists were a handful.

Today they have become a mighty force, two crores in number; a force that has successfully smashed the capitalist system and established the new socialist order over large areas in the world, a force that is confidently moving to take mankind forward along this same road to full social and economic freedom.

Leading all is the mighty Communist Party of the Soviet Union with over sixty lakh members; the Party that led the twenty crores of Soviet people first in the Revolution to overthrow Tsarist imperialism and then to transform their country into the first Socialist State in the world.

It is the Communists of the Soviet Union who have built this first example of a new social order (as Pandit Nehru acknowledges even in his latest book, *Discovery Of India*), the order that is challenging the old decaying capitalist order, because while the latter brings crisis, poverty, famine and war, socialism in the Soviet Union has solved all these and shown the way forward to the entire world.

China's Example

Next comes the Communist Party of China, today with nearly thirty lakh members and undisputed leader of fourteen crores of China's people in the struggle to defend the new democratic order, established under its leadership over large areas of China, and to bring democracy and unity to all China.

It is this Communist Party that demonstrated to the entire semi-colonial feudally-oppressed people of Asia how to fight foreign imperial enslavers and native reaction and break the chains of foreign and feudal enslavement.

At first an insignificant force with little influence, it has risen to lead China's people because it told them that only battle against the old rotten feudal system would emancipate China and lead it to prosperity.

No civil wars supported and organised by foreign imperialism have been able to smash the Chinese Communists, and today all democrats in China look to them for leadership to fight back the threat of U.S. domination of their country and to break up the old corrupt order that still dominates three-quarters of China.

After this come the Communist Parties of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and the rest of the Balkans and Central Europe.

They too fought big battles against Hitler and German imperialism and, after the war, have emerged as the leading parties of their countries, core of democratic national fronts, pledged to break the power of the foreign capitalists and native landlords.

Advance In Balkans

Already in the eighteen months after liberation from Hitler, the major part of this vital work has been done; big landed estates have been broken up and land given to the peasants; the main industries have been nationalised and British and U.S. capital's grip on the economy of their countries has been decisively broken.

They have taken a big step on the road to socialism—and here too it is the Communist Parties that lead; in Czechoslovakia with thirteen lakh members and a Communist Premier, and a circulation of seven lakhs, biggest in Prague, for its paper, *Rude Pravo*; in Yugoslavia and Albania with Communist Premiers, and over the rest of the Balkans with strong and growing Communist Parties.

In the two Asiatic colonies, where the end of the war has seen the people raise the banner of armed revolt, the Communists have played a major role; in

by
Mohan Kumarmangalam

Indo-China where the leading figures of Vietminh movement that set up the free Vietnam (Annamite) Republic, Ho-Chi-Minh and Nguyen-Ai-Quoc, are veteran Communists.

In Indonesia

In Indonesia, the Communists are a rapidly growing force, and of the latest Indonesian Defence Council, set up to meet the emergency created by the Dutch military offensive and the activities of the fifth column, the Communist leader Sardjono, is one of the members.

Over the rest of the world, in every country the Communists have come forward as the leaders of the movement for real freedom, real change in their countries; it is they who are leading the battle against the decaying reactionary forces that are striving to perpetuate the old capitalist order.

Western Europe

In France, the Party has a membership of over thirteen lakhs; it is not only the second Party in France, but is acknowledged to be the most disciplined and organised Party and the Party with undisputed leadership of France's working-class, today organised in the French Trade Union Congress with over sixty lakh members.

Its daily paper in Paris, *L'Humanite*, has a circulation of five lakhs, largest of any morning paper in Paris and throughout France (it has twelve other dailies in the provinces) its daily press has a circulation of over twenty lakhs.

Illegalised in 1939, leader of the underground movement against Hitler for four years; today it is the proud target of attacks from all French reaction, the rallying-centre for all democrats.

Next in Western Europe is the Communist Party of Italy, with a membership of twenty lakhs, which, despite the twenty years of fierce persecution by Mussolini, has become the third Party of its people; then come the Parties of the Low Countries and Scandinavia, all much stronger than ten years ago.

In Western Europe also is the newly-established Socialist Unity Party of Germany with fifteen lakh members formed out of the unity of Communist and Social-democratic Parties in Eastern Germany; it has grown strong through leading the way in decisively breaking the power of the militarist-landlords (Junkers) and industrialists by dividing up the big landed estates and nationalisation of major industries.

And in Europe, too, are the Communist Parties of Greece and Spain, leaders of the movements of their people against Fascist rule.

Asia—Britain's Colonies

In Asia in the British colonies, it is the Communist Parties that are uncompromisingly opposing imperialism's post-war plans to preserve its rule and destroy the rising revolution.

In India from 1,500 members

Continued on Page 9

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES

	PRE-WAR	TODAY
Soviet Union	30,00,000	60,00,000
China		30,00,000
Italy	Illegal in pre-war days	20,00,000
Germany	3,50,000 (1933)	15,00,000
France	3,50,000	13,00,000
Czechoslovakia	70,000	12,50,000
Hungary	Not known	"
Rumania	All illegal	5,00,000
Bulgaria	In pre-war days	4,80,000
Greece	"	4,00,000
Poland	"	2,50,000
Austria	13,000	1,30,000
Denmark, Holland	"	"
Norway, Finland	31,000	2,73,000
Belgium	"	"
England	15,000	50,000
U.S.A.	Unknown	about 50,000
India	1,500	50,000
		38,30,500 1,78,33,000

Notes:— Figures for South America, Spain, countries of the British Empire, Japan, Korea, Middle East and SE Asia are not included as they are not known. Altogether membership is likely to come to nearly 200 lakhs, two crores.

★ ★ Around the World ★ ★

Soviet "Spy" Scare--Its Real Objective

OUR readers will remember that the last few months, on and off, lurid stories of arrests of "Soviet spies" in Canada and America have been broadcast the world over.

The two biggest, most-publicised, stories were first, the Atomic Spy Case in Canada; second, the Soviet Naval Officer Case in Seattle, U.S.A.

On February 15, the world was made to feel "startled" that Mr. Mackenzie King, Churchill's life-long friend, had announced the discovery of a huge Soviet "spy ring" in Canada to steal atom bomb secrets. The entire Canadian Press and Radio, and through Reuters, the entire world imperialist Press, took up the ballyhoo. Of course, Mackenzie King has not been able to establish the "spy ring" charge against the Soviet up to now! Also, it turned out that Canada did not possess the real atom bomb secrets which safely and securely belonged to the U.S.A. (Secretary of State, Byrnes' statement).

What is really worth noting, however, is the fact of the treatment, physical and legal, of the thirteen Canadian citizens, who were arrested by Mackenzie King's police, described in the Canadian Press.

Flagrant Disregard Of Rights Of Individuals

First of all, they were arrested under a drastic judicial order passed as early as October 1945, but this order was made public only on February 27, 1948, fourteen days after the announcement of arrests. In December 1948, the Canadian Minister of Justice had denied the existence of any such order. When taxed, he said he had forgotten its existence!

The accused were denied any counsel; were refused interviews with relatives for two and a half weeks; the lights were kept burning in their place of detention throughout the nights; one accused was not even shown the order under which he was arrested!

Mr. Diefenbaker, Canadian M.P., characterised the order as one that "did more to sweep aside the rights of individuals than any Order in Council passed in the history of Canada."

The *Ottawa Journal* said: "Secret laws; secret orders for arrests; police visitations before dawn; mistakes in identity; anonymous prisoners—these things have been justified to us on the ground of security of the State." The *Fortnightly Law Journal* of Toronto commented:

"The shadow of fear lengthens across the country as the hand of the political police reaches out to snatch men and women from their homes into the concentration camp, uncharged and unaccused, to be held incommunicado for inquisition, and perhaps worse...."

The English Liberal paper, *The New Statesman and Nation*, from which I have given the above facts, concludes bitterly:

"In time of peace, without advancing any adequate reason, the Canadian Government panicked into a procedure which strikes at the root of individual liberty. When such things happen, the voice of protest must be vigorous." (May 25, 1948).

But it is not only Churchill's life-long friend who uses this kind of "anti-Soviet logic."

On March 27, in U.S. Secretary Byrnes' country (and Byrnes is Byrnes' bosom friend), the secret police (FBI) seized a Soviet Naval Officer, Lieutenant Redin, in Seattle, charging him with espionage in the U.S.A.

The Case Of Soviet Naval Officer--Lt. Redin

Who was Redin? Since 1942, he had been carrying out a responsible Soviet-U.S. naval job in Seattle. He worked hand in hand with U.S. Officers in a common cause. He enjoyed the complete confidence of U.S. military circles. Wartime exchanges of military information between the USSR and the USA admitted him to military secrets of both countries. He was also socially popular in Seattle. In fact, this was too much for the local American secret police. They waited for their chance.

The Canadian spy-scare had been a complete flop, so the U.S. secret police were told to turn on the anti-Soviet heat. On March 27, Redin was suddenly arrested. He was brusquely pushed into a car, searched and thrown half-naked into a cold cell.

The entire American Press, except the Communist and a few other liberal and trade union papers, made up the most fantastic charges and these were spread throughout the world again by the British-American monopoly Press and news agencies like Reuters.

Now when the case came up for trial after much delay, this is what transpired:

All the 'documents' of the prosecution were proved to be forgeries.

● Kennedy, the man whom Redin is supposed to have bribed, he served in the U.S.A. for 25 years (!), but was a British subject and a drunkard. Far from being given bribes by Redin, he and his wife were proved in court to be agents of the FBI, Seattle branch, which had put them up to spy on Redin!

● All the American citizens of Seattle, from landlady to the "highest" circles, gave an attractive picture in court of the Soviet Officer carrying out his duties in a foreign land, a man who regarded the citizens of the country, where he had to work, with interest and respect.

● It was proved that there were no "secrets" on the "Yellowstone", the fighting destroyer, from which Redin had allegedly been trying to get them!

Redin was acquitted; but the same Press and news agencies who, for three months had fed the unselecting public on a "Soviet plot" did not report the trial and commissioned the report of the acquittal to a small corner of an inside page!

Crude Attempt To Whip Up Anti-Soviet Feeling

This is, I suppose, 'freedom of the Press' in so-democratic Britain and America!

But one thing comes clearly out of this—it is not Soviet spy plots that took place this year but crude attempts to whip up anti-Soviet feeling the world over by pointing to the Soviet as a force threatening Anglo-U.S. safety.

This was the reason for the trumped up cases and it should be enough for anyone to understand that these "plots" were the necessary psychological part of Anglo-U.S. preparations for war, directed to convince people that the war against the Soviet was inevitable, just as the existence of the troops of the U.S. in sixty countries in the world is the military side of Anglo-U.S. imperialist preparations for a war of world domination.

Chang Aun Ah

U.S. STRIKE-WAVE-ITS MEANING

Battle Against Big Business And President Truman

Just now the people of the U.S.A. are taking breath after the biggest strike-wave in all U.S. history, a part of the post-war wave sweeping the entire capitalist world, including India.

BETWEEN V-E Day (May 1945) and October of the same year, four and a half lakh workers in various U.S. industries had downed tools.

Between November 1945 and May 1946, the strike-battles beat all previous records and assumed gigantic proportions. They spread to the basic industries.

On November 21, 1945, 75,000 auto workers of General Motors, the world's biggest motor concern, came out on strike—a struggle that lasted for more than four months.

Soon two lakh radio and electrical workers, about three and a quarter lakh workers in the meat packing industry, eight lakh steel workers, four lakh coal miners, two and a half lakh railwaymen and engineers, in short about 20 lakh workers were involved in the months between November (1945) to May (1946).

During The War

After America's entry into the war, the entire organised labour movement had taken the no-strike pledge, worked 54 to 48 hours per week instead of the normal 40.

As a result, American industry expanded 100 per cent in war-time—in money terms from 85 thousand million dollars in 1939 to 200 thousand millions by 1944.

In 1943 alone 2,000 big industrial corporations had made 8,845 million dollars profits—or four times the average profits for the period 1936-39. (Phillip Murray, CIO President's radio address, July 1945).

In contrast, workers' wages had risen no more than 25 per cent during all war time, whereas the cost of living had increased by 45 per cent.

It was this position that made Phillip Murray declare:

"Industry can raise wages 24 per cent and still enjoy more than 100 per cent net profits after taxes."

At the end of the war, big business, i.e., the industrial corporations and the handful of multi-millionaire bosses who control them, ignoring the needs of the people, started on a policy of wholesale wage-cuts and unemployment.

Wage Cuts, Unemployment

Instead of a better standard of living the workers' pay-roll contracted by 25 billion dollars in a few months (figures quoted by Henry Wallace, Secretary of Commerce).

This came about by a reduction in hours of work from 54 to 48 per week to 40, leading to a 20 per cent drop in earnings. In addition, tens of thousands lost war-time earnings by being reduced from higher to lower grades as a result of the dismissal of those considered surplus after the ending of war contracts.

Secondly, millions of workers found themselves without work overnight. Instead of the promised 60,000,000 jobs in peacetime, in a few days after V-J Day, 300,000 were thrown out in Detroit, the largest centre of war production; in New York 150,000; in Los Angeles, 35,000; in Chicago, 150,000; in Cleveland, 125,000; in New England, 200,000; in Philadelphia, 200,000.

These are just a few instances. Today there are about four to five million Americans on the streets without jobs.

Estimated unemployment in 1946 will be about 7,000,000 (Secretary of Commerce, Henry Wallace).

The fact is that big business had launched its biggest conspiracy, since the pre-New Deal days of Roosevelt, to smash the trade union and democratic strength of America's workers.

And just why becomes clear from two simple facts:

(1) During the last ten years, the strength of organised labour, particularly in the two major workers' organisations, the American Federation of Labour (AFL) and the Congress of Industrial Organisations (CIO), had increased from three millions to 14 millions.

(2) In the 1944 Presidential elections, despite big business backing for Dewey, the Republican Party's candidate, Roosevelt, the candidate of the Democratic Party, swept the polls through labour support.

In fact, the main drive for Roosevelt's campaign came not from the traditional capitalist-controlled Democratic Party machine but from the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the CIO.

President Roosevelt had projected an Economic Bill of Rights and a democratic programme which would have ensured a higher standard of living for the American people through better wages, social security, full employment, fair practices for the Negro people, and the right to unite, organise in trade unions and bargain collectively with the employers.

Big Business Plot

All this was not to the liking of big business.

After Roosevelt's death early in 1945, big business hurried on its plot to regain, in the post-war era, full political control of the American people's destinies, which it had held in the years between World War I, from the end of Wilson's presidency right up to the time when Roosevelt replaced the extreme reactionary Herbert Hoover in 1932.

It was now determined to use the vast funds accumulated in war-time to crush the workers' powers and smash the trade unions. They thought they saw their chance in the conditions of reconversion from war to peace. Their attack took two forms.

Workers' Rights Attacked

(a) A direct challenge to refuse any demands for wage-increase put forward by the unions. Thus they hoped to provoke strikes, starve out the workers, discredit their unions and sign new wage-contracts on their own terms—and so maintain their war-time rate of profits.

For instance, at the end of September 1945, the heads of the three largest automobile concerns—Ford, Chrysler and General Motors—met in a secret conference and decided just to accept the demands of the United Automobile Workers' Union, one of the most powerful American workers' unions.

(b) On the plea of maintaining "industrial peace," to push through Congress, anti-labour legislation, which would make strikes illegal, penalise trade union activity and repudiate all

the labour protective laws of the Roosevelt New Deal period—such as the Wagner Act of 1935. This Act guaranteed the workers the right to unite in trade unions, conclude collective agreements with employers and to go out on strike.

Such was the purpose of a whole host of notorious bills moved in Congress in recent months; particularly a measure in February called the Case Bill. This Bill was actually passed by Congress, but the nationwide outcry against it forced the President to veto it.

It was against this offensive that the mighty force of organised U.S. labour struck back. The two million striking workers won on an average an 18½ cents wage increase per hour, not only for themselves but for two million others who were not involved in the strikes—directly.

Truman Takes Lead

And now reaction is planning a new offensive—only this time the lead is being taken in the anti-labour drive by President Truman himself and his entire Administration, which is now in open alliance with big business.

The Truman anti-strike bill which the President sent up on May 25 to Congress has been condemned by the entire labour and progressive movement as a fascist measure.

The fact is, that although President Truman was forced to veto the Case Bill, his own measure included a clause that arrogated to himself the power to draft into the army, the strik-

ers in any plant when he saw fit. Then under army 'discipline' the workers would be forced to run the plant.

In other words, the army would be used as an instrument for strike-breaking.

In fact, in the rail-road strike he threatened to call in the army to run the railways and thus aided the railway companies to break the strike. He made the same threat in the case of the impending strike of four lakh seamen.

Two Camps

This measure has roused the whole labour and progressive movement against Truman. As a result two camps are forming for the next Presidential elections in 1948. The camp of labour and the progressives (like the genuine New Dealers of Roosevelt days) versus big business and Truman.

WILLIAM GREEN, President of the 7-million strong AFL, declared that the passage of the Truman measure would mean "Fascism may grip American manoeuvres."

PHILLIP MURRAY, President of the 8½-million strong CIO, asserted that the big business interests behind the Bill are seeking "to thrust all democratic rights into permanent quarantine."

HAROLD L. ICKES, for 12 years a member of Roosevelt's Cabinet, who has revolted against Truman, denounced the Truman Bill. He said: "The entire American citizenry has been attacked."

Ickes was speaking as Chairman of the Independent Citizens' Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, an organisation widely representative of U.S. Liberals and includes Roosevelt's supporters.

The world-wide importance of this battle between U.S. big business and the people was brought out by SENATOR CLAUDE PEPPER, one of the very few progressives in the present Congress. He declared:

"The same group in Congress (viz., the reactionary 'Coalition' of Republicans and Southern Poll-tax Democrats) that is supporting American foreign policy is taking the lead in this legislation." (Philadelphia speech, May 26).

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, leader of the Communist Party, said:

"Mr. Truman has definitely abandoned the policies of the late President Roosevelt. He is furthering the interests of American big business, which is out to dominate the world even at the cost of another world war."

Rulers Of America

America is supposed to be the land of "free enterprise". Actually all the wealth and real power is concentrated in the hands of a small oligarchy of the richest men who control the largest banking and industrial companies and foreign markets.

THE chief among them are a small group of very rich firms and families like the Morgans, Rockefellers, Mellons, du Ponts and Fords.

Here are some figures which speak for themselves:

Companies under J. P. Morgan and Co.'s influence (entire capitalist world's biggest bankers) through directorship and/or banking services.

The 444 Companies

The 444 companies whose connection with the Morgan interests has been traced are made up of four groups as follows:

I. 95 companies, assets \$ 30.0 billion; 20 companies assets not reported.

II. 42 companies, assets \$ 16.2 billion; 10 companies assets not reported.

III. 80 companies, assets \$ 16.5 billion; 12 companies assets not reported.

IV. 145 companies, assets \$ 14.9 billion; 40 companies assets not reported.

Group I, or the inner group, consists of companies which had a Morgan as partner on the Board of Directors on January 1, 1932.

Group II consists of companies whose directors included on January 1, 1932, at least one representative of the Morgan-Baker controlled First National Bank of New York or of Bon Bright and Co., Inc.

Group III consists of companies tied to the inner Morgan group through some banking relationship.

Group IV consists of companies whose directors include some 'Morgan' men.

In this way, the Rockefeller financial and industrial power (the Rockefellers are a richer family than the Morgans) extends to some 287 companies, the power of the Mellons to about 128.

What this means, in a word, can be judged from the fact that the total Morgan assets ALONE inside the USA (excluding foreign) were \$73,600 billion which is more than one-fourth of the American corporate wealth.

Here is just one typical case of monopoly:

There were about 30 companies manufacturing automobiles and motor trucks. Of these the THREE largest—General Motors, Ford and Chrysler—in 1935 were producing 90 per cent of all the output of passenger cars in the USA.

What does this mean in the actual terms of living for the American people?

Wealth Distribution

The richest 1 per cent of the population (biggest capitalists) owned at least 59 per cent of the wealth (land and capital); the petty capitalists (12 per cent of the population) owned about 33 per cent of the wealth; and the great mass of industrial workers, small farmers and self-employed shopkeepers (or 87 per cent of the population) owned about 8 per cent of the wealth (Federal Trade Commission Report, 1926).

Twelve million families, 42 per cent of the total, received 13 per cent of the national income. Thirty-six thousand (richest class), 0.1 per cent of the total, received also 13 per cent of the national income.

In other words, thirty-six thousand families at the top had as much to eat, drink and be merry on as 12 million families below! (Figures of Brookings Institution, 1929).

The political significance of U.S. monopoly control was defined by the late President Roosevelt as follows:

"The first truth is that the liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic State itself. That, in its essence, is fascism...."

"Among us today a concentration of private power without equal in history is growing."

"This concentration is seriously impairing the economic effectiveness of private enterprise as a way of providing employment for labour and capital and as a way of assuring a more equitable distribution of income and earnings among the people of the Nation as a whole."

"Private enterprise is ceasing to be free enterprise and is becoming a cluster of private collectivism; masking itself as a system of free enterprise after the American model, it is in fact becoming a concealed cartel system after the European model."

World Domination

And now here is a list of U.S. foreign investments (1930).

Canada	3,942 million dollars
Europe	4,929 " "
Central and S. America	5,607 " "
Asia and the Pacific	1,509 " "

Most of these investments belong to the leading U.S. monopolies or are the private investments of the richest Americans.

It is in their interests that now after World War II, Truman and Byrnes have U.S. troops in occupation of about 60 countries along with their British capitalist allies.

The most glaring instance being China, where before the war the U.S. monopolists had \$200,000,000 apart from \$42,000,000 belonging to American religious, educational, etc., institutions. That is why the U.S. is at war in China on behalf of the Chinese feudal fascists against the rising people who want the U.S. troops to quit.

PROPAGANDA

ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

Consulting Editor: G. ADHIKARI
Managing Editor: D. S. Hatangdi

Subscription Rate (Indian):
Yearly Rs. 3/-; Half-Yearly Rs. 4/8; Quarterly Rs. 2/8.

Subscription Rate (Foreign):
Yearly Rs. 12, Half-Yearly Rs. 6.

Telegrams: Peoplesage.
All cheques, Money-Orders, Postal Orders, Demand Drafts, etc. to be made out in the name of KANTILAL J. SHAH.

Printed by Daulatram Shivshankar Hatangdi at the New Age Printing Press, 190B, Khetwadi Main Road, Bombay 4, and published by him at People's Age Office, 190B, R. K. Building, Khetwadi Main Road, Bombay 4.

Flood Havoc In Chittagong

Inadequacy Of Govt. Relief; Game Of Dakota Planes To Hoodwink Public

Again, Bengal's eyes are fixed on Chittagong. Hardly had it started recovering from the effects of a severe famine followed by virulent epidemics, when in July last came the floods. On Government admission itself, the floods were unprecedented in the history of Bengal. Six hundred square miles were devastated, affecting five lakh people and destroying 10 lakh maunds of ripe 'aus' paddy on the fields.

CHITTAGONG district has a population of over two millions, 75 per cent of whom are Muslims. Even in normal years it has a deficit of five lakh maunds of rice, and this year there was an additional shortage of six lakh maunds. This total shortage of 11 lakh maunds means six weeks' food for Chittagong.

The war years had completely shattered Chittagong's economy. The concentration of troops, Indian, White and Negro, whose number at times almost reached the half-million mark, besides the Labour corps in which three or four lakh Chittagonians worked; a devastating famine and deadly epidemics—all these uprooted lakhs of people from their normal means of livelihood and threw 75 to 80 thousand on the streets as homeless destitutes.

In this situation, the harvesting of the 15 lakh maunds of the ripening 'aus' crop was being expectantly waited—to bring some measure of temporary relief.

But the crop will not be harvested. The floods have claimed most of it.

Heavy rains started in the first week of July, and huge torrents of water rushed down the hills, and in many places, finding no outlet to the sea, they washed away entire villages and paddy fields. At other places, when they rushed into the river, the river could not carry so much water, its bed being silted, and it burst its banks, overflowing the adjoining localities.

The Worst Affected Area

Rangunia, a surplus area, is one of the worst affected. It has a population of about 50 thousand. But here the loss of life was not heavy, because the people ran up the adjacent hills, where they waited for help and shelter for three or four days before anything reached them.

Raozan Bazar, in this area, was however, completely cut off from the nearby hill, only half a mile off.

Here, suddenly, on the midnight of July 10, the water level rose as a result of incessant rain, and then hell was let loose—walls of the aged, screams of children, helpless cries of domestic animals, repeated thuds of falling houses, and the roaring water all around were enough to drive one crazy. And there was no way of escape left. A cloth merchant offered Rs. 200 to a boatman to take him out of there, but he refused.

Total Havoc

For three days—July 10, 11 and 12—the floods worked havoc. At the end, 50,000 houses had collapsed, 10 lakh maunds of 'aus' completely washed away, and all 'aman' seedlings in the badly affected areas had gone.

Now began the usual shameful chapter of Government relief, but this time in a different form. It is nothing unusual for such relief to come after the most distressing period is over—and even when its inadequacy makes it almost symbolic and its distribution is left to profiteering businessmen and dishonest officials. Nor was the story much different now.

But whereas on previous occasions, the nationalist Press has always been critical of Government measures, this time it wrote of the "praiseworthy initiative" of Government, and other visitors to the affected

CHITTAGONG NEEDS YOUR HELP

Send All You Can

To

COMMUNIST PARTY,
J. M. SEN'S AVENUE
CHITTAGONG

areas also spoke of "Government's prompt action" and that the "Government was doing a lot this time."

The Dakota Planes

How did this happen? The answer is—six Dakota planes did the trick.

The District Magistrate got these planes to distribute foodstuffs in the affected areas. When he found that thousands were starving and he could not send them adequate rice, he hit upon an ingenious device. Thousands of leaflets were dropped from the air inscribed "Government is doing everything". Press reporters were given generous facilities to use the Dakotas.

All this had the desired effect. Government succeeded in creating the illusion that they were doing a lot. Let us examine what this 'lot' was. Rangunia, the worst affected area, can serve as a good example.

Here about 50,000 require free doles now. Rice began to be dropped from the air on the 15th, full five days after the tragedy. It was said that no relief could be sent earlier as the water was impassable—but a generous Muslim businessman brought 45 maunds of rice to Rangunia by way of water on the 15th, he did not find the water impassable.

Criminal Waste

From the 15th to 17th, 300 maunds of rice was dropped for 50,000 starving people. Out of this, as the Relief Officer himself admitted, about 1/3rd was lost in the process by either getting scattered on the mud or by whole bags falling into deep water.

In addition, "the specially trained crews," of whom the Relief Commissioner boasted so much, broke the heads of four hungrymen, sent another four to hospital, and damaged the roof of the Saikania H. E. School.

I myself saw the game of the Dakotas. Rice was generally dropped on high lands adjoining the local school. From the villages around hundreds would flock to the field, starving, half-naked men and women. The plane would come whizzing overhead, and a few bags of rice, accompanied by a shower of leaflets, come down.

The police would cordon the place, push back the hungry. The hungry would wait for some bag to burst open for when the police went away with the bags of rice, the crowd of hungry, naked humanity, would rush to the spot, dig frantically into the dirty mud and collect a few straws of rice—which would be their day's ration! It was impossible to hold back one's tears while watching this pitiless game.

We got it from official figures that on the 23rd, 422

by **Abani Lahiri**

maunds of rice was dropped out of which 98 maunds was lost. Special messengers were sent by the Relief Officer to the District Magistrate to stop this aerial dropping. But the farce continued, its propaganda value was great and could not be missed.

During the 15th to 17th, relief was distributed at the rate of four chhataks per head. Then it was suddenly stopped for

Actually rationing must be extended to the whole district. But the District Magistrate's arrangements cannot even feed the five lakhs affected, leave alone the whole district.

And as far as seeds, cattle and house-building materials are concerned, nothing has yet been done.

This time the Congress and the League have both started vigorous relief work. The Communist Party has, of course, been always in the field. Nor are the people demoralised, for, ignoring their own misfortune, they stood solidly behind Post and Telegraph strikers and came



The game of Dakotas. Leaflets for the hungry!

four days. A huge movement out in big demonstrations and hartals to express their sympathy with them.

During the four days when there was no relief, mass starvation began. In one place alone about 200 families were starving.

The quality of rice dropped was simply atrocious. The few bags of aerial rice that reached the Relief Officer at Dhemscha after breaking the roof of the school building and killing an old Muslim woman, were still being dried in the sun when we visited the area after a week. The Relief Officer was perturbed and said he would not distribute that stuff.

Stinking Biscuits

At Rangunia, the Secretary of a Union Relief Committee, brought a big tin of army biscuits. The biscuits emitted an awful smell and were covered with a thick fungus coating. A seal on the tin said: "Made in 1942; Guaranteed upto 1944." And these biscuits were distributed to the ailing!

We produced samples of rice and biscuits at a Press Conference in Calcutta, given by the Additional Commissioner of Civil Supplies, which served to check his boastful talk about Government relief.

The Government is congratulating itself that it has decided to distribute free dole to 71,000, but the district even before the floods had a destitute population of 80,000 and the floods must have added another two lakhs to this number. All of them need free rice.

Who Is Responsible?

The basic question, however, remains. Food shortages, famines and floods must become things of the past, and those who stand in the way must be removed.

● In Chittagong district as a whole, more than six lakh bighas of cultivable land lie fallow. Why?

● In Rangunia area, there is a low water-bogged area called Gumal Bil. According to the report of the Assistant Irrigation Engineer, this area, if cleared and properly irrigated, can give an additional production of 144,000 maunds of paddy. As it stands at present, it is a chronic cause for floods in the locality.

Agitation for proper irrigation of this Bil has gone on for 20 years, according to Maulvi Abdul Bari, Secretary of the Gumal Bil Committee. An estimate of Rs. 80,000 for digging a canal was also submitted.

Enquiries were made thrice by the Government but nothing has been done so far.

Flood Makers Must Go

The suffering people of Chittagong demand an explanation: Who is responsible for this delay? These deaths and destruction? The guilty must be punished.

In Saikania area, Saikhya has left its original course, which is now silted, and taken a new course. Now when heavy downpour rushes down the hill neither Saikhya nor its tributaries can carry it to the sea. Their banks overflow and create havoc in the areas of Saikania, Dhemscha, Nelu, etc.

For six years, the people have been demanding the excavation of a few canals to give an easy outlet for the flood water. But nothing has been done as yet. Again, who is responsible for the delay? They must face the people's wrath.

The flood-makers and the famine-makers must quit our land. Let this be the last flood in Bengal.



BOOKS REVIEWED

RUSSIAN VIGNETTE

Published by the Bookman, 63, Dharamtala Street, Calcutta.

Price Rs. 1-12.

THIS book is a collection of eleven of the most brilliant Soviet short stories written during the war. Among the writers who are represented are two of the most outstanding Soviet novelists, Ilya Ehrenbourg and Mikhail Sholokhov.

Everyone of them tells of the heroism of simple Soviet men and women in the fire of the struggle against the Nazi attempt to enslave the Soviet Union.

Reading this book will help everyone to understand how great were the sufferings of the Soviet peoples during the war and, therefore, how determined they are today to see that fresh attempts by new Hitlers and Mussolinis in Britain and the U.S. do not land the world in a third world war even more devastating than the second, even more tragic in its toll of suffering for the Soviet people.

The stories also bring home in a very striking manner how during the war against Hitler it was not one or two heroes who led the Soviet, but hundreds and thousands of heroes who fought to see their motherland victorious.

SOVIET RUSSIA

— AN INTRODUCTION

By Kathleen Gibberd

Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Price 5s.

THIS book is a useful introduction to the Soviet Union. It includes a descriptive account of the territory and the peoples of the Soviet Union, the collapse of the Czarist Russia and the building of Soviet State, the way in which the USSR is governed; the development of Soviet prosperity, living conditions in the USSR and its foreign relations.

It has also got a useful set of maps and diagrams illustrating the increase in Soviet production, literacy, etc. The author has tried to be objective and has to a large extent succeeded.

This book can be recommended as a simple introduction to the facts and figures of the Soviet Union though it does not go deep into an analysis of the Soviet system and into the differences that demarcate it from the capitalist world.

AMERICA IN JAPAN

By Andrew Roth.

Kutub, Bombay:

240 pages; Rs. 3.

WELL-written and closely documented, this book is a penetrating analysis of Japan's politics; it gives a clear account of the real forces that rule Japan, the men who built Jap militarism, and joined Hitler in the war for world domination.

Soberly and factually it outlines how pre-war Japan's entire life was controlled by four huge, monopolist industrial combines (the Zaibatsu) supported by the militarist clique (the Mombatsu) and the landed aristocracy headed by the Mikado.

It makes a powerful plea for an occupation policy by the U.S. which would aim to destroy these war-mongers by helping the democratic movement in its struggle to change Japan's political and economic structure.

The book is also very topical as Roth exposes the intrigues of reactionary sections of American officialdom today finding expression in occupation boss General MacArthur's policy of protecting big business in Japan as a conservative base against the rising revolutionary wave in Asia and as an ally in a future anti-Soviet war.

The only weakness of the book is that it does not show the links between American big business (which is the real driving force behind U.S. policy today) and big business in Japan.

M.K.