

ORGY OF POLICE VIOLENCE

Mass Anger Twisted Into Anti-Communist Frenzy

60 Communists Wounded - One Lakh Damage

To Party's Press And Property

SUBHAS BOSE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN BOMBAY YESTERDAY (JANUARY 23), SAW THE BIGGEST ORGY OF POLICE VIOLENCE AND MASS OUTBURSTS BY THE PEOPLE AGAINST IT.

The incidents started at 9.30 in the morning, when a procession organised by the Bose Birthday Celebration Committee was stopped at the Prarthana Samaj.

The processionists wanted to go along Sandhurst Road, Bhendy Bazar, etc., through the Muslim area to Madhav Bagh. The Commissioner of Police banned the procession and wanted it to go by another route, via Vithalbai Patel Road, and cordoned off Sandhurst Road.

The processionists refused to do so. Then the Police resorted to lathi charges and tear-gas attacks. The rage of the people at this brutal repression could be seen in this that from houses of middle-class families stones, chappals and old tiles were thrown at the Police. Water was thrown on the demonstrators to save them from the effects of tear gas.

CONGRESS LEADERS' ATTEMPTS FAIL

As Police violence and people's anger began to mount, Provincial Congress leaders like Sjt. S. K. Patil came on the spot and tried to make the processionists take another route. But by now the crowd had got out of all control and they would not listen to the Congress leaders. The procession had been organised by the Committee headed by Mr. Abidali Jafferbhoy and Sjt. G. G. Mehta. Abidali was arrested and until about 1.30 p.m. the battle went on, the Police using tear-gas and bullets and the people using stones, buckets, anything that came in handy.

Finally, a section of the procession went by another route, while the people formed into smaller processions and rushed along Sandhurst Road towards Bhendy Bazar. Golpitha was another scene of battle where the Police fired several times, and crowds set fire to a lorry. The fury was terrific and the Police were beaten back the whole length from Golpitha towards Bhendy Bazar, for a distance of over 100 yards.

By this time, hooligan elements had seized control of the situation in the locality and along Sandhurst Road, from two o'clock onwards, barricades of fire were put up. By 4 p.m., a hooligan group had started looting the Government Grain Shop on the ground floor of the building of Raj Bhawan, where the headquarters of the Communist Party (P.H.Q.) are located. They burnt furniture, signposts, signboards, etc., indiscriminately pulled out from the shop.

ANTI-COMMUNIST TURN

Throughout this time the Police

Bloodbath For Workers

(Continued from page 2)

hospital for the cremation ground. They were followed by at least 50,000 men and women. Never before had such scenes been witnessed in Gwalior.

After the cremation, a huge meeting was held at Hajera Maidani with Mr. Abdul Rashid, the President of the Anjuman-e-Islam, in the Chair. The leaders of all parties swore to stand by the workers in their just struggle to the bitter end.

Mr. Power wanted to teach the workers a lesson. He has succeeded in it. He has taught them how to face bullets. He has taught the entire people how to stand together against the common enemy.

The strike continues. Two new demands have been added—the demand for enquiry into the firing and the demand for the turning out of Power and Mandala from Gwalior and the entire people of Gwalior are behind these demands.

would appear at intervals, resort to firing, wounding and killing, with the crowds not moving away but withdrawing to a distance and defiantly throwing stones quite openly at the Police.

By 6 p.m., certain well-organised anti-Communist groups appeared on the scene to turn the anti-Police hatred into a concerted attack upon the Party Headquarters and Press. Taking advantage of the fact that, near the P.H.Q., the Police had fired on the people and the Government Grain Shop was on the ground floor of the building housing the P.H.Q., they directed the attack on our bookshop. None of the other shops were touched. They broke open the bottom part of the front door of the bookshop. The mass of the people, who were furious against the Police, looked upon these hooligan acts with passive acquiescence.

We had anticipated that anti-Communist elements would be most active on a day like this and had prepared to defend the P.H.Q. with 100 comrades. We immediately organised the removal of books from the shop through the rear door. A regular chain of comrades shifted all the books to the first floor of the P.H.Q. Another group of comrades were defending the rear door of the P.H.Q. from a big mob, which was trying to rush into the premises from that end.

HOOLIGANS GAIN CONTROL

Stone throwing on the P.H.Q. by the hooligan elements in the crowds, smashing up of the windows, etc., was going on. A huge crowd of 3,000 was now returning from the mammoth, one and a half lakh strong, Chowpatty meeting, addressed by Lt. Dhillon, the released I.N.A. Officer. Hooligan gangs and disreputable political groups who had hired them had succeeded in turning the anti-Police hatred of this huge crowd into anti-Communist frenzy. Lies were spread that the Communists were attacking Congressmen and the whole crowd had passed into the control of the hooligan groups and began attacking the Party Office.

The Police, who had been most active repressing peaceful demonstrators, were completely absent when it was dark and hooliganism was afoot. The entire situation had gone completely out of the control of the Congress leaders, who did not attempt even to go to the spot and put a stop to this fight among Indians and have a united protest against Police repression.

A DESPERATE DEFENCE

The whole situation had become very desperate. Thousands were outside attempting to rush in, set our Party office on fire and smash up everything. We were attacked from all sides. We were about 150 now, with reinforcements from Parel and Madanpura; against us was a crowd of 3,000.

Our comrades, 150 in all, including about a dozen girls, had to carry on the battle against this crowd of 3,000 for over three hours from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The attacking crowds were using soda-water bottles, big stones. Big batches repeatedly tried to set fire to the P.H.Q. by throwing burning logs, etc., into the bookshop and into the P.H.Q. offices on the first floor. Some of them had even got up the terrace of neighbouring buildings and were throwing stones and bottles from there. Time and again our comrades, in order to prevent them from getting too close to the P.H.Q. building, had to sally forth into the street, use lathis and stones to beat them off.

But the crowd was too big and we had too few stones to hit back.

PRESS AND GODOWN GUTTED

Our comrades had fought the most heroic battle, against terrific odds. Nearly 60 sustained injuries, Gopaldas of the Red Guards and Doodhekar and Sudhir, and a Press comrade, received very serious injuries. We withdrew into the P.H.Q. and concentrated on keeping the attackers off the building from inside. Every time the crowd attempted to rush in and set fire to the P.H.Q. building, we rained our roof tiles and beat them back.

But they succeeded in putting a flaming torch into the shop. We immediately organised fire-fighting and put it out with just buckets of water passed from hand to hand. We fought the fires twice in this way.

A section of the crowd was now led by the anti-Communist elements into the next lane against the Press. A lorry load of reinforcements, which had been carefully organised beforehand, arrived for the attack. They got off the lorry at the Press and immediately attacked the Press doors with crowbars and stones. They smashed them open. Our comrades inside the Press who were half a dozen, Sinha, our manager, Jayant, Amar De, Madhavan, M. B. Rao and Narayan Nambodiri held the attackers, numbering over 1,000 in all, at bay for fully half an hour. It was a most heroic stand against overwhelming odds. But the crowd set fire to the Press, after smashing up the

Line-type machine, Printing machine, etc., with crowbars and stones.

Our comrades were seriously wounded. Jayant who ventured out fighting them back was splashed, swallowed up by the crowd, and beaten severely. His skull was badly injured and he fell down unconscious; an ambulance picked him up and took him to the G. T. Hospital.

The book-binding section, the godown where we keep our paper stock, were stabled out, smashed and burnt up.

All through, the call for the Fire Brigade proved ineffective. Throughout the day the fire fighters had been stoned and they were themselves in panic. So though the Fire Brigade came rushing twice in response to our call it rushed away when it saw the huge crowds, though the fire was burning fiercely.

Over one lakh rupees damage has already been caused.

OUR ATTEMPTS TO GET CONGRESS LEADERS

Throughout this desperate defence we tried to contact Congress leaders on the telephone, but were unable to get them until 9 p.m. We rang up Sjt. Bhulabhai Desai's house and told his son, Sjt. Dhirubhai, what had happened and could he do something to stop this fratricidal warfare. Soon he and Lt. Dhillon arrived on the spot. At first the crowd would not listen even when Lt. Dhillon told them who he was. He had first to use the small stick he had. He then reasoned with them and succeeded in leading a section towards Golpitha.

But the crowd near Sikkannagar, in our rear gate gully, and in our Press (Continued on Page 8, Col. 2)

APPEAL TO CONGRESS AND ALL CITIZENS

Common Front Against Repression, Joint Volunteer Squads To Keep The Peace

—Communist Leader's Statement

The following statement has been issued by G. Adhikari, Communist Leader and Editor of People's Age:

THE series of clashes in Bombay on Subhas Day has created an extremely tense situation. The blood of martyrs who fell before Police bullets, instead of calling out the best among the people, seems to have called the worst and instead of a united popular protest and homage to those who have fallen, the situation deteriorated into a fratricidal war among the citizens.

Some hooligans exploiting the anti-Communist prejudices of a section of our people, began to convert their just resentment against Police firing into anti-Communist frenzy and started attacking our office, our members and made repeated attempts to set on fire the building where we live.

The headquarters of our Party were stoned for nearly two hours and all those who attempted to defend the office were severely belaboured. Lathis, stones and soda-water bottles were freely used causing injuries to not less than 60 of our comrades. Many have been seriously injured suffering from deep head-wounds and fractures. Our bookshop was broken open.

At 8.30 P.M., a big crowd coming from the mammoth Chowpatty meeting was diverted by these elements to attack our Printing Press. They assaulted our comrades who were working in the Press, practically destroyed our Line-type machine and two printing machines, burnt our stock of paper, books and copies of the coming issue of People's Age.

The estimated damage is over one lakh.

We are sure all honest citizens will condemn this shedding of Indian blood by Indians and the outrageous attacks on our press and persons. We are sure that no Congressman would like to honour the memory of his leaders by committing acts of hooliganism, against brother Indians. Nor is it the way one should honour the memory of those who had fallen victims to Police firing.

In spite of our differences, our student boys had joined everywhere in the processions and meetings, prepared to face bullets with the rest of the students. We had asked our workers to participate in the martial and join the demonstration. Instead of joining hands with us for common protest against repression, we were attacked and assaulted.

We know and appreciate the fact that the bulk of Congressmen neither approve nor participate in such acts.

We request the leaders of the Bombay Congress Committee to collaborate with us in explaining to the people how such attacks only play into the hands of our common enemy and in helping us to isolate the hooligans, who are utilised by certain interested persons to disgrace our freedom struggle.

We request them to have joint volunteer squads to go round the locality to remind them of their duty as honest citizens and patriots to our brother parties. We sincerely hope this collaboration will be forthcoming and an end will be put to the present disgraceful spectacle—when we cannot even honour our martyrs without sprinkling each other's blood.

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HIT BLACKMARKETEERS AND CORRUPT OFFICIALS, NOT COMMON MAN

The Demonetisation of high denomination currency notes and other Ordinances in this connection have created a furore in the country. Vested interests are once more masking their selfish greed in the name of the common and honest citizen and the subsidised press agencies are howling that the Ordinances hit the common man, the man who has saved his money earned through hard honest toil.

THE line of argument is familiar. Every time any measure is put out to get the vested interests to disgorge, they have used the name of the oppressed, whom they exploit, to defeat it.

When during the Congress Ministry in Bombay a demand was made that measures be taken to drastically reduce peasant indebtedness, the Ministerial benches advanced the argument that such a measure might affect the life savings of the poor widow who might have invested them in loans to the peasants!

When drastic reduction of landlords' rent is demanded, a similar argument is advanced that such reduction might affect the earnings of the poor old peasant who through old age might have rented his land to somebody else!

The argument is debunked only when one asks the question: How many of the landlords are old peasants, and how many of the money-lenders are poor old widows who have invested their life-savings in loans?

HITS THE BLACK-MARKETEER, NOT THE COMMON MAN

So also with the present Ordinances. When it is made out that the Ordinances will hit hard the common man—one has only to ask oneself the question:

Since when has India's common man—the familiar man in the street, the clerk, the school teacher, the peasant, the worker, nay even the Head-Clerk or the College Professor—come in possession of 1,000 rupee notes?

Since when has he begun to have savings which can be kept only in huge denomination notes of thousands—for the Ordinances will not affect him unless he is the proud possessor of 500 or 1000 rupee notes?

This is enough to expose those who denounce the Ordinances in the name of the common man.

Who is it then that is hit by the Ordinances and is seeking therefore to cover his tracks like this? None but the black-marketeer, the cloth and sugar racketeer, the grain and oil hoarder, and the speculators who have made crores out of people's misery and starvation and who in a free country would have been inside the jail long ago.

It is these black-marketeers and their accomplices, the corrupt officials, who are really hit and are shrieking in panic.

WHAT ARE ITS ACTUAL PROVISIONS?

For, what does the Demonetisation Ordinance lay down?

Contrary to what is falsely circulated, the Ordinance does not automatically adversely affect any holder of high denomination notes, and the money to which he is justly entitled. It lays down that after 12th January, these notes will cease to be legal tender. This means that after this date, the Reserve Bank is not bound to honour these notes, and hence these notes will not be accepted by businessmen as representing any value.

The Ordinance also prohibits any transfer of these notes after 12th January. This is to prevent black-marketeers from cashing these notes in other people's names.

If the Government had declared that after 12th January they would not honour these notes, that certainly would have meant total confiscation of the money of most of those who hold them.

But the Ordinance provides that all such notes, presented to banks within a stipulated time, will be exchanged for Rs. 100 notes. Here, therefore, is no confiscation but a provision for exchange of notes, submitted within a stipulated time. Why then this howl?

Reasons there is a certain condition attached to it—a condition which will

affect no honest man but which certainly upsets those who have something to hide.

The Ordinance lays down that all persons, other than banks, who may have notes of Rs. 500 and above, must supply certain information when presenting these notes. They must give full particulars as to how they came in possession of these notes, the business or profession they followed, the Income-Tax they paid, etc. The exchange of these notes is conditional on supplying this information.

Those who have honestly come to possess these notes may at worst have to undergo some inconvenience, but they will have nothing to fear and will lose nothing. But one can easily understand why the black-

LOOPHOLES OF ESCAPE MUST BE CLOSED

marketeers who possess shoals of these notes are panicky and are howling.

How can they supply the particulars required? What can they show to be their business? How can they show that they have hardly paid the Income-Tax on their earnings? It is just because by supplying these particulars they will only expose themselves, that the profiteers are falsely circulating the story that the Government is confiscating the notes, that honest citizens are being hard hit and so on.

Face to face with the confiscation of this ill-gotten wealth, they are naturally furious and seek to exploit the people for their own ends.

RUNS INTO A QUARTER OF STERLING BALANCES!

This ill-gotten wealth runs into a huge amount. It is estimated that the amount of notes of Rs. 500 and above, now underground in the City of Bombay, is Rs. 30 crores.

It is also estimated that the volume of notes of the three denominations—Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 10,000,—gone underground into black-market channels to evade Income-Tax and Excess Profits Tax is Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 crores.

Even after making allowance for over-estimation, it will be realised that the amount of money employed in black-market is colossal—nearly 25 per cent. of the entire Sterling Balances which Britain owes us! This huge amount is the measure of the dependency of the Indian people on the profiteers.

IT HITS WORKING-CAPITAL OF BLACK-MARKET

It is these anti-social elements who have fleeced the people; evaded the taxes, evaded control and charged extortionate prices; shunned banks lest their ill-gotten wealth might be known. They dared not accept bank cheques in payment for black-market transactions which run into crores; nor could they accept small denomination notes for their huge business.

For them the suitable medium of exchange was only notes of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 which can be easily transferred; which can be used to carry on big transactions without the daily aid of banks; and in which the huge cash required for the black-market operations can be easily kept away from the prying eyes of the Income-Tax Department.

It is these enemies of society that are primarily affected by the Ordinances and it is they who are howling and exploiting the anti-Govern-

ment feelings of the people for their nefarious purposes.

For once an official measure attempts to hit at the very source of the black-market—the working-capital of the black-marketeers. The Ordinance does not attack the enormous past profits which they made and which they have already put away in property and other investments. It attacks only the hoarded high denomination notes at present in secret circulation.

What else are these notes except the working-capital of the black-marketeers with which they intend to continue their nefarious trade and their speculative activities? What else do these activities mean to the common people—except soaring prices for their daily needs and being bled white to swell the pockets of a handful of black-marketeers and speculators?

With the Bengal famine quite fresh in our memory; with the shameless profiteering in drugs, blackmarketing in cloth and food and the heavy toll of lives taken because of non-availability of people's needs at reasonable prices, even now before our eyes; with every control measure

records the fact that during the war in almost every country notes of larger denomination have come to be utilised as a means of payment in the black-market for the purposes of hoarding.

The authorities in a number of countries were forced to take measures against this practice. In the United Kingdom, the issue of notes of high denomination from £ 10 to £ 10,000 was stopped in 1943; while the notes already issued ceased to be legal tender from May 1st, 1945. On the Continent, France, Belgium and Holland adopted similar measures and so did the U.S.A.

IMPERIALIST-BLACK-MARKETEER ALLIANCE IN OUR LAND

If the Indian cousins of the European black-marketeers are facing the attack only so belatedly, it is only because there was no People's Government in this country. Had it been there, such a measure would have been taken by it long ago.

But the ruling bureaucracy in India gave a place of honour to the blackmarketeer during the war years, making him the main instrument of passing on the burden of inflation. He was allowed to raise prices, violate every law and measure passed by the Government and indulge in a drunken orgy of profiteering and robbing the common people.

The predatory War Finance of the Indian Government—which seized goods worth crores of rupees from India without any payment, and created famine in all articles for the civilian population—had as its main lever the speculator and profiteer.

He was the main prop of the Imperialist War Finance in India. He it was who was put in charge of supply of grain; of cloth; of control of grain shops; of rationing—when he blackmarketed in all these commodities. He it was who dictated prices and had his last word on every control measure.

WELCOME TO BREAKING OF THIS ALLIANCE

And the corrupt official everywhere pocketed a part of the loot himself, in return for conniving at the day to day transactions of the blackmarketeer. Today the bureaucracy seems to have no more use for the blackmarketeers and their wartime friendship seems to have been broken up. The speculator and blackmarketeer upset Imperialist calculations today and rock the rickety structure of the post-war Imperialist economy.

If therefore this friendship is now broken, and—through whatever motives it be—the bureaucracy seeks to take action against the profiteers, the people have not only nothing to worry about, they must welcome it.

If the two who had hitherto formed an unholy partnership against the common man, now separate and fall out, the people will certainly benefit.

A Free Government would have long ago directed a frontal attack against the profiteers. It would not have waited so long. But belated though the action of the present regime is, the present Ordinance demanding particulars about the notes will no doubt be a blow to profiteers.

CONFISCATE THEIR ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH

We Communists want all the wealth of the war-rich profiteers to be confiscated and used for national purposes. With the Congress and the League dominating the Central Assembly there is every chance that all such wealth will be used for national purposes, for helping our industry, for fighting unemployment and so on.

The people should not be therefore taken in by the howl of vested interests, but demand more energetic measures both from the Government and from the Congress and League members of the Central Assembly.

Such are the facts about this Ordinance. The attitude towards it furnishes an acid test whether one is on the side of the people's enemies or against them.

Those who attack it, in whatever guise it be, are whether they like it or not, advocating a new (Continued on Page 10, Col. 2)

and price-regulation ultimately defeated by these elements in collaboration with corrupt officials—the necessity of fighting them is self-evident.

HIS ALLY, THE CORRUPT OFFICIAL

The Ordinance if properly applied should hit not only the black-marketeer, but his accomplice, the corrupt official too. It is very significant that the Ordinance itself indirectly admits that Government is aware that a number of the high denominational notes may be in the hands of their own officials or retired officials. Thus the declaration form prescribed by the Ordinance specifically mentions:

"If declarant is a Government servant, Government Department and post held—(must be declared).

"If declarant is a retired Government servant, last post held, the Government Department under which such post held and date of retirement—(must be declared)".

How could high denomination notes come into the hands of Government officials or retired officials—except as bribes from black-marketeers (unless they themselves are black-marketeers)?

The common man in the country knows quite well that it is the corrupt official who has everywhere acted hand-in-glove with the black-marketeer and helped him to fleece the people, in return for a share of the loot for himself.

Nothing reveals the bankruptcy of the Lallitgow and Wavell regime in India so sharply as the fact that it cannot today hit at hoarded money—without dragging to light the corruption of its own underlings.

Government servants will naturally find it hard to explain wherefrom the high denominational notes in their possession came. That is why, equally with the black-marketeer, corrupt Government and Police officials too are in a panic. Our Lahore Correspondent gives such stories from the Punjab cities during the last two weeks.

Justice and the interests of the common man demand that with the black-marketeer, his collaborator, the corrupt official, should equally be brought to book. Government cannot catch the one and let the other go.

WHAT THEY DID IN FREE COUNTRIES

As in other countries, "our" black-marketeers too could keep their money-capital only in notes of big denominations. They copied the examples of their cousins in other countries. The Reserve Bank Report on Currency and Finance for 1944-45

Election Campaign In Bengal

OVER ONE LAKH RALLY IN CALCUTTA

P. C. JOSHI, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, opened the Communist election campaign in Bengal on January 13, at a mass rally in Calcutta of over one lakh (the "Amrita Bazar Patrika's" estimate was one lakh). The rally was attended by workers from Calcutta, Howrah, Hooghly, Barrackpore, from such varying industries as jute, textile, engineering, tram, bus, taxi, electric, municipal, potteries, etc.

Kisans, including many women, organised under the Kisan Sabhas, came from different centres of the 24 Parganas. The crowd of one lakh included Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Bengalee workers and middle-class—in fact, one of the most variegated gatherings Calcutta has ever seen.

Before the meeting started, KALIF, the famous Communist-Muslim poet, recited his stirring song, a satire on anti-Communism, called "Lah-Jhanda Phekdeo?" Kalif's song evoked tremendous response from the workers.

IN THE FOREFRONT OF STRUGGLE AGAINST POLICE TERROR

SOMNATH LAHIRI, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India, presided over the meeting. He introduced to the gathering the Communist student ARUN SEN who had just recovered after the bullet wound he received during the firing on the Calcutta student demonstrators in Nov. last. Lahiri said:

"It was the united struggle of lakhs of Calcutta people on the streets which forced oppressive Imperialism to bend. But because the behaviour of the leaders marred that unity, the guilty were able to go scot free, and even today our brave Arun and eighteen of his comrades are still facing prosecution."

Joshi greeted the workers on their united stand, under the Red Flag, behind Calcutta's patriotic public against Police bullets. He said:

"The Communists are called traitors and the workers are asked to discard the Red Flag. But thousands of Calcutta workers under the leadership of the Red Flag and the Communist Party gave a fitting answer by coming forward against Imperialist repression."

UNITY UNDER RED FLAG SHALL INSPIRE ALL

Referring to the Communist election programme, Joshi said:

"Our Party was born in the lap of the National Movement with the demand for freedom of every national group in the country, and our policy is to guarantee for everybody the freedom to live a free and happy life in their own homelands."

"This gathering of workers itself gives a picture of Free India of tomorrow: in which men of different creeds from different provinces shall remain together in amity. If the working-class can maintain this unity under the Red Flag, then other classes inspired by this example will themselves unite."

"If freedom inspired by this example is not won immediately, then the huge wealth amassed by profit-grabbing hoarders by fleecing the workers and the huge amount that Britain had borrowed from us, would not be enjoyed by our countrymen. As a result, in the post-war crisis, lakhs of workers and middle-class people will be jobless and hunger will drive them to death."

"By voting for the Congress and the League, instead of the Communist Party, you will be voting against the Red Flag. But voting Communist does not mean you are opposing the Congress and the League. Because what is just in the policy of every patriotic party is supported by the Communist Party."

When Joshi introduced the Communist candidates for the Labour seats, LAHIRI for Calcutta, BANKIM MUKHERJEE for Howrah, MOHAMMED ISMAIL for Hooghly, CHATURJI ALI for the 24 Parganas, JYOTI RAJU for the Midnapur seat, RATAN

C.I.D. -- Real Boss Of Bengal Government

NIRANJAN SEN, Secretary of the Bengal All-Parties' Committee set up for the 'Release of Political Prisoners Campaign', applied on January 10 to the Jail Superintendent, Alipore Central Jail, for permission for P. C. Joshi to interview the Pre-Reform prisoners. The Jail Superintendent replied that the Intelligence Branch alone could grant the permission—a condition which no one would accept.

On January 11, Niranjana Sen rang up the Home Secretary of the Bengal Government, in view of the urgent necessity of the interview. The Home Secretary also muttered the same reply, thus clearly showing that inside the Bengal Government, it is the Police Intelligence Branch which is today the real boss of the Administration.

It is also scandalous that even the ordinary privileges of a convict are denied to these Pre-Reform prisoners.

LAL for the Darjeeling Tea Gardens and INDRAJIT GUPTA for the Asansol Collieries, a lusty ovation greeted the announcements.

KISAN RALLY IN TAMLUK: MIDNAPUR

On Jan. 15, Joshi addressed a kisan rally of 10,000 at Purushottampur village in Tamluk, Midnapore. Despite the Hindu festival of Pous Sankranti on that day, kisans, both Hindu and Muslim, men and women, came in thousands. Joshi said:

"Our Party's workers come from your own homes. Going out of your homes, they have built kisan movements in bigger areas. Today, it is your own true sons who have become your leaders. Nothing in their life is hidden from you..."

"Our Party is the party of unity. In village life, we have built a united kisan movement of Hindus and Muslims. In the struggle for national freedom, we pledge to build the unity of the Congress, the League and the Communists. The kisans know that in their life in the village there is no way of survival but through mutual justice. The kisan stands for justice for himself and justice for others as well."

"In national life, justice demands freedom for all. To the Congress and the League our appeal is: Give up your unjust demands. Build a united movement, based on the just demands of each other, for the final battle against British Imperialism."

WHAT COMMUNIST CANDIDATES WILL FIGHT FOR

"The British have created as their triple instruments of repression, the Zamindari, the Mahajan and the Doopari. These three enemies of the people have ruined the kisans under the British Government for generations. In the last three years, their oppression has overstepped the limit of endurance and they have joined hands with the British bureaucrats, oppressive and corrupt."

"Our Communist members in the Legislature will, within one year, (Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)

PRINCES AND THE NEW IMPERIALIST MOVE

WHILE the country is moving towards a new constitutional deadlock after the elections, the Imperialists are hatching their own plan which would appear to concede the demands of both the Congress and the League in form but deny their real substance. The key to their plan is the bringing of the Princes into the All-India Constitutional Scheme which would enable them to create an Agency Centre over the three dominions (formed respectively of Hindu and Muslim majority areas and of all the States), in which real power will be with the Imperialist-Princes Axis.

The first step in this direction was taken on January 17, when the Annual Session of the Chamber of Princes, presided over by the Viceroy, agreed to a declaration laying down the conditions under which the Princes would be prepared to co-operate in the settlement of the Indian Constitutional problem.

NO TRANSFER OF POWER TO PEOPLE

What has the Viceroy assured the Princes and asked of them? The Viceroy has assured the Princes that the treaties and arrangements with the Crown, guaranteeing their position as rulers, will not be changed without their consent. In return the Viceroy asked them to participate in the preliminary discussions to the Constitution-Making Body which will take place after the elections.

He asked them "not to stand in the way of the growth of India to its stature" (whatever that may mean) or "to hinder the political, economic or social progress and advancement of their subjects." He recommended that the small States should join the larger units or combine with other small States to form bigger combinations. He also advised them to join in all-India schemes of economic co-ordination—both short and long-term.

What have the Princes in their turn promised in the unanimous declaration which was adopted by their Chamber?

They declare that they "wish to see the land of their birth free, great and respected" and "promise fullest contribution to any attempt to settle India's Constitutional problem on a just and reasonable basis."

Does it mean that they are prepared to set up completely responsible popular administrations in their States and content themselves with becoming Constitutional heads?

Are they willing to grant the same rights to the States' peoples which their brothers outside shall be enjoying in a free India.

Nothing of the kind. They stand on their Treaty rights which protect their position as autocratic rulers and are not prepared to go beyond granting "popular institutions," not fully elected but only "with an elected majority."

They promise the guaranteeing of certain basic rights such as liberty of person, of conscience, of free expression of opinion, of association, etc.

But all these rights are hardly worth the paper on which they are written without an administration completely responsible to the people.

The Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes in his declaration insists upon the inviolability and the continuance of the ruling dynasties, the ruling right and autonomy of the States and argues against the suggestion that small States should merge with provinces or join together to form larger units for ensuring better administration.

Thus even the guarantees they "promise" are subject to the condition that their autocracy shall remain unquestioned and paramount.

In short, the much-boosted declaration of the Princes promises no democratisation of the administration—no responsibility to the States' peoples. The dark rule of autocracy is to remain. The small States, which condemn their peoples to inefficient administration and split them away from their brother peoples, are to remain.

FREEDOM THROUGH IMPERIALISM'S FEUDAL ALLIES?

The Imperialists and their press are of course satisfied with the Princes' declaration. For they do not want the autocracy of the Princes to be ended. They only want these Princely autocracies to pull their weight together, on the side of the British Government, in any attempt to form an all-India structure and to act as the bulwark of its domination in the same.

But it is both amazing and painful to note that the Congress leaders and the Nationalist press too have welcomed and greeted this declaration of the Princes. Pandit Nehru who considers the declaration "in some matters vague", however greets it as a definite sign of the times and the realisation of the big changes that are coming to India in the near future.

Panditji even goes to the length of reading in the Princes' declaration, "an attempt on the part of the Princes to break away from the leading strings of the paramount power and to look to their people in the States," while exactly the opposite is the case.

Even this "vague" and evasive declaration has come from the Princes only because the Viceroy assured them that the Treaty rights which guarded their position as autocratic rulers were not going to be touched. Does this not show that they are afraid of their own peoples while they look cravenly to their British protectors?

A new country-wide upsurge is under way among the masses of the States' peoples. The ruthless repression with which the Princes are trying to suppress the same in Gwalior, in Travancore, in Bharathpur and in other States is no indication of their change of heart which Panditji wants us to believe.

But perhaps the Congress leaders are thinking in terms of high politics. They perhaps think that if the Princes are not prepared today to concede full responsible government, they are at least ready to throw in their full weight in the coming Constitution-Making Body for an All-India Federation as against the League claim for two Federations.

It is a great pity that blind hatred of a brother party—which embraces the bulk of our Muslim countrymen—should drive our leaders to put faith in the Princes, who owe their existence to the service they rendered to the British in enslaving our people and whose hands are smeared with the blood of the States' Peoples' movement.

This blind gamble will lead not to the creation of an Independent India as a free and willing union of our various peoples, but to a tri-sected India yet under Imperialist-Feudal rule.

There is not the slightest doubt that the League leaders would be welcoming the Princes' Declaration as eagerly as the Congressmen have done. Perhaps they too have hopes that some of the Princes would put in their weight behind Pakistan as the others would for a United India.

In reality the Princes would do neither. As faithful stooges of the British they would merely support the plan which the Imperialists are hatching. Faith in Princes, instead of in the unity of the people, can only pave the way for the Imperialist plan which would spell the common slavery of the Hindus, Muslims and the States' peoples.

GIVE ALL YOU CAN!

--Editor's Appeal

All our readers will have read the story of the events in Bombay...

Why did this happen? Everywhere in the world, it is the darkest forces of reaction who have resorted to hooligan tactics...

It is only those whose cause is bankrupt and anti-people, who are afraid of letting the people hear the voice of anyone except themselves...

It is the Fascists and the Imperialists to whom these weapons belong, not to any civilised, freedom-loving people...

So too in our country. The People's Age is the inspirer of our movement in India; every week it tells its thousands of readers the truth of what is happening in India...

But our enemies do not know our country and our countrymen. This week too the People's Age will go to its readers, faithfully carrying its message of truth...

And we have brought it out because of the strength of our movement and because of the great traditions that are the bedrock of the entire national movement...

For our success in doing this we must thank our many good friends—some of whom by no means agree with all we say—for the help that they have given us.

Our Thanks

We must thank Mr. Sahanand, the Editor of the Free Press Journal, who, despite the very great political differences that he has with us, gave us great help...

We must express our gratitude to Mr. Ashutosh Seth for helping us to bring out our Gujarati edition. We also thank the United Art Fine...

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 12)

organisation of all women to defend and fight for the common interests of Indian women.

Led by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Hashuben Mehta, Rajkumari Anand Kher, Mrs. Rajeshwari Nair, and other leaders of the AIWC, all factional moves to close the doors of the organisation to particular groups or make it a preserve of other groups were scotched...

The united organisation will fight for the emancipation of women, to be made part and parcel of the new social order of a Free India.

Today, after the Session, the AIWC is a united body, and it is a matter of great satisfaction to all of us that the AIWC is now a united body...

Litho Press for providing us at such short notice with facilities for binding, packing and dispatching our copies.

We thank too our many friends who as soon as they heard what had happened, came forward to help us in every way they could...

And lastly we must thank those friends of ours who have taken into their houses our wounded comrades, and tended and looked after them better than many hospitals and nursing homes would have done.

For it was no easy job.

Our Apologies

Our press and Party Headquarters were badly damaged; the hooligans who burnt our press also burnt part of the copies of our supplement and the first four pages that we had already printed...

We are trying to get out next week's issue in time—but we may be late, as it will be some time before we get our press in full working order again.

But we will bring it out—because there is much that is good in our country and so many will help to see that we do our duty by our readers.

And one last word—most important word—to our readers.

Our Appeal

You have all read what happened to our press, the Party Office and our bookshop; the loss we have suffered is over a lakh of rupees—over a lakh of rupees that was collected by tens of thousands of our people...

most to give us money to build our press, bring out our paper and build our movement.

That one lakh has gone; but more than that one lakh must come.

We have already appealed for five lakhs to enable us to fight the elections and bring out our daffies, but now we must get not five lakhs but well over six lakhs, if we are to build our press, bring out our paper and do our job in the elections...

This is why we appeal to all of you to give your utmost to help us to do our job.

* THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN ONCE, dig deep into your pockets and give twice, thrice, four times—for you well know our need.

* THOSE WHO POLITICALLY DIFFER FROM US, many of them deeply, we appeal to them too—in the name of our great Indian freedom movement which has never before been tarnished and disfigured by such acts as those that destroyed our press and material.

We appeal to them to give what they can, to demonstrate their faith that, however deep differences between brother and brother among us may be, it has always been the noblest tradition of our patriotic movement to let every Indian speak freely and democratically to his people and let them judge for themselves...

Our Call

* PARTY COMRADES, to you this attack will have been no surprise. Show that you too like our comrades today, triumphant in the Soviet Union, like our brothers in China...

DEMONETISATION ORDINANCES

(Continued from Page 4)

lease of life to the profiteers and blackmarketeers, to those anti-social elements who have been bleeding our people white during the war years, hand-in-glove with the foreign Imperialists.

WHY IS RAJEN BABU SHIELDING THEM?

One can understand the subsidised press of the vested interests raising a howl against the Ordinance and trying to create panic in the minds of the man in the street. The Birla press is naturally enough leading this howl. But it is a shocking thing to find respected Congress leaders like Rajen Babu echoing them. In his statement (Bombay Chronicle, 7th January), Rajen Babu declares that: "A large number of people, belonging to the middle and lower middle classes will be hit hard on account of the demonetisation of currency notes of the value of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000."

And he goes on: "While we, Congressmen, have no sympathy for profiteers and dealers in the blackmarket, it is not right to penalise the honest people who in good faith have their savings in notes of now demonetised value."

Does Rajen Babu maintain that the major section of the people whom the Ordinance will really hit (i.e., those who not merely hold high denomination notes of Rs. 500 and above but are unable to give an honest explanation of how they came in possession of them)—are the "poor classes"? How with the honest earnings of the middle and lower middle class be penalised by the Ordinance?

However much Rajen Babu may deprecate the Ordinance, it is not in his power to prevent the Ordinance from being enforced. It is not in his power to prevent the Ordinance from being enforced.

autocracy to curb them, their erstwhile friend?

PEOPLE'S DEMAND: CLOSE ALL FURTHER LOOPHOLES!

Public agitation by every honest man should raise the cry not that the Ordinance hits the poor, but that it is only a beginning in the direction of curbing the blackmarketeer and the corrupt official; and that all loopholes for the latter's escape should be promptly closed.

The Ordinances by themselves will not achieve everything. It is reported that a large number of notes have been transferred to the Indian States and that this is offering a loophole to some of the bigger fish to escape.

Besides, the Ordinance applies only to that part of blackmarket money which is held in notes of higher denomination. But quite a big part is held in gold, houses and other property which will remain untouched.

The Ordinances therefore should be regarded only as an initial measure which gives the first blow to speculators and blackmarketeers, but does not do away with them; nor does it bring all the blackmarket wealth in the open.

Whatever the motives of the bureaucracy, therefore, the people must welcome the measure; it does not hit the interests of the honest man or the small man; at worst it only causes him some inconvenience. No doubt in certain cases corrupt officials will try to blackmail smaller men into giving bribes. But such things can and must be eliminated through public pressure.

The public must also see that no blackmarketeer gets away with his money with the aid of corrupt officials. It must ignore the cries of the anti-social elements and demand still further measures to do away with the war-time disease of speculation and profiteering and blackmarketeering in the name of the people's needs.

whom the millions of bullets, shells and bombs could not destroy like all those Communists the world over who have won, through against the same difficulties and attacks that we face today, show that you too are worthy of belonging to the great world brotherhood of Communists; remember that the best of the revolutionaries in our land are amongst us, show that you too can rout the enemy as our brothers in many lands have done.

Let these difficulties only inspire you to work a thousand times harder—to get the money to make up for our loss and for doing all that we must do to see that our Party does its greatest in the election battle as a prelude to win over all Indians to our policy—that Indian must not fight Indian but all must come together for the last final united struggle for the freedom and independence of our motherland!

RED GREETINGS, G. ADHIKARI.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

(Continued from Page 3)

permission to go ahead with its attempts to destroy the Union and the working-class movement.

The strikes in the United States, therefore are an indication of increasing surrender by the Truman Administration to the biggest capitalist elements, and therefore of a gradual shift towards the right.

And this shift towards the right in home policy, which amounts to virtual support to the most reactionary elements in the United States, is the logical complement of the imperialist foreign policy of the Truman administration—seen in China, in the consolidation of the American bloc in the UNO, in the attempt to preserve reaction in Japan, in the refusal to intervene in Indonesia and Indo-China.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN BENGAL

(Continued from Page 5)

move for the abolition of Zamindari, Mahajati and black-marketing. For immediate relief, they will fight for emergency measures, against ejection of the poor kisan from the land he tills, for reduction of taxburdens, for provision of fallow land, for provision for education, health, etc."

OUR CANDIDATE STILL BEHIND THE BARS

Referring to the Communist candidate from the area, BHUPAL PANDA, who is still a Security Prisoner, Joshi said:

"Bhupal belongs to you. He belongs to the band of those who did not fear the gallows in fighting the British. He was sentenced to transportation for life. After his release he sunk among the kisans, and organised the poor peasants and sharecroppers in this area under the Red Flag. During the war, he continued organising you from underground."

"He is still behind the bars. How many 'Swadeshis' can you find like him? He is your son, your brave son, your leader... His victory is your responsibility."

And he exhorted them to come forward to help his election campaign:

"But it will not end by just getting Bhupal elected. It is not enough to vote for him. As Bhupal will fight for you inside the Legislature, you must start an intense campaign outside and for that, from right now, bring all the kisans inside the Kisan Sabha."

Addressing Muslim peasants of whom about 3,000 were present, Joshi said:

"My appeal to you is, 'Don't regret that you cannot vote for Bhupal. You can vote for Hindu brothers, but for Hindu-Muslim unity, you must support the Kisan movement. You must vote for Bhupal. You must vote for Bhupal. You must vote for Bhupal.'"

After Police Firing In Gwalior

BIGGEST PEOPLE'S DEMONSTRATION

THE week following the murderous firing in Gwalior (see story on P. 2) has seen the most remarkable unity of every section of its people against the State authorities and for wholehearted support to the workers' fight against the Birlas. As a result the State Government has been forced to release the four arrested leaders of the workers, and withdraw warrants against all. Over Rs. 1,200 have been collected from the people by way of relief to the families of the dead and to the wounded. The most striking feature of the campaign is the active part women have been taking in it.

On 14th Jan., the Sarvajanik Sabha, Anjuman-Islam, Communist Party, Hindu Sabha and Vidyarthi Sangh, held a joint meeting at the Jayaji Chowk, Lashkar. Six flags flew together when 7,000 workers from Morar joined the meeting in procession. Never before had the people of the city seen such crowds. It is estimated that well over 50,000 people attended it.

Mr. Abdul Rashid, President of the Anjuman-Islam, presided over this joint meeting. Amidst thunderous cheers, he said:

"The blood these worker-martyrs of the Red Flag have shed has cemented the base of a real Hindu-Muslim unity. We shall pledge today to build such a glorious edifice on these foundations as will be a lasting monument to their great sacrifice. Only then can we hope to abolish all exploitation."

ALL SUPPORT TO WORKERS' STRUGGLE

Thousands of angry cries repeatedly rent the skies with slogans demanding the externment of 'Khooni Powar'. The meeting fully supported the workers' demand against the owners, condemned the firing and demanded, an impartial inquiry into it. It demanded the externment of Mr. Powar, the Army Minister.

JAN. 15: STUDENTS' GENERAL STRIKE: GIRL STUDENTS LEAD

On Jan. 15, there was a complete hartal in the schools and colleges, in Lashkar and Morar. Jan. 13 was a holiday and thus the students had not been able to express their solidarity with the people, against the firing. They went on strike on the 15th. Girl students from schools and colleges came out and led the 4,000 strong procession which paraded the streets of Lashkar, carrying black flags and an effigy of Mr. Powar.

In the evening, the students were joined by a procession of about 7,000 workers from Gwalior. A meeting was held in Jayaji Chowk where 15,000 people witnessed the burning of the effigy of 'The Dyer of Gwalior'. The Hindu Vidyarthi Sangh donated Rs. 51 to the Mazdoor Relief Fund. The photos of the martyrs, along with the earth reddened with their blood, were auctioned for Rs. 200. In all Rs. 450 were collected.

JAN. 16: 2,500 WOMEN SUPPORT DEMAND

On Jan. 16, women of the city joined in. A meeting of 2,500 women was held at the Town Hall under the Presidentship of Mrs. Kranti Devi Dinesh, a local Congress woman. It was joined by a procession of girl students of the Banala Raja Girls' School who collected on their way to the meeting Rs. 51 by way of relief. Once again, this meeting displayed the unity of all flags and fully supported the resolutions passed at the meeting on Jan. 14th.

It was an event unheard of in the State, where women from feudal and officers' families, the middle-class housewife and the Muslim women in 'burgas', all joined and stood together.

That day students of the J. C. Mills High School came out on strike and paraded the streets and chawls of the mills, carrying an effigy of 'Khooni Mandella', Manager of the Birla Mills.

In the evening a workers' meeting was held at the Hajira Park, Gwalior, protesting against the firing and demanding inquiry into it. 7,000 people attended.

PEOPLE'S VICTORY

So powerful and unanimous was the popular demand that it was only a matter of time before the State Government would be forced to yield to the workers' demands against the Birlas.

That has been the first victory for the united people's movement. In the fight to come, they are being supported by the outside public and working-class also. Workers from Birla-owned mills in Delhi and from Birla's 'Hind Cycles', Bombay, came out on a one-day protest strike during the last week demonstrating their indignation against the authorities of Gwalior State and expressing their complete solidarity with the workers of the Gwalior Mills in their common fight against a common oppressor.

ANTI-COMMUNIST FRENZY

(Continued from page 3)

gully, were smashing and burning. Even after the Police arrived, the fight in the gully had to be kept up by us for some time longer.

The first to come to the P.H.Q. was Sgt. Amritlal Seth, Editor of the Janmabhumi group of papers. His son had been in the crowds returning from Chowpatty and had told him about the attack on the P.H.Q. On meeting me, he said "What can I do? I offer my heartfelt condolences. These are dirty things. They should not happen." He came in and saw all the windows smashed, the Press burnt and our wounded and bleeding comrades who were being attended to in the passages on both the floors.

The Reporters from the Times of India and A.P.I. also came up and saw things for themselves.

Two printing machines and the Linotype were smashed. Nearly 60 comrades were injured. Jayant, Sudhir, Gopaladas and Deodhekar very seriously. After the Police arrived, Sharaf and Subrata Sen Gupta of the All-India Students' Federation, went in search of Jayant in the next gully. They were caught by a gang, who beat them up.

Iqbal, member of our Central Committee, Bhagwat, our cashier, Reddy of the Cultural squad, Madhavan, Rashid, on our Office staff, Mahmood Ali and Sibley Hasan of NaFa Zamana, Editorial staff, and many of our Red Guard worker boys, received serious injuries.

JOINT ACTION TO PROTEST AGAINST REPRESSION

The next day at 11:30 a.m., the B.P.C.C. leaders, Sjt. Nagindas, the President, Sjt. S. K. Patil, the General Secretary, Mr. Mantilal Seth, Mrs. Sofia Khan, G.O.C. of the Desh Sevikas, etc., came to the P.H.Q. and met our Editor, Dr. Adhikari, and B. T. Ranadive and other Party leaders.

They agreed that this attempt to turn legitimate anti-Police rage into anti-Communist frenzy was dangerous to Indian political life and that both Congressmen and Communists should jointly try to prevent such disgraceful outbursts and prevent senseless anarchy.

Dr. Adhikari also put forward the suggestion that joint Congress and Communist squads (with an equal number of both) should patrol the area and appeal to the people not to be passive or acquiesce in such acts, not to fight among ourselves. But the Congress leaders refused saying that for the present they would issue a statement and keep volunteers in reserve at the Congress House to rush help if any trouble took place.

Such joint action to campaign among the people, explaining to them how only the common enemy gains by such actions, is absolutely necessary in order to isolate and neutralise political groups and classes, and save our political life from being completely crushed.

A Patriot's Notebook

REPRESSION IN TRAVANCORE

No Single Party Spared

ATTENTION was drawn at the recent All-India States' Peoples' Conference to the severe repression now going on in Travancore State under the regime of the present Maharajah and his Dewan, Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer. The Travancore State authorities and the present Dewan are indeed old-hands at this game.

Everyone will remember the "blood and iron" methods which were used seven years ago to crush the State Congress movement for Responsible Government. Travancore patriots have still not forgotten the scars of those days.

Recently Sir C.P.'s regime has tightened the screws again. They see the new peoples' awakening sweeping all over British India. They are afraid this new movement is not going to respect Treaty Rights of the Princes or the Paramountcy Powers of the Crown.

Ban Against Tri-Colour

Some weeks ago, in People's Age of January 6, our Malabar correspondent described the latest activities of the State authorities and the Police atrocities in Kottayam. I have just come across more facts about this anti-democratic crusade.

Not only are meetings and processions banned in Travancore, the Tri-colour too is banned. When the State Congress held its Fourth Annual Conference at Quilon recently, the authorities insolently ordered that the Tri-colour should be removed from the Pandal.

It was again only recently that a surprise swoop was made when Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillay, President of the State Congress, Mr. Narayana Pillay, then Organising Secretary, and Miss Anne Mascarene, Secretary of the State Congress, were arrested and detained.

Catholics' Leader Arrested

So much for the State Congress. What about the Catholics who form a large section of the Travancore people? They too have come in for Sir C.P.'s blitzkrieg.

The State authorities wanted to stop the Catholic agitation against their new Education Scheme. So promptly Catholic papers (like Malabar Mail published from Cochin) were banned, the President of the Catholic Congress (the most popular organisation of the Catholics of the State), Mr. KUNJITHOMAN, was arrested and detained in jail, where he still is.

Muslim Conference Banned

Nor have the Muslims been spared. A Muslim Conference which was fixed to be held last month in Balamangalam under the Presidentship of Janab ABDUL HAMEED KHAN, ex-Mayor of Madras, was banned. The ostensible ground was that "the sanitation around the pandal was not good" and that "a section of the Muslims were against the holding of the Conference."

But a statement, issued by the President of the Reception Committee of this Conference, which has come into my hands, throws a very interesting light on the real reasons for the banning of this Conference.

According to this statement, when the organisers of the Conference met the Inspector-General of Police a few days before the scheduled date, this gentleman demanded that Janab ABDUL HAMEED KHAN should not preside over the Conference, as "he was unwelcome to the State authorities on account of his expressed opinion against the present Education Scheme of the Dewan". Here was the real reason at last.

The statement then reveals that one of the organisers of the Conference, that the Dewan afterwards had Sir C.P. told him that the Conference would be allowed to be held

if the following conditions were fulfilled:

"(a) No member of the Muslim League in British India shall preside over the Conference.

(b) We (i.e., the Conference) shall not discuss the recent policy of the Government on Primary Education.

(c) We (i.e., the Conference) shall not discuss Pakistan."

The Muslims, naturally enough, refused to accept any conditions from the Dewan for exercising a right which is theirs according to any standards of democracy or civilisation; and so the Conference was finally cancelled.

Such is the "rule of law" prevailing in Travancore State. You cannot even hold a Conference, if the authorities do not like the subjects you propose to discuss. And it is this State administration that is today being hailed in some circles as a "pioneer in reforms"—"on the American model"—and so on and so forth!

Apt Pupil Of Lord Willingdon

And how does Sir C.P.'s regime in Travancore manage to push through its drive simultaneously against every people's organisation in the State? By the simple trick taught by the British, 'Divide and Rule'. Sir C. P., it will be remembered, was a favourite pupil of Lord Willingdon.

It is by pitting one community against another, and one people's organisation against another, that Sir C.P.'s regime has kept itself going for the last 14 years: You can see it from the story of the recent events.

It banned the Tri-colour—hoping that the Muslims in their anti-Congress prejudice would not come out actively opposing it. It banned the Muslim Conference and gave the reason that it was undesirable that a League leader should preside over the Conference or that the Pakistan issue should be brought up inside the State—thus hoping that State Congressmen in their anti-League prejudice would not come out actively opposing it! And so on.

For Consumption Of Congress Public Outside

And for the consumption of the public outside the State, anti-Communism is dished out as the reason for all these arrests and bans!

The Travancore Government issued a Press Note in answer to the statement recently made by Pandit Nehru on repression in the State. According to this Press Note, there is no repression at all in the State; the Government has been unwillingly forced to take a few steps to check "the subversive activities of the Communists".

So the ban on the Tri-colour, the recent blitzkrieg on the State Congress leaders (many of whom incidentally are themselves virulently anti-Communist); the detention of the President of the Catholic Congress; the ban on Catholic papers; the ban on the Muslim Conference; the overall ban on all processions and meetings—all these—just because of the "subversive activities" of the wicked Communists!

Sir C.P. thinks that Pandit Nehru and the Congress-minded public in British India will swallow his explanation because of their own anti-Communist prejudices—and let him get away with whatever he chooses to do inside the State to wipe out all traces of democracy and Civil Liberties. I can hardly find a more glaring example of what foul deeds are sought to be covered and justified today in the name of anti-Communism.

M. K. Vishwanath

FIRST MEETING OF U.N.O.

BRITAIN -- BASE FOR REACTION'S PLOTS

BIGGEST U.S. STRIKE-WAVE

FROM the first meeting of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in London, many lessons can be drawn. Most important of all is the role of 'small' nations—which has been boosted so much by critics of the UNO.

Right from the start it became clear that two of the biggest voting blocs in the General Assembly were composed of first the Central and South American Republics and secondly of the Middle Eastern countries.

"These two blocs" wrote Reuter's correspondent, "possess between them the possibility of virtually a dominating vote in the Assembly, provided they vote the same way." (January 13).

Defenders of the 'rights' of small nations may point to this as a welcome feature—but in fact one bloc—that of the American Republics—is composed almost entirely of satellite states of the U.S., while the other—that of the Arab States—is easily open to influence by Great Britain; for two of its member countries—Iraq and Transjordan—are almost virtual dependencies of Great Britain.

M. Gustav Guerrero, the Salvador (Central America) delegate, revealed the true position of his country and its other American neighbours when he said that all the peoples of the American hemisphere were "closely attached" to the U.S.

ON TRUSTEESHIP

The meaning of this is simple: if everything in the UNO were decided by a simple majority vote, then by rallying the votes of their satellites, it would be easy for the U.S. and Great Britain—without themselves appearing in the forefront—to put through any reactionary anti-Soviet measure that they wish to.

It is only the existence of the Security Council with the provision of the veto which forces every Great Power to come out into the open and declare its own stand publicly, that will in fact prevent the UNO from becoming the mere mouthpiece of the U.S. and Great Britain.

The divisions inside the UNO also became clear in the debate on the Preparatory Committee's report.

It was the delegates of the Soviet, Yugoslavia, Poland and Norway who most sharply raised the question of trusteeship for the colonies; the Soviet delegate, Andrei Gromyko, said:

"The trusteeship system is an instrument designed to accelerate the giving of status of national and state independence to all such peoples (colonial peoples). That is why the speediest carrying out of the principles of trusteeship is one of the most important obligations of the member-states of the United Nations."

It was these delegates too who warned sharply against any attempt to build rival blocs and to counterpoise the 'small' nations against the 'big'. The Norwegian Prime Minister nailed down the danger of trying "to divide the world into separate blocs" and added that nothing would be more dangerous than if "this new organisation should, from the outset, be used by any one power for its own particular aims."

Again it was the Soviet delegation—later backed by the French delegates—who raised the question of participation in the UNO of the World Federation of Trade Unions—which was opposed by the delegates of Britain and New Zealand.

Thus on every issue the two sides emerged more and more clearly. On the one hand, the democratic states headed by the Soviet which stood out against the formation of blocs, which pressed for the speedy advance of colonial peoples to independence, which demanded that the world working-class movement be given the opportunity to work with the UNO.

On the other, the U.S. and Great Britain which are yet intriguing against the Soviet, are yet thinking and planning in terms of blocs and votes which will give them a dominating position in the UNO and in world politics.

BOGUS PURGE IN JAPAN

THE decisions of the Moscow Conference of the Foreign Ministers of Britain, the U.S. and the Soviet Union have yet to be implemented fully.

Of all the immediate decisions, only the decision to broaden the Rumanian Government has been implemented and two members of the National Peasant and National Liberal Parties have been included in the Government.

In Bulgaria, however, there is a deadlock—as the opposition—firmly convinced of the total support of the Americans and British—is demanding the resignation of the Communist Minister of the Interior.

And nothing has yet been done to change the situation in Japan. General MacArthur has just approved of a Cabinet "purge"—which has been boosted as a move "to introduce new political blood into the Japanese Government."

Yet of the five new Ministers, all are over sixty years old, four have been closely associated with the former militarist-fascist regime, even though they claim to be "non-party." Two of them are Privy Counsellors; one has been the Chairman of the Tokyo Stock Exchange since 1939 while the fourth, who is to be the Chief Cabinet Secretary, is an experienced official, has been in Government service a considerable time.

Thus the change means nothing, and, in this light, MacArthur's decision to allow nation-wide elections after March 15 means only that whatever be the name of the new party reaction organises, with governmental and administrative power in its hands, it will certainly be triumphant in the elections.

BRITAIN—REACTION'S HOME

IF the situation in Eastern Europe and in Japan has not yet changed for the better, news is now coming through of the way in which Britain—despite the Labour Government's professed adherence to democracy—is becoming the centre of all European reactionaries.

The head of the so-called Czech National Committee in England whose proclaimed objective is to overthrow the Benes Government is one General Prhala—whose headquarters are in England. Only last week a number of arrests of the supporters of Prhala took place in Czechoslovakia—and many letters from Prhala's "so-called London Centre" were found, addressed to "some landowners, industrialists, the former Agrarian Party leader and others who supported the Munich era."

These messages and letters "contain an appeal for active struggle against the policy of nationalisation of industries." (Free Press Journal—January 17).

Again it is British money that is supporting the emigre Polish Army in Italy commanded by General Anders; this Army has become such a centre for anti-democratic propaganda that the Italian democratic movement, notably the Socialist and Communist Parties—have passed strong resolutions demanding the withdrawal of this Army from Italy.

A third instance of Britain being used by Europe's reactionaries as a base from which to plan their comeback in Europe is Yugoslavia's extreme right-wing—for many of Gen. Mihailovitch's supporters are in London and it is well-known that King Peter—also still in England—has by no means yet stopped his intrigues and attempts to get back into Yugoslavia.

Clearly enough, therefore, until these nests of reactionary emigres are cleaned out of Britain, their very existence will always encourage the reactionaries in Europe with the confidence that Britain is behind them in their attempts to overthrow the new democratic Governments.

And one of the first tests of the

British Government's sincerity to implement honestly the Moscow decisions, must be its refusal to allow these reactionaries to use England and London as their base from which to carry on their activities.

TRUMAN'S REAL BOSSES

NEARLY twenty lakh workers are on strike in the United States today—the biggest post-war strike-wave yet seen in any country. And the largest section of them are seven to eight lakh workers in the steel industry.

The cause of the strike is the rejection by the employers of the workers' demand for an increase in wages. The workers based their demand on the huge profits made during the war and still being made by the big capitalists.

According to the U.S. office of War Mobilisation, U.S. industry can raise wages and salaries 24 per cent and still get twice as much profit as it did during war-time.

The U.S. Steel Corporation, however, just refused to negotiate and to the workers' demands, it handed over a blank 'NO'—after considering them for just forty minutes.

The U.S. Government then offered to mediate; the U.S. Steel Corporation rejected the offer.

After this, the U.S. Government set up what it called a Fact-Finding Board; out of this emerged a compromise offer; once more the U.S. Steel Corporation rejected Government's offer and said 'No'. The Government pleaded helplessness—and the strike started on Monday, January 21st.

The U.S. Steel Corporation wanted a strike. It has made huge profits in the war period and it wants to use the critical post-war period when unemployment is increasing (the Government estimate is that by spring 1946, 80 lakh Americans will be unemployed) to break the strong working-class unions.

It hopes that if there is a strike, by getting blacklegs out of the rapidly growing number of unemployed, it will be able to crush the strike and the Unions.

And the U.S. Government by its weak policy of merely making compromise offers and not intervening as a compulsory arbitrator and forcing the U.S. Steel Corporation to accept a settlement, has played the game of the Corporation and given it

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Around the World

K. M. Munshi's Plea For Anti-Soviet, 'Indo-British' Alliance

--His Counterpart In League Camp

On the day the members of the British Parliamentary Delegation arrived in Bombay, Imperialism's Bombay daily, "The Times of India," prominently featured an article by K. M. Munshi of Akhand Hindustan fame—entitled: "INDIA AND BRITAIN—Need For Commonwealth Consolidation."

An open plea for an Indo-British alliance "to stabilise the international situation in Asia," and directed to meet the 'menace' of Russia, the former Congress Home Minister shamelessly talks of "the vital bond" that "links us with England" and walls that "we cannot place the strength and integrity acquired during the last century (!!!) at the mercy of a third World War."

And what is his argument? The greatest danger to Britain, he argues, lies in the establishment of Pakistan; if Pakistan comes into existence, the Communists, now "openly allied to the League" (a lie), and the Soviet would see that Pakistan becomes a Soviet satellite! Therefore, Munshi tells our British rulers, keep India united and ally yourself with the Congress.

The basis of Imperialist-Congress unity (for that is Munshi's desire) is the partnership of India in "the Commonwealth"—i.e., Dominion Status, and Munshi suggests this when every honest Indian today is demanding full independence, knowing full well that Dominion Status will only be a veiled form of subjection inside the British Empire.

Thus Munshi goes all out to win the support of the most reactionary elements in British society, the Soviet-haters, the big monopoly capitalists.

I suppose it is not difficult for him to do this—an autocrat who was responsible for the use of police bullets against Bombay's workers and who resigned from the Congress because it was moving towards the acceptance of the democratic principle of self-determination!

Two days later came a reply (also in "The Times"), from one Mr. Manzur Ahmed, evidently an ardent Leaguer. He in his turn tells

the British that Russia is against Pakistan, and "will definitely welcome a United India" and that "Hindus look upon Russians as saviours". He, therefore, warns the British that the only way to meet the Russian menace is to divide India—for then Pakistan, allied with the Muslim States of the Middle East, will be "the greatest brake on Russian designs."

It seems that there is only one thing common between the two—Munshi and Manzur Ahmed—viz., an overwhelming desire to guard the interests of and point the right path to British reaction and both look to the British in their anti-Soviet interests to grant their respective demands—one a united India, the other Pakistan!

And this is natural enough, I suppose. If India is not to win her freedom through the united strength of her people, through the Congress and the League coming together, then like Munshi, we must look not to our people's strength for winning freedom but to Britain's 'generosity'; equally, if the League has not enough faith in the justice of its demand for self-determination which must lead to its acceptance by the Congress, then it must look not to building its people's movement and to convincing the Congress of what is just but to our British rulers to "divide" India!

And the net result of both attitudes is this: to leave the initiative in the hands of our British rulers and to go whole-hog against the Soviet—the one major power in the world that through the mouth of its Foreign Minister, Molotov, at San Francisco, has openly declared itself in favour of Indian freedom and that has shown the entire world how the principle of self-determination can be justly applied!

And one last point—will not partnership (which really means continued subjection) in the British Commonwealth, which is what both Munshi and Manzur Ahmed want, also mean partnership in exploiting the hundreds of millions of other colonial peoples, still enslaved in the present British Empire?

—Mohan Kumaramangalam