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## Unite for the Fight against the League of Nations!

To the Workers of Europe and the Whole World!

Moscow 7th April 1926.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International has issued to the workers of Europe and of the whole world the following appeal entitled: "Unite for the Fight against the League of Nations!"

"The pacifist legend, that the League of Nations can and will secure world peace upon a capitalist basis, is destroyed."

On the 17th March the policy of the League of Nations sustained the greatest defeat it has met with up to now. According to the Locarno treaties Germany was to be admitted into the League of Nations. After days of futile negotiations the Geneva conference broke up, the representatives of the bourgeois governments returned home without having accomplished their alleged aim, the acceptance of Germany into the League was postponed until September. The bourgeois press of the whole world speaks with "grave anxiety" regarding the defeat of the policy of the League of Nations. New and severe political tremors are approaching. In order to efface the fact of their defeat, to divert the awakening unity of the workers from the imperialist machinations of the League of Nations and to mislead the workers, the diplomats of Geneva and their assistants in all countries are endeavouring to conceal the real causes of the bankruptcy. The bourgeois press is seeking to create the impression that it was only the veto of Brazil, only

the dispute as to the granting of a temporary seat in the Council of the League to Poland that is responsible for the fact that the immediate acceptance of Germany into the League was refused. These assertions are deliberate lies. The responsibility for the break up of the meeting of the League of Nations in Geneva and the conjuring up of fresh conflicts and dangers rests in the first place with the imperialist governments of America, England, France and Italy.

The American imperialists, by exerting influence upon Brazil in the Geneva negotiations, have intervened in order to intensify the antagonisms between the European States, to hinder the resistance of the European nations against their exploitation by America, and in order to fight out their own competitive struggle against English imperialism.

The French imperialists have prevented the acceptance of Germany into the League, as they were allied by a secret treaty with the Polish government. The representatives of the Italian government, the agents of the mass murderer Mussolini, applauded when the Geneva meeting was rendered abortive by the opposition of Brazil. The English imperialists, under Chamberlain's leadership, have with one hand supported France and Poland and with the other hand signed promises for Germany. They have done everything possible to incite the peoples of Europe against each other in order to be able to suppress and

plunder the people and the colonies without hindrance. The governments of the imperialist Great Powers are alone responsible for the Geneva conflict.

**Workers of all countries!** The Communists have declared right from the first moment that the Treaty of Locarno is a treaty of the imperialists against the masses of the people, a treaty of the capitalist Great Powers for the kindling of new wars, for suppressing the small, the vanquished and disarmed nations, for preparing fresh military attacks on the Soviet Union.

The events at Geneva have shown more clearly than ever that the spirit of Locarno is a spirit of bombs and bayonets. The pacifist countenance of Locarno is only a mask behind which there is still carried on the criminal game of the imperialists with the lives of the workers. The bankruptcy of Geneva has exposed this game.

The II. International has participated openly and directly in the activity of the League of Nations. The leaders of the II. International support the policy of their governments against the workers.

Regardless of the interests of the working masses, careless of the demands of the revolutionary proletariat, the social democratic leaders have not only rejected every proposal for a common fight against the League of Nations, but have co-operated directly and actively in the Council of the League and in similar organs of imperialism. At the March Session in Geneva the social democrats present participated in the imperialist play of intrigues precisely in the same way as the rest of the government representatives. The French social democrat **Paul Boncour**, the Swedish social democrat **Udden** and the Belgian social democrat **Vandervelde** not only showed their readiness to serve the interests of their respective governments, but in cases of conflicts between these government interests they voted against each other. Social democrats against social democrats, labour leaders against labour leaders, every one of them on the side of his imperialist government; that was the outrageous and shameful role of the II. International at Geneva.

#### **Workers of all countries!**

What is to happen now? The miracle of peace has not taken place yet. That is what a French newspaper wrote a few days ago. But the miracle of a new war is drawing near with menacing power. In all the capitalist countries the gigantic burden of the military budgets rests upon the shoulders of the workers.

**Fresh armaments, new collisions; the sword of a new 1914 hangs over the heads of the masses of the people.**

The expectations of **Luther and Stresemann** regarding Germany's entry into the League of the Victors are shattered at one blow. Whilst in Germany the League of Nations and its defenders are discredited, whilst after Geneva the Nationalists and the Fascists are raising their heads anew, the united front of the German proletariat will and must be set up against the League of Nations and its agents. But it is not only Germany but the whole of Europe that is suffering from the consequences of Geneva. American finance capital which has caused the break up of the meeting of the League of Nations is preparing fresh means of pressure in order to mete out to all European States, to all Europe the fate of vanquished and plundered Germany. After Geneva the **Coolidges and Houghtons** declared with cynical insolence that the European states can only be brought to reason by financial pressure. The financial pressure of America means for the workers of Europe the whip of starvation. The fate of Germany, the conversion of the great industrial State into an impotent colony suffering misery, threatens Poland, France, Italy, the Danube countries, the entire European continent. The working class will not allow themselves to be deceived by the hypocritical conferences of the League of Nations. The working class know what threatens them. In the ranks of the European proletariat there is growing the bitter disappointment over the League of Nations, the mood of hostility to the League of Nations and the imperialists is increasing, and there is growing up the will to struggle and resistance against the war policy of the bourgeois governments. The policy of the League of Nations has entered on a war stage. The policy of alliances of the imperialist governments has reached a dead point. The warnings of the Communist International are being confirmed by facts. Already in the early part of the year 1919 **Lenin** foresaw the course of events; already

at the moment it was established he described the League of Nations as a League of robbers and stranglers of the people.

**Workers of all countries!** Take up the defence, unite, prepare for the fight against this League of Robbers and stranglers of the people! There is only one way of escape from unemployment, starvation and economic enslavement: the resistance of the peoples against the capitalist governments.

There is only one means of escape from militarism, from the burdens of armaments, the danger of war, from the plundering, subjugation and dismemberment of Europe by American finance capital: struggle for the United States of Socialist Europe, which will arise in the victorious revolution of the European proletariat, which will be welded together on the basis of complete voluntariness, of the unconditional recognition of the right of self-determination of the peoples, which will stand in alliance with the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and with all the suppressed peoples of the world. There is only one way of escape from the dangerous game of the imperialists, from the bloody play with the existence of the people: **Break with the League of Nations, fight against the League of Nations, down with the League of Nations!**

There is only one way of escape from the international disunity of the working class, from their degradation to the plaything of the imperialist conflicts, to cannon fodder for future war:

**Proletarian united front against the League of Nations, fighting alliance of all workers' organisations, of all workers of the whole world against the war League of the imperialist governments!**

The Communist International calls upon you to follow this, the only way to emancipation, and to fight for the realisation of these common interests of the international working class!

The Executive Committee of the Communist International."

## POLITICS

### Chicherin on the Disarmament Hypocrisy of the League of Nations!

Moscow, 6th of April 1926.

In an interview with some Moscow journalists Chicherin stated:

"The Soviet government has repeatedly and emphatically declared that in no circumstances can it participate in a Conference held on Swiss soil. The Soviet government which already at Genoa came forward as the champion of general disarmament, has repeatedly declared its readiness to take part in any discussion for the purpose of restricting armaments, no matter by whom it may be convened. Nevertheless, in view of the obstinate refusal of the Swiss government to meet the minimum legal demands of the Soviet government in connection with the murder of Comrade Vorovsky, it is absolutely impossible to send Soviet representatives to Switzerland.

The decision of the League of Nations' Council to convene a meeting of the Commission in Geneva proves that the leading Powers in the League of Nations, who are fully aware of the Soviet standpoint, do not desire the Soviet Union to participate either in the preparatory commission or in the Disarmament Conference to be held later. This fact alone shows that these Powers have not the slightest intention to carry out actual disarmament. The session of the Geneva Commission will be an empty comedy and a fresh proof of the impotency of the League of Nations to contribute anything towards establishing peace.

Last year Great Britain attempted to make use of the League of Nations as an element in its complicated game of isolating the Soviet Union by bringing together all the leading governments against the Soviet Republics. This intention was openly admitted in a number of official declarations. The Locarno combination was intended to isolate the Soviet Union and to serve as a means for conducting a common fight not only against the Soviet Union, but also against the colonial peoples who are fighting for their emancipation.

The League of Nations was given the role of an auxiliary organisation for carrying out the Locarno combination; a similar role to that which was given to the "Holy Alliance" a century ago. In his speech in the House of Commons before

the Geneva Conference Chamberlain compared the present policy of the English government with that of England at the time of Lord Castlereagh, that is to say with the policy of the "Holy Alliance".

Whilst the masses of the people who are suffering from the economic crisis and the international antagonisms hoped to obtain from the League of Nations and Locarno an amelioration of their miserable conditions, for the English government Locarno meant a new "Holy Alliance".

The discrediting of the League of Nations in Geneva proved that the antagonisms between the Powers are stronger than the diplomatic attempts to come together in a united organisation, that is to say to set up a united front. The Geneva fiasco is a very significant defeat of Chamberlain's continental policy.

It may be assumed that England's tendency towards approaching the Dominions will increase at the cost of the weakening of her participation in the affairs of the Continent. I remember a conversation I had with Lloyd George after the failure of the Conference of Geneva in which he declared: If the attempts to lead the Continent out of chaos should fail, then England will have to give up participation in the affairs of the Continent and seek approachment to the Dominions.

The immediate cause of the collapse of Geneva is to be found in the inner contradictions of Chamberlain's policy. In his endeavours to cause Poland to adopt a Western orientation and to participate in the anti-Soviet united front, Chamberlain failed to take into consideration the antagonistic interests of Germany and Poland. He involved himself in contradictions in his own policy by attempting on the one hand, to oppose Germany against France, while the other hand, however, he wanted to compensate Poland for her defeat at Locarno and to use her as a counter-weight against Germany. The final aim of Chamberlain's policy, the setting up of a united front against the Soviet Union, was based upon insurmountable inner contradictions, by failing to observe which Chamberlain himself brought about the collapse of the united front in Geneva.

The collapse of the Locarno system opened up the way for an immediate approachment between Germany and France, to which Briand showed himself to be inclined before Geneva. With regard to the declaration of Briand in the French Chamber on 28th of February (in which, when emphasising the importance of Locarno for the security of France, he pointed out that prominent politicians were staying in Berlin who were attempting to induce the German government to refuse a discussion with France on the Security Pact) in order to reassure Briand I must call attention to my repeated declarations that the Soviet government views with the greatest sympathy an immediate Franco-German approachment as a means for securing peace on the Continent on the basis which would not result in the domination of outside Powers. In view of the proposals which were made after the Geneva meeting of the League of Nations, regarding the abolition of the compulsory unanimity of the decisions of the League of Nations' Council, Chicherin declared that the introduction of the principle that decisions should be determined by majority vote would render the influence of Germany in the League of Nations quite illusory, and on the other hand would deprive Germany of every guarantee that unacceptable decisions would not be forced upon her.

The collapse in Geneva of the whole policy of the German government in recent times can serve for Germany as a clear indication with the predominance of the so-called Western orientation is tending with regard to the further development of friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

If the governments from whom Germany hoped to be granted admission into the League of Nations' Council were powerless to carry out this formality, what can Germany expect when it comes to more serious matters?

With regard to the policy of the United States, America is interested on the one hand in the pacification of Europe as the pre-condition of Europe's capacity to meet her liabilities, but on the other hand the United States fear the closer coming together of the European States as being a hindrance to the further strengthening of the political and economic influence of America in Europe. Whatever formula the American statesmen may set up for their European policy, the final effect continues to be the subjugation of Europe to the rule of American capital."

## HANDS OFF CHINA

### The Significance of the Coup d'état in Peking.

Alliance of the Chinese White Guardists Striven for by the Imperialists Broken up.

By Tang Shin She.

The latest events in China, before all the coup d'état in Peking mean a great stride forward in the development of the national revolution in North China. If we analyse the events which have taken place there, we get the following picture:

1. The alliance of the white-guardists Chang Tso Lin and Wu-Pei-Fu, which was striven for by the international and particularly by the English imperialists, is completely shattered. Chang Tso Lin has been isolated; Wu-Pei-Fu has allied himself with the people's armies. Of the Anfuists, who mediated the white guardists' alliance, the imperialist lackey Tuan She Sui has had to take to flight, while many of his accomplices have been captured and killed.

2. The front of the international imperialists has likewise been cut in twain. The strong Japanese and British influence in China was for a long time a source of annoyance to the Americans. On March 17, when the imperialists submitted an ultimatum to the Chinese government demanding the evacuation of the Taku forts, the American traders and missionaries disassociated themselves from this by declaring that they did not agree with the ultimatum. The Americans were so overjoyed at the overthrow of Tuan She Sui, the execution of many Anfuists and the alliance of Wu-Pei-Fu with the people's armies that they could not spread this news quickly enough through the world, just as was the case in April 1920, when the great students' uprisings broke out against Tuan She Sui.

3. The mass movement is strong enough in order to repel counter-revolutionary attacks and to compel weak and vacillating elements to proceed forwards. After Wu-Pei-Fu had openly entered into an alliance with Chang-Tso-Lin a great mass movement set in against him. Now, after his victory, he wishes to restore law and order in the newly captured provinces, which however he would scarcely be able to do owing to the indignation against him, so he astutely breaks away from Chang-Tso-Lin and allies himself with the Kuomin armies. The first Kuomin army which was very vacillating, was threatened with the loss of the sympathy of the masses, after it had done nothing against the firing by Tuan She Sui upon the students on March 18th. It was already being accused of co-operating with Tuan She Sui. For this reason it was compelled to drive him out and openly to declare him to be a person bribed by the imperialists who, against the will of the people, had signed the Gold-Franc Agreement and shot down the demonstrating students on March, 18.

The new grouping: Wu-Pei-Fu's going over to the people's armies and the more definite attitude of the first people's army, the final breaking away from Tuan She Sui, show that the imperialists, in spite of the great sums of money they have squandered in buying accommodating tools, have not succeeded in suppressing the revolutionary people.

The people's armies are quite aware that Wu-Pei-Fu, the lackey of the English and American imperialists, will not will not co-operate with them for long. But in the moment of their temporarily difficult situation they preferred to conclude an alliance with him, the fairly weak opponent, whom they can, if necessary, get rid of more easily, than with the strong Japanese lackey, Chang-Tso-Lin who is not only openly supported with money and arms but even with troops of the imperialists, and who likewise asked them to commence peace negotiations at the beginning of March.

Wu-Pei-Fu is not only militarily weak; in his whole territory the revolutionary movement is very strong. After his alliance with Chang Tso Lin, even in Hankow (Province of Hupe) where his headquarters are situated, continual demonstrations were held against him demanding his immediate expulsion. The provinces adjoining Hupe: Hunan, Szechuan and Kiangsi sympathise with the Canton government and in March had prepared to undertake a punitive expedition against Wu-Pei-Fu. In the province of Honan, where there are the picked troops of

the workers' and peasants' movement of Northern China, Wu-Pei-Fu, when he marched against the 2nd people's army called upon the military peasant organisation, "Red Lancers", to fight for him against the 2nd Kuomin army, in which case he would exempt the whole peasantry of Honan from taxation for a year. Of course, Wu-Pei-Fu, now, after he has actually captured Honan with the aid of the military peasant organisations, does not intend and is not in a position to keep his promises; for the administrative and military expenses are borne for the greater part by the peasantry. According to the latest reports the "Red Lancers" are already fighting against him. In addition, Honan is the head-quarters of the Central Trade Union of the railway workers of the whole of China. Ever since the February Strike of 1923, when he had a great number of railway workers executed, they have been irreconcilably hostile to Wu-Pei-Fu. Thus neither in Central nor in Northern China has Wu-Pei-Fu any favourable prospects.

The character of the peoples' armies is, of course, not the same as that of the revolutionary Canton troops. But they have no connection with the imperialists and have frequently declared that they are fighting against the imperialists. They do not definitely support the mass movement, nevertheless the workers' and peasants' organisations can freely develop in their territories. They are in constant touch with the Canton government and some left leaders have long been demanding the removal of Tuan She Sui and the setting up of a central people's government in Peking. The imperialists, the white guardist military rulers and the Chinese counter-revolutionaries have long regarded the Kuomin armies as red. It was under the slogan: against the Reds, that they allied against the latter. As a result of this the people's armies are being driven by their opponents still further along the revolutionary road. The united front against the Reds has been shattered by the coup d'état in Peking.

## ECONOMICS

### The Stabilisation of the Belgian Franc According to Anglo-Saxon Taste.

By A. Habaru (Brussels).

Belgium is at present undergoing the experience of the stabilisation of her currency according to the Anglo-Saxon method.

No sooner had the Catholic Socialist Coalition come into power than it had a plan of stabilisation, which is to perform miracles, worked out by its Minister of Finance Janssen, director of the National Bank, and one of those who was responsible for the "reconstruction" of Austria. Negotiations were entered into with English and American bankers, and, when they had promised a loan of 150 million dollars for 20 years, the Government constructed its whole plan of stabilisation on this promise. Parliament accepted the conditions imposed: that it should renew the privilege of the National Bank, impose half a milliard of taxation, a large part of which will fall on the wage-earners, and consent to the agreement with regard to the repayment of the Belgian debt to the United States. The National Bank undertook to bolster up the franc on the Exchange. The rate of exchange of the pound sterling remained stable at 107 francs. The franc was stabilised.

This was however an artificial stabilisation.

It soon became known that the Anglo-Saxon bankers refused the loan of 150 million dollars for 20 years. There had been no definite agreement. At the most they were prepared to advance 100 million dollars for 3 years, and that only on condition that the State railways (practically the whole of the Belgian railway system has been nationalised) should be turned into an industrial company so as to guarantee the consolidation of the floating debt. It was also asserted that they demanded the surrender of the Colonial Bonds which were owned by the State. This meant insisting on a pound of flesh. The franc suffered an irresistible depression, and after having squandered millions, the National Bank had to let things take their course. The collapse occurred in the middle of March; the pound sterling rose from 107 to 121 francs and, in the first days of April even soared above 130.

This was a severe blow for the Government. With much clamour it accused the Right Press and Fascism which is in-

creasing in power, of having, with malice aforethought, injured the franc by their Fascist propaganda. It denounced the "brigands" of finance and proclaimed its intention of persecuting the speculators. Nevertheless it immediately declared that stabilisation would continue, and resumed its negotiations with the bankers.

In the meantime, two agents of finance, the Belgian engineer Jadot and the English engineer Mace, who were members of the Expert Committee which investigated the German railways, worked out a Dawes Plan for the industrialisation of the State railways so as to guarantee the consolidation of the floating debt. In their report, the experts suggest measures of economy, the cutting down of the staff, cancelling of orders for material and of work which is already started and the raising of tariffs by 25%. As the experts foresee that this raising of tariffs will intensify the economic crisis, they recognise the necessity of industry adapting itself to the situation by concentrating and rationalising production with the aid of the banks. The Anglo-Saxon financiers, in getting the railways into their grip, are opening up to themselves the possibility of getting a hold on industry, which will be in a cleft stick between a need for credit and the high costs of transport.

Will the Catholic Socialist Government accept this tutelage? The Minister of Finance appears inclined to do so, even though he asseverates that "there was never any talk of foreign interference". It is certainly a delicate question for the Socialists who, during the last few weeks, have been exposed to a powerful offensive. The working class and the railwaymen in particular refuse to hear of a Davensation of the railways. In spite of its desire to remain in the Government, the Belgian Labour Party is already contemplating seizing the opportunity to beat a retreat, which would be a clever manoeuvre.

A Socialist deputy, who maintains that the Socialist Ministers will not consent to the handing over of the railways to the bankers, recently proposed consolidating the floating debt by a levy on capital. For the time being, this is a voice crying in the wilderness. It may however be a trial balloon, and possibly the Belgian Labour Party is preparing to go back into opposition and to raise the demagogic slogan of levy on capital.

## THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

### The Railway Strike in Portuguese East Africa.

By James Shields (Johannesburg).

For the past four months or so a stoppage of railway workers in Lourenco Marques has claimed the attention of the whole of South Africa. In this Portuguese colony affairs have been conducted in rather chaotic fashion since the Great War, and continual changes of administration have only served to intensify matters further. High Commissioner has followed High Commissioner and still the faulty administration has continued until practically the whole colony has been reduced to a veritable state of bankruptcy. Within the past couple of years the cost of living has increased by over 100 per cent whilst the National and Provincial currency has steadily depreciated in value.

The worst effects of what seems to be a chronic crisis has undoubtedly been felt for some time past in Lourenco Marques district, for this place has been made the chief centre of Southern Mosambique. A certain amount of development has been carried out in Northern Mosambique, but most of the resources in the Southern area of the Province have been sacrificed in order to develop the Port of Lourenco Marques, which forms the natural port for that vast hinterland, the British-owned Transvaal and Southern Rhodesia. It is precisely in this town that 800 railwaymen have downed tools and come out on strike rather than submit to further inroads into their standard of life.

Previous to the strike taking place they had enjoyed certain privileges with regard to matters of pay, sickness, holidays, pensions and so forth. Their wages averaged 20 libras per month, although owing to the depreciation in currency this barely constituted a living minimum wage.

Prior to four years ago British sterling was legal tender in Lourenco Marques, the parity value of the £1 being 4,500 reis, (national currency) but which had depreciated to approximately 45,000, and has since fallen to 180,000 per £1. The financial

octopus of Portugal and the bank of issue for overseas' possessions, the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, introduced the libra note (local currency) which at the outset was exchangeable with the pound sterling. This meant that railway workers receiving on an average 20 libras per month had the equivalent of £20 in British currency. The Banco Ultramarino, however, followed up this move by declaring the libra inconvertible outside the district of Lourenco Marques, and with the continuance of economic decline in the affairs of the province, and the over issue of local currency, the libra has depreciated 85 per cent in its relations with the pound sterling.

This development nominally shews a reduction by almost half of the purchasing power of wages, so that the lot of the workers became exceedingly hard. On the 11th of November one third of the total railway staff downed tools in opposition to the loss of all privileges coming on top of this fall in wages. This was followed by a general strike on November 19th as a protest against the cost of living, depreciated currency, etc. With the exception of Shipping Houses (which carried on business behind closed doors) and Government Departments, practically all business was at a standstill for about a fortnight. This was followed by a lightning strike in sympathy with the striking railwaymen or, more correctly, as a protest against the methods adopted by the Government.

The new Railway Reform Regulations stated that from the 1st of December certain privileges hitherto enjoyed by railway workers would cease, whilst 200 men would be discharged from the railways. The privileges to be discontinued were the subsistence allowance of 4.8 libras, abolition of the annual leave, abolition of three days' sick pay per month abolition of the bonus paid for five years' service. In addition to this an extra four hours was to be tacked on to the usual working week, and all medicine and maternity rights were to be abolished.

In face of this deadly attack, strike action was the railwaymen's only alternative, and this they made use of. Right from the commencement of the struggle the strikers were opposed by a vicious reign of white terror. All sorts of unscrupulous methods have been employed against them, to the extent of forging copies of their strike bulletin, urging a return to work, of imprisonment, deportation and torture. Many have been imprisoned, others have been forced to hide in the bush while soldiers scour the country looking for more victims. Raoul Ferreira, a staunch trade unionist, was murdered in the public streets. An accident occurred to a scab train run by blacklegs and ever since imprisoned strikers have been taken and placed as hostages in open trucks in front of the engine, exposed to the burning rays of the African sun and the piercing cold of the bush veldt. Imprisoned strikers have also been subjected to the lash in an endeavour to force them to confess that the rail accident was an episode of strike sabotage. A number of strikers have been deported while most have had their houses completely destroyed through the violent acts of the police and soldiery. In spite of this there is no sign of weakening in the workers' ranks so far. On the contrary their heroic and plucky fight has aroused the admiration of all working class elements. The Lourenco Marques Typograph workers refused to assist in producing the "O'Portugal", a violent anti-strike paper, and the South African workers sent £300 as donations towards the strike relief fund.

Attempts to procure blacklegs from Portugal have ended in failure, and the nine deportees from Mosambique were enthusiastically welcomed in Lisbon by a demonstration of workers 12,000 strong. A further batch of deportees still remain in the Province owing to the sailors refusing to transport them to Portugal. The strikers' wives formed themselves into a commando and in spite of being fired on by the military carried on demonstrations and collected funds for strike relief.

The whole strike has been a remarkable evidence of working class solidarity, and all the more so when it is recognised that the men have had only the flimsiest trade union organisation. The confident tone of the Government officials at the outset has now given way to an outlook of gloomy anxiety and the fabrication of Communist plots, Russian gold tales, etc. As yet, however, they have not unearthed any "Zinoviev letters" though they are liable to do so at any time now.

The kept press has come out with vilifying attacks against the "S. African Worker", the organ of the S. African Communist Party, because of its whole-hearted support and encouragement of the strikers cause.

So great has been the dislocation of business in Lourenco Marques that the Railway Administration has agreed to con-

tinue the granting of all privileges if the men only return to work with the exception of the 200 due for retrenchment. These, they say, will be repatriated at Government expense. The strikers, however, have replied that all men must be reinstated or none at all, and so the fight goes on.

The issue of the struggle seems doubtful at the moment, for while the Government has perceptibly weakened in its attitude the gaunt spectre of hunger and want has made its appearance among the strikers. Nevertheless, no matter what the outcome is, a fierce and bitter hatred against the exploiting class has been sown in the ranks of the Provincial Portuguese workers, which must increase as time goes on until finally Mosambique comes under the rule of the working class.

## APPEALS

### Appeal of the R. I. L. U. to all Working Men and Women!

Comrades all!

The First of May, the international working class holiday, will soon be with us, and once again the toilers and the oppressed of all countries will march forth shoulder to shoulder to show the capitalist world the solidarity of the exploited, the brotherhood of the downtrodden. During the past year the employers have attacked along the whole front, politically and economically. The growth of the political reaction has led to a whittling down of all the rights of the toilers, to attempts on the freedom of the trade unions, and all the gains won by the workers during many years of heavy struggle. With united front the fascist, conservative and liberal-democratic governments have attacked the working class. All the dragging burden of persecutions has fallen to the share of the revolutionary trade unions and their leaders, and to the Left Wing of the labour movement.

Despite pacifist phrases, the peoples are groaning under the burthen of heavy armaments. The talk of disarmament taken part in by the leaders of the Second and Amsterdam Internationals screens the predatory intentions of the Imperialist Powers. The wars in Morocco and Syria are being continued. In the Near East the situation is becoming ever tenser; in the Balkans there are mutterings and rumblings; on the Pacific a fresh world conflict is being prepared; in China all the Imperialist Powers have jointly attacked the national movement for freedom and are trying to perpetuate the slavery and humiliation of the Chinese people.

Concurrently with the increasing armaments of the Imperialists and the steady and unweakening oppression of the colonial and semi-colonial peoples and the struggle between the large and small Powers for markets and raw materials, a diplomatic comedy (Locarno) — which the reformists of all countries hold as ushering in a new era — is being staged.

The object of these continuous attacks on the rights and interests of the toiling masses is to cheapen the costs of production at the expense of Labour Power. "Rationalise" and "Americanise" all undertakings in order to get as much produced in a given time as possible and to squeeze millions of "superfluous hands" out of industry. Unemployment has become a permanent feature; in the most important countries (like Britain and Germany) it has affected a considerable percentage of the working class. Gigantic conflicts threatening to destroy all that the working class has gained during the past few decades are on us. The coming conflict in Britain, particularly in the mining industry, promises to be of a most threatening character, as the British bourgeoisie are splendidly organised and are endeavouring with the help of the right Labour Party and trade union leaders to smash and disorganise the leftward moving working masses and their trade unions. The British bourgeoisie wants to reduce the British working class to the standard of living obtaining for the workers on the Continent who are worse paid, with the object of competing on the world markets. The workers of all countries must devote particular attention to the coming dispute in Britain and do everything possible to help the miners, engineers, and other sections of the British proletariat in their struggle against organised capitalism.

Furthermore, the international bourgeoisie has not abandoned the idea of fighting against the Only Republic of Labour, the U. S. S. R. All the arts and Wiles of the bourgeois diplomats have been directed during the past year towards this end.

The noose of inter-state and social contradictions is drawing tighter and tighter.

How is the approaching danger to be fought? How are the results of long years of struggle to be preserved? How are the working class gains to be secured? These are the questions at present agitating the minds of tens of millions of workers. And right from the heart of these millions of workers there has come and is looming large before us the answer to the questions of how we are to fight: **The United Front of the capitalists must be opposed by the United Front of the toiling masses; the capitalists' unity of action must be opposed by the systematic unity of action of the workers of every political tendency; the strongly centralised unity of the employers must be opposed by the organisational unity of the trade unions; the attacks of the bourgeoisie on the Russian Revolution and the working class of the U. S. S. R. must be opposed by bringing the workers of the West together with the workers of the Soviet Republics; the imperialists' intentions in regard to intervention in the East, the robbery in the colonies and their wholesale exploitation must be opposed by the fraternisation of the workers of Europe and America with the workers of the colonies and semi-colonies.**

What answer do the Second and Amsterdam Internationals make to these demands coming right from the heart of the working class? What is international reformism proposing to do to oppose the growing reaction? What programme of action do the so-called leaders of the labour movement propose to those workers at whose head they still stand? In reply to the demand for unity and the setting up of a single organisation in each country and a single All-In International, the leaders of the Second and Amsterdam International reply with a flat refusal. They do not want unity; they do not want to line up the workers' forces: they do not want to strengthen the militancy of the proletariat. In order to fight the Fascist reaction and the growing danger of war they propose that an appeal be made to the League of Nations which, as is known, is a mere tool of the Imperialist Powers. To avert war and intervention in China they propose bringing pressure to bear on the conscience and morality of the ruling classes, and endless talk in every imaginable kind of Disarmament Commissions. No matter what serious question of urgency faces the working masses, the Right Wing of the international labour movement, instead of answering to it, gives the address of — the League of Nations.

But the working class cannot and does not want to wait till the right wing leaders of the International Labour Movement haggle something out of the bourgeoisie governments and their League of Nations. The bourgeoisie is not against talking without end with the Amsterdammers on high falutin and abstract subjects (like international economic conferences, conferences on disarmament, guarantee pacts, international social legislation, the eight-hour day, and so forth) as long as they can carry on at the same time with their work of oppressing and enslaving the working masses. **The working class must oppose the bourgeoisie's active policy with its own class proletarian policy of activity.** That is why the recent R. I. L. U. Central Council Session submitted a concrete Programme of Action and drew up such demands as may and must serve as a platform to line up the workers of every outlook. **The United Front of the bourgeoisie must be opposed by the united front of the proletariat.** This United Front must be consolidated on the 1920 First of May Day, on the holiday of the international working class; on the day when the working class marches forth against the bourgeois State and the Capitalist regime.

The Programme of Action drawn up by the Central Council must be a programme of our **May Day demands.** The Executive Bureau of the R. I. L. U. calls on all honest workers, all the down-trodden and disinherited, on this our First of May Day to down tools and carry the message of the following Programme of Demands on their banners:

1. Fight all direct and indirect lengthening of the working day; fight for the eight-hour working day as maximum, and six-hour day for workers underground and in injurious occupations as well as for young workers up to 18.
2. Fight the lowering of the workers' living standards; fight for increasing real wages. Equal pay for equal work!
3. Fight for State unemployment relief at minimum living rates.
4. Fight for full freedom of trade union organisations.
5. Fight against Fascist reaction and Fascist monopoly in trade union affairs.
6. Fight to transfer burden of taxation to possessing classes.
7. Fight against bureaucracy, and for workers' democracy at the trade unions.

8. Fight for freedom of opinion inside the trade unions.
  9. Fight against all forms of class collaboration generally, and new American forms particularly.
  10. Fight to get all workers, including women workers and young workers, into the trade unions.
  11. Fight for the formation of a single Trade Union body in each country.
  12. Fight for rapprochement of workers of all countries to the working class of the U. S. S. R.
  13. Fight for rapprochement of workers of the West to workers of the East.
  14. Fight against League of Nations and against that instrument of class collaboration — the International Labour Office.
  15. Struggle against War.
  16. Fight for militant fraternal alliance of workers of every political tendency against capitalists.
  17. Fight for creation of a Single Class International including trade unions of all countries, all races, and all continents. Men and Women Workers the world over! these seventeen demands drawn up by the R. I. L. U. Central Council on the basis of international experience can line up the toilers everywhere without distinction of their political convictions and views. These elementary and class demands are of advantage for every worker. Then let our demands be heard and the mighty voice of Labour proclaim them forth everywhere, in the towns and in the villages, wherever men work and toil, on this our holiday of international proletarian solidarity.
- Proletarians and Oppressed Peoples of all Lands, Unite!**

Executive Bureau of the Red International  
of Labour Unions.

## THE WHITE TERROR

### "Bloody Wednesday" in Polish Galicia.

By Hirny.

On the 31st March last there took place bloody events in Stryj (Polish Galicia). The Polish police fired upon a peaceful demonstration of unemployed wood workers, mostly Ukrainians, killing ten workers, among them being a working woman, and wounding about twenty others.

Stryj lies not far from the Carpatho-Czecho-Slovakian frontier. The neighbourhood is rich in forests and is a centre of the Galician lumber industry, with numerous saw-mills which employ a considerable number of Ukrainian workers.

The disastrous situation of Poland's economic life, which has resulted in enormous unemployment throughout the country, also extends to Stryj. The largest saw-mills are standing idle and some thousands of workers, mostly Ukrainians, wander about for weeks without employment. Of these only 750 are on the register of the unemployed and receive unemployment benefit. The remainder are not registered and receive no benefit. The position of the latter is really terrible. They are actually starving, their children are dying of tuberculosis and they themselves are driven by misery and privation to suicide.

The council of the free trade unions in Stryj which has done everything possible in order to help the starving unemployed and established an unemployed committee, which on several occasions approached the authorities in order to obtain support for the unemployed, has been dissolved by the district authorities.

The Polish authorities, headed by the coalition government, including the P. P. S. (Polish Social Democracy) is in this way depriving the unemployed, as well as the entire working class in Stryj of their organisation. They intend by this means to destroy the forces of the unemployed, as well as of the employed workers and to render them incapable of struggle.

The dissolved trade union council telegraphed to the social democratic "Labour Minister", Schemjenzki, and also to the Central Trade Union Commission demanding help. They received no reply either from the "social democratic" Minister for Labour or from the Central Trade Union Commission.

The indignation of the unemployed and also of the employed workers on account of the unlawful dissolution of the trade union council was tremendous. The workers perceived the object of the Polish coalition authorities and continued the

work of organising the unemployed in spite of the fact that the trade union council was dissolved.

On Wednesday 31, March, immediately before Easter, a delegation of unemployed went to the District Governor and demanded payment of the unemployment benefit that had long been promised. The Governor refused to receive the delegation, and his deputy who received the delegation behaved in a very rude and insolent manner. At the same time the local magistrates also refused to receive the delegation and to take a note of their request. The delegation returned empty handed.

The desperate unemployed workers and their wives, who had waited for days for the unemployed dole for Easter, were roused to the greatest indignation on account of this criminal and contemptuous ignoring of their minimum demands on the part of the well-fed officials of the coalition government; they formed a procession of over 1500 unemployed and marched to the office of the governor and demanded work or maintenance. A portion of the unemployed forced their way into the premises of the governor and demanded payment out of the unemployed dole. The crowd waited calmly outside. In the meantime a body of police (30 men) appeared on the scene. The crowd greeted the police with hoots, but otherwise remained quite calm. Suddenly, without any reason and without any warning, there was given the command: "fire". Shots were fired into the crowd. The blood of the workers who were shot down splashed the walls of the governor's house. The surprise and terror of the demonstrators was tremendous. They dispersed as quick as lightning. The Polish police achieved a victory over unarmed demonstrators. Four dead and 12 severely wounded, of whom six died later, are to be recorded to their account.

This horrible murder of peaceful demonstrators who were demanding "bread and work", astounded the whole population of the town of Stryj. Even bourgeois newspapers expressed their indignation on account of this bloody deed of the Polish police. The victims of "bloody Wednesday" are Ukrainian workers. Galicia is occupied territory, in which the Polish "Schlachta" are ruling by means of provocation and bullets. When provocation does not suffice, bullets are employed.

The rage of the working class is enormous. The Polish bourgeoisie are attempting to defend the bloody deed of the police, and are trying, to make out that the police were actually attacked. That is a base lie. This is best proved by the fact that none of the police were wounded.

The bloody coalition government wants to cast the blame for "bloody Wednesday" on to the "Commissar" Lazarevitch, the bloodhound of the bourgeoisie, who gave the order to fire. They will not succeed in this. Responsibility for "bloody Wednesday" not only lies with Lazarevitch but in the first place with the coalition government and the P.P.S. (social democratic) Ministers. The blood bath in Stryj is not a mere accident. After Kalisz there came Stryj. This is a system. A cruel system of the coalition government and of the leaders of the Polish Socialist Party (a Party of the II. International), which consists in the physical extermination of the working class of Poland. The struggle of the unemployed for maintenance is to be stifled by means of bullets. The workers are to be subjected to a persistent terror in order that they shall lose all desire to struggle and abandon their achievements to the bourgeoisie.

The leaders of the Polish Socialist Party have sunk a step lower. From betrayers of the working class of Poland, from confederates of the bourgeoisie, they have now become the murderers of the working class. The blood of the workers of Stryj clings to them just as it does to the bourgeoisie. Retribution for the blood of the working class will be demanded from both of them. The time is approaching.

## The Fury of the Pan-Serbian Dictatorship in Montenegro.

By M. Mermet (Belgrade).

The question of Montenegro which was annexed to Yugoslavia as a result of the world war, still remains unsolved. The Pan-Serbian Hegemonists of Belgrade may do whatever they will in order to create the belief that it is finally solved. The actual facts, which are stronger than their desires, completely refute their assertions. Montenegro which is under the yoke

of oppression, is persistently striving for its freedom and independence. The general unrest prevailing in the country, the frequent insurrections, the uncertainty, the armed struggles, the results of the elections are eloquent proofs of this.

The name of Dr. Vukaschin Markovitch who recently fled to Vienna in order to escape death, is closely bound up with this emancipation movement. One can even say that he is its soul and inspirer. He is at present held in prison in Vienna, and the government of Belgrade is persistently demanding his extradition and accuses him of the most phantastic crimes.

The shameful calumnies of the rulers of Belgrade are entirely without effect. The whole life of Markovitch, who is today over 55 years of age, has been right from his earliest youth the life of an unrelenting, devoted and bold revolutionary. For many years he was compelled to live in exile. After his return from Russia to Belgrade in the year 1921 he was thrown into prison. After his release he was exposed to fresh persecutions in Montenegro on account of his agitation among the peasants, by whom he was always greatly loved. He was obliged to flee to the mountains; he was declared an outlaw and a reward of 100,000 Dinar was offered for his capture dead or alive. Whole battalions of soldiers were employed to hunt him down, but thanks to the support of the peasants who idolised him, they could never get on his track.

Finally, the authorities, by means of terrorising the peasants in the neighbourhood, who were forced to demand from Markovitch that he give himself up to the authorities (who had given their word of honour to let him go free again), succeeded in achieving Markovitch's arrest. The word of honour was of course broken; Markovitch was kept in the prison of Cetinje, from whence he succeeded again in making his escape.

Among the many lies which the clique of Belgrade are spreading against Markovitch is the accusation that he murdered the engineer Mjushkovitch. It has now been proved at the trial in Cetinje which lasted several months, that the murder of Mjushkovitch was an act of the agent of Jovan Plamenatz who is a former agent of Italian imperialism, a betrayer of the cause of the people of Montenegro and a lackey of Belgrade. The court even demanded that Plamenatz should appear before it. The government, however, instead of handing him over to justice, appointed the vile murderer Plamenatz as its representative in Prague!

Persecutions are not confined to Dr. Markovitch, they are extended to his whole family. His old father was mishandled, his niece and his nephew were thrown into prison.

The international proletariat must raise its emphatic protest against the shameful demand of the Belgrade government for the extradition of Markovitch, as well as against the arbitrary reign of terror of the Pan-Serbian dictators in Montenegro.

## E. C. C. I.

### Constitution of the E. C. C. I.

On the 17th of March, after the conclusion of the work of the Enlarged Executive, there was held a session of the E. C. C. I. at which there took place the election to the Presidium, to the Org Bureau and to the Secretariat of the E. C. C. I.

As substitutes of the Chairman of the E. C. C. I., Comrade Zinoviev (who was elected at the V. Congress of the Comintern), there were elected: Comrades Bucharin, Thaelmann and Semard.

The following comrades were elected to the Presidium of the E. C. C. I.: Zinoviev, Bucharin, Stalin (Soviet Union), Manuilsky (Ukraine), Thaelmann, Remmele (Germany), Semard, Treint (France), Ercoli (Italy), Smeral (Czechoslovakia), Ferguson (Great Britain), Kuusinen (Finland and Baltic States), Katayama (Japan), Su-Fan (China), Roy (Orient), Kilboom (Sweden), Kolarov (Balkan Federation), Ruthenberg (United States of America), Clara Zetkin, Lozovsky (Red International of Labour Unions), and Lominadse (Young Communist International). The following comrades were elected as substitutes in the Presidium of the E. C. C. I.: Dimitrov (Bulgaria), Boschkovitch (Yugoslavia), Bogucki (Poland), Bedacht (United States of America), and Vuyovitch (Young Communist International).

The following comrades were elected to the Org Bureau of the E. C. C. I.: Kuusinen, Humbert-Droz, Roy, Smeral,

Geschke, Piatnitzki, Manuisky, Treint, Ercoli, Dimitrov, Ferguson and Petrov. In addition the heads of departments of the E. C. C. I. and the representatives of the co-operative department of the E. C. C. I., of the Young Communist International and of the International Women's Secretariat also belong to the Org Bureau. The following comrades were elected as substitutes to the Org Bureau of the E. C. C. I.: Jacob, Pepper and Kornblum.

The following comrades were elected to the Secretariat of the E. C. C. I.: Geschke (Germany), Jacob (France), Ercoli (Italy), Ferguson (Great Britain), Smeral (Czechoslovakia), Kuusinen, Humbert-Droz, Roy, Piatnitzki, Kornblum and Petrov. Comrades Dimitrov and Pepper were elected as substitutes. In addition to this a representative of the Young Communist International participates in the sessions of the Secretariat with an advisory vote.

At the same session the new structure of the E. C. C. I., its organ and its apparatus was taken as the basis. This structure will secure a correct, systematic work of the E. C. C. I., of the Presidium, the Org Bureau and of the Sekretariat, as well as a more careful preparation of questions. In drawing this up regard was had to the resolution of the XIV. Party Conference of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on strengthening the apparatus of the Comintern, whereby the course is to be directed towards an ever increasing influence of the foreign Communist Parties in the leadership of the Communist International.

A very essential part of the reorganisation of the Secretariat, the personnel of which must be considerably extended in order to increase in it the representation of the foreign Communist Parties and to distribute the work in the best manner, is the organisation of so-called Section National) Secretariats.

These Section Secretariats are organs of the Secretariat of the E. C. C. I. and work under its leadership and control. It is the duty of each Secretariat to study systematically and to discuss the situation of the countries and of the Communist Parties coming within its sphere, to prepare the questions for all decisive organs of the C. I. to carry through the decisions of these organs and to control the carrying into effect of these decisions by the sections of the C. I. in question.

These Section Secretariats are to consist of a responsible secretary of the E. C. C. I. and some representatives of the sections of the Comintern, chiefly of those countries in which work is being conducted by the Secretariat in question. The collective elaboration and preparation of these questions is thereby assured. There is also assured that the representatives of the various Communist Parties, the members and substitute members of the E. C. C. I. become acquainted with the situation of other countries than their own and are drawn into the work of the apparatus of the E. C. C. I.

By decision of the Presidium of 24th March Section Secretariats are set up for the following groups of countries:

1. France, French colonies, Italy, Belgium and Switzerland.
2. Germany.
3. Czechoslovakia, Austria and Hungary.
4. Great Britain, Ireland, Holland, Australia, South Africa, British India and Dutch East Indies.
5. United States of America, Canada and Japan.
6. Spain, Portugal, Mexico and the South American States.
7. Sweden, Norway, Denmark Iceland.
8. Poland, Finland, Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
9. Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Albania, Greece.
10. The Soviet Union.
11. The Far and Near East (China, Korea, Mongolia, Turkey, Persia, Egypt, Syria and Palestine).

In addition some Secretaries of the E. C. C. I. are responsible for connection with the various departments of the E. C. C. I. (Agitprop, Org Department, Information Department, Publishing Department, Correspondence Department), as well as with the Co-operative Department of the E. C. C. I., with the International Women's Secretariat and with the non-party mass organisations.

For the elaboration and preparation of questions of a trade union character a **Trade Union Commission** was created consisting of the following comrades: Zinoviev, Bucharin, Piatnitzki, Ercoli, Smeral, Treint, Smeral, Geschke, Tomsky, Lozovsky and N.

## WORKERS' CORRESPONDENCE

### Letter from a Moscow Iron-moulder to the Workers of England.

Dear Comrades, workers of England!

This brings you my fraternal greetings. In December 1925 I read, in the newspaper "Rabotschaja Moskwa" (Working Moscow) about an incident which happened among you in the town of Plymouth.

Lady Astor, the wife of a millionaire, maintained that no English worker would consent, to stay for a certain time with us in Russia, even if all his traveling expenses were paid. Our message to you however is that our country is not flowing with milk and honey but that we are at least masters of our own house. I am very sorry for Lady Astor who lacks even the most elementary political knowledge. The whole world knows that, where capital holds sway, the proletariat has nothing to lose but his chains.

Without any intention to embellish facts, conditions in the U. S. S. R. are as follows:

The housing problem is very acute, not however because rents are high, but because the housing accommodation available is not enough to go round.

The condition of living and of wages are as follows: a highly skilled workman, a metal-worker of the 9th category for instance, has a fixed monthly wage of 63 roubles and an additional wage (according to a collective agreement) of 75% in "hot" workshops and 50% in "cold" ones. This is the minimum rate. In our works, the average additional wage of contract workers in December 1925 were: Smiths — 160%, foundry workers — 144%, turners — 150%, moulders — 102%, fitters — 94%, sometimes however smiths get less than founders and moulders more etc. The average wage of a founder is 100 roubles a month, besides which he gets from the works one pair of boots to the value of 16 roubles, 1 suit of overalls — 8 roubles, for wear and tear of tools — 12 roubles, and for holidays — 100 roubles. If a worker has been ill for a month during the year, he also gets 100 roubles sickness insurance. His income thus amounts to 1,236 roubles per year for 10 months actual work. This means 3 roubles 38 kopeks per day. Expenses are as follows: rent, which is calculated on the basis of wages, amounts to 15 kopeks a day for a floor area of 3 sq. sascha (6½ sq. metres), electric light (25 candle power) 5 kopeks a day, fuel 15 kopeks, 2 lb. white bread 16 kopeks, 1 lb. rye bread 4 kopeks, 1 lb. meat of best quality 25 kopeks, ½ liter milk 17 kopeks, coffee and tea 20 kopeks, ¼ lb. butter 25 kopeks, vegetables 25 kopeks; 33 kopeks are required for various subscriptions, taxes etc. Total 2 roubles 21 kopeks. The rest of the money remains over to spend on clothing, education and entertainments. The prices quoted are market prices, in the co-operative stores they are rather less. But you know, Comrades, that the Russian does not practice economy either in production or at home. This is the reason why private trade is still active in our country, though we class-conscious workers know that we shall finally put an end to it. In every factory, the workers are given credit to the amount of one month's wages, to be repaid in instalments within 6 months.

Under the Tsarist regime, it is true, the workers also had credit, but they were supplied with inferior goods at exorbitant prices. Now things are different; the worker can buy furniture, clothing etc. of thoroughly good quality from the State shops without the prices being raised.

Finally, Comrades, I send my kind regards to Lady Astor, tell her she might fork out a few hundred pounds so that you can come to Soviet Russia, where white bears are said to promenade the streets of Red Moscow.

Comrades, if you want to know more details about our conditions of living, write and ask questions, and we will answer them.

With heartiest greetings

Ivan Antonov,  
Communist, moulder in the "Lenin Works".  
Moscow, Samoskvoretzki District.  
P. S. My address is:  
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