

THE BATTLE OF COIMBATORE

Workers' Epic Self-Defence Against Police Slaughter-Bullets

By N. K. Krishnan

On November 11, the Madras police fired on walking workers at Coimbatore. They did not fire once or twice, but they kept up their brutality in a steady stream of bullets. They followed retreating crowds of workers, firing all the time.

The total number of killed is not yet known, but it is in no case less than TWELVE.

But November 11 saw at Coimbatore not only police butchery of the ghastliest type.

It saw equally unprecedented heroism on the part of the working-class. The story of the courage and the glory of Coimbatore's men and women workers will remain for ever an inspiration for our national movement.

AMALNER, AUGUST 27 - GOLDEN ROCK, SEPTEMBER 5 - KOLAR, NOVEMBER 4 - COIMBATORE, NOVEMBER 11 -

Both the owners and the police had carefully prepared for this butchery (see columns 4-5). On the 10th itself, police reinforcements had been called into the mill.

From about five in the morning, on the 11th, the millgates and the area inside were packed with Reserve and city police.

At 6-30 in the morning, 200 workers including several women were picketing at the mill gates. The police brought blacklegs in lorries and tried to take them inside, but were unable to do so. The Deputy Superintendent of Police laid hands on the workers, but seeing their mood had to beat a hasty retreat.

Encouraged by the police, the blacklegs and goondas began to attack the picketers. The workers resisted this boldly and put some of them to flight.

The Murder Of Ammu

By 8, more than a thousand workers had arrived for picketing in front of the mill gates. More police lorries with an armed police force arrived. With the aid of this additional police force, the officers forced a way through the picketers and began to take blacklegs inside the mill.

The blacklegs were asked to trample over the picketers' bodies and go into the mills. Inside the mills, the rowdies of the mill-owner, with drawn sickles, were standing and threatening the picketers.

Dafying all the police threats and the rowdies' knives, the mass of the picketers, most of them women workers, resolutely stood their ground.

Enraged at this heroic stand of the workers, the police let loose a violent lathi-charge; rifle-butts and bayonets were freely used.

It was then that marvels of heroism were displayed by the workers.

A reserve police constable threw down a woman—Ammu—a worker in Kaleswara Mills—and fixed his rifle-butt on her chest. She snatched the rifle from his hands and tried to wrench herself free.

Another constable, close by, shot Ammu dead at point-blank range.

The workers were incensed at this brutal outrage and started vigorously defending themselves from these police brutes with their bare hands and bodies.

At this point, the police force retreated into the mill, went upstairs and from there started firing on the unarmed mass of workers below. Two workers fell dead on the spot.

Self-Defence

Unable to defend themselves, against mass firing in any other way, the workers retreated up to the railway line, picked up a supply of stones and used these for self-defence. It was thus that they continued their heroic self-defence; men and women workers fought with glorious courage; not one of them retreated even in the face of a hail of bullets.

A woman worker Subbatha,

threw down the firewood and asked the workers to help them to defend themselves.

● Owners of timber shops kept open theirawnings for workers to freely come and take what they wanted to defend themselves.

● A hotel proprietor told a group of workers who were retreating: "Take anything you want and defend yourselves against the police butchers."

Both the police batches—the one from mill front and the other from the side entrance—had now joined up and were advancing slowly against the retreating workers, firing all the time. But the workers even when they were retreating never flinched from the task of defending themselves bravely and fighting back repression with sticks, stones and often with bare hands.

Back To The Battle

A woman worker with a wound in her head and a cut in her neck was taken to a nearby house. The owner of the house gave her some water to drink. As soon as she felt a little better, she again ran out, though she was bleeding profusely, and joined

who was helping men fighters with stones, was shot in the thigh. She fell dead.

Meanwhile, the news of the firing and lathi-charge spread to other mills, which were only a stone's throw from the Stanes Mill.

Immediately they got the news, all the workers of the Kaleswara and Somasundara Mills, the Brooke Bond Tea factory and the Municipal

workers stopped work, came out and rushed to the rescue of their Stanes Mill brothers.

As they were crossing the railway lines, the police inside the Stanes Mill opened fire on them also from the side entrances.

The workers resolutely stood their ground, faced police bullets and defended themselves as best as they could with the help of the stones lying on the railway lines.

Many workers including women gave their lives and scores of others received serious gunshot injuries.

"Charge And Kill"

● Taking advantage of the lull when the workers were trying to pick up the dead and the wounded, the police brutes rushed out of the mill gates and advanced towards the workers, continuously firing all the time.

A student, just eleven years of age, was shot and he fell dead on the railway line. A non-working-class woman was also shot.

It was only when the police had nearly reached the railway lines, firing all the time, that the heroic mass of the workers fought back and the police were forced to retreat.

The inhuman slaughter by the police revolted everybody in the neighbourhood. Many residents of the area gave help and assistance to the workers to fight back police repression.

● An old woman who was carrying her firewood ration

ed her comrades who were facing the police.

At 9-30 A.M. a train from Mettupalayam arrived. On the railway line was lying a dead body of a woman worker.

The police swines shouted to the engine crew to drive on over the dead body. But the driver and the fireman refused and stopped the train.

Eventually after half an hour, the police had to come and remove the body from the line.

The fireman got down from the train, gave the Red Salute to the martyr who had died in the cause of her class, and then alone started the train.

Shall Never Submit

The moment police firing stopped, the mass of the workers, about 2,500 of them marched in a procession to the office of the Red Flag Union. At the head of the procession were two women workers and the Union organiser.

By the time this procession reached the Union office, their way was blocked by a well-armed police force headed by the District Magistrate, the Collector, the District Superintendent of Police and the Circle Inspector.

The gang was ready with tear gas to disperse the crowd. A batch of armed police wanted to enter the office of the Union.

But about 20 workers barred their entrance to the office and told the police vandals: "You can go in only over our dead bodies."

PEOPLES AGE

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A Group of Coimbatore Workers Giving the Red Salute

Unnerved by the workers' resistance, the police retreated.

The District Collector asked the workers to disperse and threatened them with firing if they did not disperse.

A woman worker rushed to the head of the procession and joined her comfaced the police and told the rades in facing the police and District Collector:

"Shoot, shoot, if you dare; you have already shot enough.

The Collector started talking (Continued on Page 11)

drink more of the workers' blood. But the Red Flag Union will never submit to you alive."

Immediately another woman worker with a bullet wound

limped up to the head of the procession and joined her com-

faced the police and told the rades in facing the police and District Collector:

"Shoot, shoot, if you dare; you have already shot enough.

The Collector started talking (Continued on Page 11)

OWNERS PLANNED MURDER

Background To The Coimbatore Firing

The management of Stanes Mill, Coimbatore Town (where 3,500 workers are employed, all of them belonging to the Red Flag Union) locked out the mill on September 11, on the plea of "clashes within the mill."

WHAT had happened was that to the Congress Union also, some picked goondas into the between Congress and Communist mill, and these goondas began beat workers in resistance to the milling up, and terrorising the workers. owners' offensive, the owners decided to throw all their weight in the themselves, the mill-owners promptly final effort to crush the Red Flag Union which is leading the movement

It was part of an all-in conspiracy of the Coimbatore mill-owners to were the beginning of this. The Red Flag Union made repeat approaches to the local authorities and to the Congress Ministry to get the lockout in Stanes Mill ended.

They put forward before the Conciliation Officer the most reasonable terms of settlement: namely, that recruitment to the mill be made at the mill gates with preference for existing mill hands.

Exposed Corruption

The Red Flag Union has exposed and brought to light the shameless blackmarketing activities of the Coimbatore mill-owners and forced the Congress Ministry to launch charges against the owners. The Lotus Mill's case, which is going on now, is the most recent example of this.

The Red Flag Union also has been successful to some extent in mobilizing the unity of all textile workers of Coimbatore District, Congress and Communist, for strike action for the workers' pressing demands.

These demands were (besides an interim increase in wages of Rs. 15 for workers and Rs. 20 for clerks, on which the Ministry has appointed an Adjudication): six months bonus, stoppage of victimisation and lock-outs, and joint Production Committees inside the mills to check blackmarketing.

In the recent strike-ballot taken by the Red Flag Union on these demands, over 16,000 workers had voted for strike and less than 60 against strike.

The mill-owners' offensive against the Red Flag Union was their revenge for this.

It was their plan to crush not only the Red Flag Union but all militant trade unions.

During the last four months the mill-owners' offensive spread to Congress unions in Singanallur also, where the Congress Union has a great deal of influence. There have been lockouts in seven mills in Singanallur in addition to four lockouts in Stanes Mill (Coimbatore Town). Seventy seven workers have been victimised by mill-owners during this period.

They include not only Red Flag Union workers, but those belonging to the Labour Commissioner, that no change in the status quo in the mill would be made without consulting the democratically-elected Mill Committee.

When 3,500 workers of Stanes Mill refused to accept the owner's dictation, he threw them out on the streets and attempted to run the mill with hired blacklegs.

From November 1 to 10, this continued day after day, the mill being run with about 150 imported blacklegs and goondas. These blacklegs were being taken every day from outlying villages in lorries, belonging to different mill-owners of Coimbatore and Singanallur, under police escort.

On November 11, the workers unable to tolerate the situation any longer after 64 days of starvation, decided to resort to peaceful picketing at the millgates. The owners jumped at this opportunity and launched their butchery.

BIHAR FIGHTS RIOTS

Congressmen, Communists Defy Death To Save Their Brothers

Bihar has been through hell. But out of that hell, from village after village have come stories of the heroism of stalwart warriors of freedom—who threw their whole might into the battle against the madness of communal frenzy.

They risked their own lives to save their brothers who were threatened with death. But they saved more than the lives of their brothers. These heroes saved Indian patriotism itself, they showed to the world that:

They lie, who say we are all turned to beasts, that we are irreconcilably divided.

India lives, her battle against Imperialism shall not be directed into civil war, as long as men like heroes of Bihar live.

ON November 1, two separate conflagrations started at two different ends of south Monghyr District; at Barahiya in the north-west and at Tarapur in the south-east. Two passenger-trains were held up by a mob at Barahiya Station and certain passengers were stabbed.

A riotous gang soon came into being which actually ravaged a few villages, but their depredations were stopped soon, partly due to the activities of local Congressmen and partly due to the vigilance of Lakhnai Singh, Secretary, Monghyr District Kisan Sabha.

A local zamindar began to incite his villagers to form a mob and raid the nearby villages. One day he actually gathered a large number of people round him. But, then Lakhnai came to the spot and exposed the game of the British imperialists and their agents, the zamindars, in fomenting the riots.

The kisans were convinced and returned to their homes. The zamindar too had to give up his plans and was compelled to sit quietly at home.

From the next day, Lakhnai started to work for the defence of his area. He formed police squads of Red flag militants, who moved from village to village, exhorting the people to quench the fire of communal frenzy, as and when it was ignited.

One day, one of the squads had to face a mob which burnt and pillaged a house in Bahaura and was now looting houses in village Nijay. The squad stopped the mob from doing further mischief and thus saved Nijay from being destroyed.

Heroic Congressmen

Thus while the flare-up from the Barahiya end was soon brought under control, that from the Tarapur end spread like wildfire and engulfed the eastern part of south Monghyr and the adjoining western part of Patna Bhagalpur District.

In this area, Communist influence is very weak and during the elections, the Communist candidate Karyanand Sharma polled only 200 votes from the three thanas of this belt as against over 16,000 polled by the Congress candidate Babu Srikrishna Sinha, the Bihar Premier.

A number of Congressmen made heroic efforts to fight the conflagration. Sjt. Benarsi Prasad Singh, till recently Manager of Rashtravani (Premier Srikrishna Sinha's Hindi daily), gathered together a band of brave Rajputs and defended Garho (Kharagpur Thana) and some adjoining villages for two days.

They heroically repulsed successive waves of marauders. This made such an impression upon the minority community that they chose not to evacuate the area and are still safe there.

Another Congress leader Ramlalwan Mehta came out fearlessly in defence of his locality. The mob threatened to kill him and pointed a spear at his chest, but he refused to be cowed down.

Singh returned. He called the villagers together, told them what a wrong had been committed and with them went out and brought back Mohammad Ali and his family and other refugees.

and Hindus were left in another.

One day both Hindus and Muslims came out armed with deadly weapons and a clash seemed imminent.

Just when one of the mobs was preparing to attack, the local Communist leader Bhola dashed from the Communist Party office and stood before the mob. Agent-provocateur incited the mob against Bhola and several spears were actually pointed against him.

But Bhola stood firm and declared that he was not afraid of death. He told the crowd that it could march to the area of the other community only over his dead body.

The crowd now wavered, and a few people began to support Bhola. Seeing their game being foiled, the provocateurs spread the lie that Bhola's own whole area and kept the kisans' village, a mile away, had been attacked and his brother killed.

Bhola heard the news quietly and calmly, and said he would go to his village later, but just then he would not allow the loss of a single life. Ultimately he won and the crowd dispersed.

Village Defence Committees were formed, joint patrolling was done and no incident took place.

● In Arwal Thana of the same District, which lies only a few miles away from the tragic centre of Taregnā (Masaunhi), Keshari Sharai, beloved hero of August 42 who came over to Communism while in jail, started his work with eight villages, which were strongly behind the Kisan Sabha.

● Billouri is a Red village nearly three miles to the west of Lakhiserai. Its Communist leader, Chandra Deo was out kisan boys volunteered to move in Calcutta working in a jute mill. Other workers of this area,

(Continued on Page 4)



BHOLA
"Over My Dead Body."

He not only successfully defended his village, Naogarh, but actually turned it into a relief camp to which refugees from the adjoining villages were brought and where they are being kept.

Guno Singh & Mohd. Ali

Turkasingarpur village was attacked by a mob. Some of its houses were set on fire. There are two Red flaggers in the village: Sheikh Mohammad Ali and Guno Singh.

The latter was not in the village at the time of the pillage. Mohammad Ali fought back as best as he could, and for some time refused to leave the village, though he was persuaded to do so.

Finally the mob attacked him and he was forced to escape from the village with his family. In the meanwhile, Guno Muslims collected in one area

Now Guno Singh and Mohammad Ali together guard the village with a band of young men and are carrying on an extensive campaign for the return of all looted property.

Bhola Of Lakhiserai

Lakhiserai is a town which is one of the centres of this belt in which Communist influence is weak. Taking advantage of the prevailing tension, the

goonda gang got active and set fire to two or three houses and murdered a few passers-by.

Village defence committees were formed, village patrolling fixed up and then two hundred

in Calcutta working in a jute mill. Other workers of this area,

For instance, in Gaya, arms were supplied by a big zamindar and a Hindu Sabhaite leader and a well-known Mahant.

A zamindar of Pandul Gaya, named Sachoo Singh, has been actually arrested by the police for organising people for rioting.

A warrant of arrest is reported to have been issued against the Mahant of Loghar for the same reason.

The game of the zamindars was very simple.

They knew that the Provincial Ministry had accepted the decision to abolish the zamindari system. They also knew that they had ruined the kisans of Bihar, and that unlike the previous years, the kisans are not ready this time to die of hunger and disease.

Face The Murderers

This is why the zamindars set the Bihar countryside on fire. By this one trick these blood thirsty zamindars have become leaders of the kisans.

Those who had to don Gandhi caps to hide their sins, have now come in the open as the protectors of Hinduism; and some kisans, mad with the poison of communalism, have started following them.

In the zamindars' conference also, held in Patna under the chairmanship of the Maharajah-dhiraj of Darbhanga, some zamindars had suggested that in order to retain their feudal stranglehold they should make the kisans and Khet-mazdeors (village landless labourers) fight among themselves.

They are trying to carry out that policy today. But Bihar's people, Bihar's kisans and workers, will not be led away by this trick. They will demand of the Congress Ministry in one voice:

PUNISH THE DEVILS WHO ARE DROWNING BIHAR IN BLOOD!

HINDU AND MUSLIM KISANS WILL HELP THE MINISTRY IN THIS TASK AND WILL UNITEDLY FACE THE MURDERER-ZAMINDARS!

PUNISH THE DEVILS!

Bihar's Zamindars—The Gang Which Lit The Fire

In 1934, Bihar was shaken by an earthquake which took thousands of lives, devastated the whole of the Province. But this earthquake of 1946, this communal carnage has dug up the roots of the social, moral and political life of Bihar.

Relations which stood the test of time and history were blown to bits in the twinkling of an eye, and brothers turned into murderers.

You have just to look at the riot-stricken faces. Such terror, such fear, such lack of confidence could never be seen before.

Who put this look of fear into our children's faces?

MANY examples of how officials let the fire spread have already been published in People's Age. I have come across some more facts since then.

Some days ago trouble started in one of the districts, and the people sought help from the Superintendent of Police. This White officer refused bluntly and said: "What is the use of sending police now. The situation is still not dangerous".

This fact has been brought to the notice of Pandit Nehru.

"You Want Us To Quit"

* News has been received that only two miles away from a village where 150 persons were killed, a military unit was stationed. On getting information of the impending attack on the village, a Magistrate of this area and a Forward Bloc leader approached the unit commander for help. But this gentleman refused to stir out of the station during the night. When reminded of the Premier's instructions that the military officials should at once give help whenever necessity arose, the insolent commander replied:

"Get away I care a damn for your Ministry".

And the next day when he was informed of the big massacre that resulted from his refusal to send help, he taunted the Indian Police Superintendent:

"And you want us to quit in 6 months!"

* When riots broke out in Jamalpur, some clerks approached a British officer of the railway workshop and asked him to close the workshop for the present. The officer replied:

"I shall do nothing. You think I have forgotten 1942?"

The officials were the ones who allowed the riots to spread. Who fostered them directly?

It has been proved about Chapra that the biggest part in spreading riots there has been played by the profiteers and blackmarketeers.

Reports received from other districts also prove that almost at every place the blackmarketeers and the zamindars took the lead in this slaughter.

* In Masaunhi (Patna district) where one thousand lives were lost, the local rice and flour mill proprietors organised the rioters. It is said the mill sirens were used for collecting and dispersing the rioters.

It may be remembered that these are the biggest food thieves in Bihar. The people of this area and even the children of the peasants hate the mill owners. And today these very people have become leaders of the kisans by spreading the communal fire.

Riot Conferences

* It is reported that the President of the Gaya Congress Committee, Shri Satrughnasaran Sinha, has informed some members of the Ministry that the riots in Gaya were the creation of the zamindars.

The zamindars held conferences a few days prior to the actual breaking out of the riots and it is surmised that preparations for rioting were made in those very conferences.

In Jehanabad, the zamindars held their conference on October 8. The riots began from the very next day, bursting out into mass slaughter from the very start.

In Nawada the zamindars' conference took place on November 1. Riot started from the 2nd.

In Aurangabad, the zamindars' conference took place on November 5. Complete preparations for rioting had been made on the 6th. But by then the leaders and the military reached the place and the situation could not take a bad turn.

Shri Satrughnasaran Sinha is reported to have told the authorities from the very beginning that these conferences of the zamindars should be stopped, but they did not pay any heed to this.

Zamindars Hand Out Arms

* News from many other areas says that the zamindars themselves distributed arms to the goondas.

BEHIND BENGAL'S COALITION TALKS

Bargaining, Haggling, Factional Power-Politics

The negotiations for a Coalition Government between Gandhiji and Premier Suhrawardy have been continuing for sometime.

Bengal's people—both Hindus and Muslims—are anxious to know the reasons why the negotiations have failed, why nothing has come of their one most important demand for a Coalition Government pledged to a democratic programme of uniting the people and ending the riots.

Here is the answer:

It seems that when Mr. Suhrawardy first met Gandhiji, he said he himself was anxious for a Coalition, but had to abide by the decision of the League High Command.

Gandhiji, of course, replied by saying that he himself could only speak on his own behalf, and the final decision would remain with the Congress and League leaderships.

On this assurance, the talks turned to portfolios.

Portfolios

Mr. Suhrawardy insisted on the retention of the Home portfolio. But Bengal Congressmen argued that because of Calcutta and Noakhali, Home should go to the Congress, "to restore confidence."

Suhrawardy replied that by this logic, the Home portfolio in Bihar and Bombay and at the Centre, should go to the League "to restore confidence", which had been shaken by the "incompetence" of the Congress Handling of riots!

Besides, said Suhrawardy, there is "joint responsibility"—so why worry about the Home portfolio!

Instead he offered the Civil Supplies Department to the Congress. But this the Congress leaders hesitated to accept.

They are reported to have quite brazenly told certain friends that if Congress held the Food Departments both at the Centre and in Bengal, then on Congress will fall all the difficult responsibility of feeding Bengal—and this was just too much.



Suhrawardy, Bengal Premier

They were anxious for power, but they did not appreciate the prospect of accepting responsibility with it!

This was the amazing deadlock which the negotiations had reached, when the four Interim Government members and Wavell arrived in Calcutta.

Riot-Coalitions!

The great 'peace-maker' Wavell is reported to have let it be known to Congressmen that he used all his "influence" with Mr. Jinnah to "persuade" him to agree to a Coalition in Bengal. Mr. Jinnah in reply urged a Coalition in every Province.

Wavell is then said to have stated that "perhaps" Congress would not agree to this. Why not instead have the "excellent formula":

"Wherever the riot spreads, there have a Coalition."

But fortunately for our Marwari friends, Sjt. Sarat Chandra Bose was came out and declared:

"This hartal will be a crime. It will spread fratricidal strife, it will set all Bengal ablaze."

As soon as Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel arrived in Calcutta, things began to move.

It is reported that the first thing that Pandit Nehru did on his arrival was to speak to Gandhiji about the proposed hartal and demand that it be called off immediately. If there could have possibly been any doubts, earlier about the terrible consequences of retaliation, Bihar had put an end to them finally.

Panditji refused to allow the hartal preparations to proceed further.

Counting Chickens

The consequences of the hartal were not important. What was needed was pressure—pressure on the League for a Coalition, pressure on Gandhiji and the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee against any Coalition minus Sjt. Bose.

By putting his seal of approval to the proposed hartal, Sjt. Bose leapt at once back into the limelight. He took the focus of attention away from the Coalition talks to himself and what was now his hartal.

The hartal-sponsors chirped with delight. Their plans would now succeed. They were a formidable lot when lumped together.

They were counting their chickens a little too soon.

Gandhiji immediately sent an important emissary to Dr. Shyamprasad Mukherjee and asked him to slip out of the hartal project. Gandhiji himself advised Birlas and other Marwaris to keep out. The Chambers of Commerce were thus prevented from supporting the hartal, officially, though of course, individual magnates came in on the stump on their own.

Nothing shows up better the terrible and vicious consequences of the power politics of today than this reported advice of Sardar Patel.

What was wanted at a moment like that was a clear-cut declaration by the Congress, pointing out the fatal nature of the proposed hartal, exposing the stuffed business kings who stood behind it and calling on the common people—both Hindus and Muslims—not to

There could not have been a better way of saying: "read the riot and you can have our Coalition!"

Doubt-faced P

Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan came to Bengal ostensibly to end the riot situation and a repetition of the terror of Noakhali.

But it seems he did little to further the talks for a Coalition. Instead, according to certain Bengal Leaguers, Mr. Liaqat Ali told them in private:

"We have come here not to intervene in Bengal matters, but to see that the Centre does not unduly intervene in Bengal matters. And in Bihar, we shall see how the Congress Ministry tackles the riots."

Mr. Liaqat Ali is, in fact, said to have told his lieutenants in Bengal that no Coalition was possible till Congress agreed to Coalitions in all other Provinces.

If this report on which is based the present policy of the Bengal League, is correct, one can only say that it is a disgraceful situation altogether.

In public, the League leadership pledges itself to do all to end fratricide, talks sweetly of cooperation with the Congress. In private, there is nothing but the dirtiest type of power politics, which ignores the fate of thousands of victims of hate—both Hindu and Muslim.

Sahibs On Top

In this dreadful situation, Gandhiji proposed to Mr. Suhrawardy that both parties should at least concentrate on the formation of a Central Peace Committee, as a sort of cover for their failure in forming a Coalition.

Bengal Congressmen rightly insisted that such a Committee should have mandatory powers, but the I.C.S. bureaucrats at Writers' Building refused to allow their "power" to slip out of their hands.

These smug and complacent gentlemen, who sit on top of

Bengal today, while the common people are thrown at each other's throats, are quite prepared to have weak, "advisory" powerless Peace Committees—any number of them.

But a Committee which has the power to end riots—oh no! The British Plan is not meant to liquidate British capacity to foment riots!

Dirt In The League

Inside the Bengal League itself, powerful forces are coming to the fore and fighting against a Coalition.

The entire reactionary group of Mr. Nazimuddin, the old toady landlord group which had been steadily losing influence among the League masses, has shot back into the forefront, as the worst champion-communists inevitably do in an atmosphere of strife.

The Nazimuddin gang fears that a Coalition would mean an end to the present situation when with Muslim communism on top, they and other toadies like them are staging a rapid come-back into League politics.

Mr. Nazimuddin is reported to have felt very deeply his exclusion from the League list of Interim Government members, and is determined, by every means in his power, to prevent his political sun from setting.

Clean It Out

This is Bengali "politics" today—muck and filth—with the worst elements exploiting the situation and striving to come into power on the mountain of corpses which their selfish opportunist power-politics is building.

The common people of Bengal—both Hindus and Muslims—must catch hold of their leaders and ask them:

Stop your bargaining, your haggling, your factionalism. Bengal has begun to stink. Clean out the mess or we shall clean it out ourselves and with it, the whole lot of you too.



HILL TRIBES OF JEYPORE

By L. N. Sabu.

Available from the author at Jeypore, Koraput District (Orissa).

Price Rs. 12.5.

THIS 200-page book throws an interesting light on the life and conditions of the various hill tribes who comprise nearly half the population of Jeypore in Orissa. The main portion of the book contains a detailed study of the social customs of the tribal people. A collection of folk songs and fables, it gives the reader an insight into their living conditions and their mental makeup.

One of the concluding chapters contains a survey of the economic conditions of the Jeypore hill tribes. Rich in the precious minerals like manganese, iron, graphite and limestone, the people of these "Partially Excluded Areas" live a most backward and miserable life, "at the lowest ladder of human development."

As against 12 per cent in the rest of India, only one and a half per cent of the population here are literate. The per capita income too is only rupees twenty-three per year or one anna per day, the income of the majority of the population being even much less, for a major portion of the produce is grabbed by a handful on the top.

The advent of the British rule in India had its full repercussions even on these extremely remote people when after the introduction of the Permanent Settlement in Orissa, two new elements, the big landlords and the money-lenders were forced into their life. The ownership of the land was given to a new class of inamdaras. A continuous process of transfer of land from the hill tribes to the money-lenders and landlords was thus initiated, and today the tribal people have been reduced to mere landless labourers "serving for others on fields which belonged to them."

Though dedicated to the Mahraja of Jeypore Estate, the book shows in clear terms to what utter ruin and degradation the present administration of the Governor and his lieutenants has brought the tribal people.

The Partially Excluded Areas Committee of Orissa, appointed by the first Congress Ministry, in their report observed:

"Drink, disease, malnutrition and debt are at work to handicap their (the tribal people's) development. There is already a large number of landless labourers among them. The holdings are small and the food production is insufficient... What little they grow and earn goes into the pockets of the middle-men and money-lenders. If adequate protection is not given to them and beneficial schemes to help them are not put into action early, the aborigines will sink lower and become a drag on the society."

S. B.

Books Received

REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND. By A. E. C. Hare. Published for the Victoria University College by J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., London. Price Rs. 12.5.

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A PATRIOT'S NOTEBOOK

Money-Bags Call Strike

THOSE were anxious moments for Bengal and indeed for the whole of India, when certain persons announced a ten-day hartal in Calcutta to start from November 4, to protest against Noakhali."

It did not need any deep thinking to realise that such a hartal would mean that every town and rural area in Bengal would become new Noakhali's, that the whole Province would be plunged by this action into an ocean of blood.

The hartal was eventually called off.

But it is important to know who was behind this criminal move and why.

For if we know the sponsors of this dastardly move and the reasons which prompted them to it, we know our enemies—the riot-makers—and we can equip ourselves better to fight them out of our political life.

I have received a detailed report from Bengal, based on the most reliable information secured from Congress office-bearers and leaders, nationalist newspapermen and other sources, who know the entire background to the November 4 hartal.

The "brilliant" idea, I understand, was cooked up by Calcutta's Big Business chiefs. Among those who supported the hartal at the very start were the ace-Marwari magnates, Ramnath Goenka, Mulchand Agarwal and Birla's lieutenants Kanoria and Prabhudayal Minnatsinghs.

Dr. Shyamprasad Mukherjee, of course, backed the proposal.

Leap Into Limelight

The hitch was that it was difficult to find a leading Congressman who would agree to sponsor the whole proposal without consulting the working Committee, especially in view of the Congress leaders' instructions banning all forms of ratification.

They were counting their chickens a little too soon.

Gandhiji immediately sent an important embassy to Dr. Shyamprasad Mukherjee and asked him to slip out of the hartal project. Gandhiji himself advised Birlas and other Marwaris to keep out. The Chambers of Commerce were thus prevented from supporting the hartal, officially, though of course, individual magnates came in on the stump on their own.

Nothing shows up better the terrible and vicious consequences of the power politics of today than this reported advice of Sardar Patel.

What was wanted at a moment like that was a clear-cut declaration by the Congress, pointing out the fatal nature of the proposed hartal, exposing the stuffed business kings who stood behind it and calling on the common people—both Hindus and Muslims—not to

be led astray by the vested interests, who are seeking to scotch the new workers' and peasants' revolutionary wave by splitting it and turning it against itself by switching on the communal poison, full done.

Nothing of the sort was done. Instead all that happened was that Sarat Babu was made to issue a weak-kneed statement calling off the hartal for the moment.

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• League Runs Away With Bihar Riots • Congress Leaders In A Dilemma

If Noakhali was a living condemnation of anti-Hindu League politics, the Bihar burst-up exposed the weakness of Congress nationalism; one would have thought that the two together would have led to honest heart searching both among Congressmen and Leaguers. But nothing of the sort is happening.

THE League Press and the League leaders are exploiting the Bihar riots to run Bihar Relief Campaign in such an atrocity campaign against a manner us to strengthen the Hindus, and justify their mentality of retaliation, and own case against the Congress to provoke the cry of "blood and keep the pot of hatred for blood."

Inside Bengal, the reactionary paign is being run as a Bihar Right-wing Leaguers are on the atrocity campaign, the easiest offensive, charging Subhrawardy way to League victory and hide with weakness in letting the all the sins of a corrupt Mini-Hindu Press exaggerate Noakhali, where nothing much had happened, but which provoked landlords.

Our readers in Hindu majority areas have only to recall the Mahatma not to meddle memory of the "Noakhali Day" in Sind, the election cam-

a campaign, instead of writing brations in the Muslim North-off Noakhali, can only produce West—another round of brutish more Noakhalis in the Muslim slaughtering and cowardly stab-

majority East and North Ben-

Hindu majority West Bengal.

In Assam, the emigrant problem is being fully exploited. Heards of landless Bengali Muslims are migrating to "Pakistanise" Assam, and the Congress Ministry is out to resist illegal emigration. The situation is fast drifting from deadlock towards a flare-up.

Power Politics

Unfortunate Bihar instead of being saved is being victimised. Instead of joint peace or a joint relief campaign, it has become a pawn in power-politics.

The Ministry is paralysed and thrown back to self-justification. The local Muslims are being flooded with outside delegations, who only come to carry back tales for their atrocity campaign and give such futile advice which only isolates the Bihar Muslims still further from their Hindu brothers, and makes the restoration of confidence and normal life impossible.

The tension in U.P. towns, large numbers of which have evenly-balanced Hindu and Muslim populations, has reached such a point that it has begun to unnerve even stolid Premier Pant.

The Gahmukteswar riot must have carried communal infection and panic to the villages of two whole divisions, Meerut and Rohilkhand, from where peasants and merchants generally come to the famous fair. It led straight to the Meerut riot, the very venue of the Congress Session.

"The gruesome scenes that I saw there have left an inefaceable impression, which will ever continue to remind me of the unfathomable depths to which a man can sink." (Premier Pant).

Delhi, the seat of the Interim Government, had its blood-bath soon after Meerut and we recommend our Correspondents story to our readers (page 4).

The League Press

From Delhi, the leading League daily Dawn is conducting an unbelievably partisan and foul campaign of provocation, calling upon the Muslim majority Provinces of the North West not to shed crocodile tears of sympathy for the Bihar victims, and "accusing" them for doing nothing!

The cue has been taken up by the influential and widespread Urdu Press, which has begun asking whether water or blood flows through the veins of the Muslims of the majority areas!

And no such calls are needed, either.

had to be explained away in Noakhali, not only the League representatives in the Interim Government in their joint statement with Congress representatives, but also Mr. Jinnah came out with a statement that riots advance the cause of no party; but when it became Muslim blood in Bihar, the opportunity is being fully exploited to make the case for Pakistan, not only in the League Press, but by Mr. Jinnah himself in his interview with the foreign Press.

If the Congress does not agree to division of India, "what happens is what you see, you have been witnessing what is happening." In other words, riots and more riots.

What could be a more bankrupt statement for any political leader than such bald justification of mutual killing, sitting back and calling it inevitable!

The League leaders, however, are living in a fool's paradise when they think that the Bihar riots are their God-sent opportunity. It is not so easy to escape their own crimes, however.

Gandhiji is sticking to Noakhali and sealing things for himself. Abducted Hindu women

by P. C. Joshi

It is not the common Muslim are not being restored, nor han-

at the bottom, but the very dubious made for the safe return

biggest of the League leaders of refugees to their homes.

It appears that Gandhiji has

even fifteen days to the League

Ministry to do the needful. And

Premier Subhrawardy has rushed

by air to Noakhali. If pro-

gressive Leaguers do not act

fast, they will be facing Gan-

dhi's fast and a rapid worsen-

ing of the situation, not only in

Bengal but throughout India.

There is greater awareness than ever before among the non-

communal, progressive-minded

Congressmen that purely com-

munal anti-national elements

like the Hindu Mahasabha and

R.S.S. exploit the Congress name

and banner during the riots.

This is evident from Shah Na-

waz's letter to Mr. Jinnah,

which he wrote after his Garh-

mukteswar experience and

asked for joint Congress and

League Contact Committees in

all high tension areas.

After the model of the earlier

Interim Government Members'

appeal, there have been joint

appeals for peace from Con-

gress Premiers and the Provinc-

al leaders of the League in

C.P. Madras and, after the riots,

in Delhi.

There is yet opposition

in dominant Congress quar-

ters to plan and go all-out for

a joint peace or a joint relief

campaign: it cuts across their

own political game of keeping

up pressure against the Lea-

gue.

Inside the Council of State, there

was the farcical sight of Sardar

Mashar and Rajen Babu contradicting

each other over the riots. And there

was Mr. Jinnah holding forth before

foreign correspondents that Pandit

Nehru was not the Premier, nor was

there any Cabinet or Coalition, and

"It was the Executive Council of the

Governor-General, formed under the

Government of India Act of 1935."

Shame And Hell For People

Inside the Interim Government,

Congress and League differing, and

Lord Wavell emerging as the real

head and umpire of the Government.

Inside the Constitution-making Body,

Congress and League deadlocked and

the British emerging as arbitrators.

Outside in the country, Hindu and

Muslim masses hurled at each other

and the police and military emerging

as peace-keepers!

Towards such shame for our coun-

try and hell for our people, do the

preset policies of the Congress and

League inevitably lead.

That we are being led up to a blind

alley, this consciousness is also grow-

ing among less biased Congressmen

and Leaguers, and expresses itself in

their ready response to a joint anti-

riot, anti-British campaign, wherever

a determined Communist band seeks

to build local unity against the riot-

monsters, an our newspapers show.

When it was the guilt of

shedding Hindu blood which

constitutes the first rays of

hope.

Editorial

WAVELL PROVOKES

CLOSE upon Pandit Nehru's visit to the Frontier, Lord Wavell went there flying. How was it necessary? What did he do? Pandit Nehru had gone to establish friendly contacts with our Pathan neighbours but he faced pre-arranged ugly scenes, heard pre-determined shanders.

It is an open secret in New Delhi that Pandit Nehru came back only more determined to reorientate Frontier policy and took in hand propositions for a conference of real representatives of the Pathan tribesmen, to lay the basis for friendly and fraternal relationship with our proud neighbours.

The Frontier Governor, who did not want Pandit Nehru to come to the Frontier at all, is against all this.

The common tribesman is asking why Pandit Nehru came through the British officials, and that too, to meet the British stooges, the so-called Maliks of the tribes, when their real anti-British leaders have expressed their willingness to attend a friendly Conference.

Big Stakes For The British Imperialists

The British Viceroy rushed to the rescue of the British Governor to check such developments and to strengthen the British stooges in the tribal areas.

The stakes are big for the British. It is through their policy of divide and rule that they have kept Pathan divided from Pathan, reduced Afghanistan to the status of almost a vassal state, only to keep Pathan land as their safe military base against the Soviet. Pandit Nehru's dream of establishing friendly relations not only with the Pathans but still further with the Soviets clearly cuts across this.

And lest the tribesmen begin to think that the British were really quitting India, that Indians had come into their own and Nehru spoke for India, the Viceroy rushed to the scene to re-assure all the old British agents and tell them what to do.

He held the usual Durbar, and his words were as crudely directed against Indian independence as were the deeds of his officials, who had planned out the abuses and the stones hurled at Pandit Nehru.

His Excellency began with: "Your freedom is your most proud possession... guaranteed to you under a treaty your ancestors made with the British Government."

And we all knew it is such freedom that British garrisons are studded all over the tribal area and it needs regular air-bombing of Pathan villages!

Then came the real words: "There is no intention of handing it over to any political party", that they will get "due warning" and then they should be "prepared to negotiate terms of fresh agreement with the future Government of India."

On being questioned by the British Viceroy, the assembled "leaders" of "Independent" tribes dutifully said that he had expressed their own views! They had got the new words and course of action from their British master.

They emphasised that their treaties were with the British Government and they had "no desire to negotiate with the Indian Government." Their reason is noteworthy: "unless and until Hindu-Muslim differences had been amicably settled."

Same Old Way, Same Old Threat, Same Old Trick

Now next, just the way the Viceroy justifies his veto, just the threat his puppets, the Princes, use not to enter the Indian Union and keep an independent and separate relationship with the British instead, just the trick on which the British Cabinet Mission has built its entire plan of keeping India safe for the British in the new period.

And if any Muslim friend thinks that the Maliks have all gone genuine League supporters, let him remember that in the same Durbars they openly asked "for a substantial increase in allowances" at the end. They are old henchmen of the British; in all earlier Durbars they talked of their undying loyalty to the British; now they talk in terms of Hindu-Muslim differences in India!

The persons are the same, so is the purpose; only the language has changed.

They also asked for the restoration of the Khyber Pass "in the event of the British leaving India." And the Viceroy stated that it was an "international highway"—a familiar word, with familiar associations. For how many years has a British garrison remained in Cairo, in the name of safeguarding the international water-way, the Suez?

They are so "independent", that the British officers can impose on them collective fines for the incidents during Nehru's visit, and they are so proud of their "independence" that they begged the British Viceroy for remission of the fines imposed.

And Lord Wavell is so just (to impress the Hindus!) that he refused, and so badly put up was the whole show that the last request of the Maliks was that the fine be "devoted for the amelioration of Muslim riot victims in India"—miserable wretches in a miserably put up show!

Let us get it all clear. If Pandit Nehru is planning to build friendly contact with the tribal Pathans, Lord Wavell is mobilising his Pathan stooges for a show-down.

We are being told:

FIRSTLY, that the British hand-picked Jirga is the Pathan Parliament. It is with the British pensioners that we have to negotiate as Pathan representatives.

SECONDLY, that if we fail, their treaty with the British remains, that is, the British remain safe with the garrisons, RAF units and military roads and we remain unsafe.

THIRDLY, that they will not even negotiate with any Indian Government unless Hindu-Muslim differences are amicably settled. How much is this with the British, who will not transfer power for the same reasons?

FOURTHLY, that Khyber is an international airway, which concerns not only us and the Pathans, but the British too, though their home is seven seas away!

Blow Up Illusions, Build The Spirit Of 1930

All this must burn to ashes the proud illusion that the British are ready to quit, and prove instead that they are planning to stay in India, that the British Viceroy instead of smoothing the path for transfer of power is acting as the arch-provocateur.

The stones hurled by British agents at Pandit Nehru during his Frontier visit were only a mild reminder that instead of throwing his weight about, he should listen to the British advisers at New Delhi, or worse will baffle.

The Viceroy's Frontier visit clearly indicates what it is going

DEVIL-RAJ CONTINUES IN TRAVANCORE

By C. Unniraja

Even today, when the strike has been formally called off the Travancore Terror continues.

ONLY a section of the workers is being admitted back to work. Only those who signed passes from the military commander are being allowed into the factories. The rest are treated as bad characters and kept out.

If you are caught without a pass in the streets, the military immediately arrest you and throw you into jail. No questions are asked.

No Rations

Apart from this, "suspects" and everybody seems to be a suspect, who took the slightest part in the organisation of the strike—are being deprived of their rations. Only those with the Tehsildar's permit can draw rice from the shops which have been reopened. And no "suspect" is given a permit.

The thousands of wounded are being refused medical aid, and even the State Congress which has made a decision to organise relief is being refused permission to help the wounded.

In the meanwhile, arrests of prominent workers continue.

• Ponkunnam Varkey, novelist and short story writer, was arrested on November 8. Varkey is not a Communist, nor is he an active political worker. His only fault is that he has written short stories depicting the people's misery in Travancore.

• It is said that warrants have been issued for the arrests of P. Kesava Dev, Thattai Sivasankara Pillai, K. Ramakrishna Pillai and Prof. Kuttipuzha Krishna Pillai.

The first two are well-known short story writers. Sir C. P. cannot even tolerate such writers. Ramakrishna Pillai is the author of some political dramas and an active leader of the State Congress.

Kuttipuzha Krishna Pillai is a rationalist writer and is a Professor in Alwaye Christian College.

• On November 1, a batch of Reserve Police stepped down at Kottayam town, which

WHEN the horror of Noakhali occurred, the League Press complained that the Congress press was indulging in gross exaggeration; and while condemning the atrocities committed there and dissociating itself from it, the League Press generally tried to explain it away. Thus the Dawn wrote on October 18:

"Disturbances in East Bengal and other areas are perhaps the natural aftermaths of the great Calcutta carnage which was of the Hindus making. Such disturbances, though regrettable, can be rationally explained also as sequels to repeated outrages in Hindu majority areas, where innocent Muslims have been victims, and the latest instance of which occurred in the Bihar village of Beniabad." (emphasis mine—SSZ).

Criminal Theory

This theory of riots in one place being the "natural aftermath" of riots in another, and "though regrettable, but can be rationally explained" was written and propounded just about a week before the general, large-scale Bihar disturbances broke out.

Now it is the turn of Mr. Srikrishna Sinha, the Bihar Premier, and the Congress Press generally, to say about Bihar what the League papers were saying about Noakhali—in the reverse order, namely, that Bihar though regrettable was the "natural aftermath" of Noakhali, that it could be "rationally explained", etc.

In reality, however, both the sides try to justify, explain away and minimise the crimes committed by their own community and exaggerate and play up the crimes of the other side: one's own side is always on the defensive or acting and Hindus under grave provocation—the other side is always aggressive, cold-

ers. Among those arrested was 60-year old Philipose, President of the local Kisan Sabha.

A big crowd gathered when the news of the arrests spread. The police threatened at the point of the bayonet that they would arrest anybody who dared to shout slogans.

It is said that warrants are pending against 40 people more.

• Warrants have also been issued for the arrest of Sreekantan Nair, and Janardana Kurup, two Congress Socialist workers. Kasim Sahib, State Congress worker of Changanacherry, was arrested on November 7 and taken to Trivandrum Central Jail.

COCHIN'S 'REFORMS'!

A N "Aid Travancore Jatha", organised by the All-Kerala Students' Federation set out from Calicut on a tour of the Province on November 9. After covering the southern talukas of Malabar, the Jatha reached Trichur on the 11th.

Immediately the State authorities announced a ban for fifteen days on all kinds of demonstrations, slogans etc. directed against Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer.

The students refused to be shaken by this pompous proclamation. They were hopeful that the popular ministers would be able to have this vicious ban cancelled.

Accordingly, November 11 saw a mighty procession and a meeting and a right-royal burning of the emblem of the autocratic Diwan of Travancore.

But the police did not appreciate this sort of demonstration—despite the installation of a "Popular Government" in Cochin.

They lathi-charged the crowd vigorously without the slightest warning, arrested eight persons and succeeded in sending a large number to hospital, with fairly serious injuries.

Immediately both at Trichur and at Ernakulam, students came out on martial, took out processions and held meetings protesting against the inhuman lathi-charge.

All Cochin has begun to ask: Is this the "Popular Government" of which all India has been talking?



Cochin's Reforms are a sham. The sooner the whole country realises it, the better.

Punnappa

THE miles south of Alleppey in Travancore is a place called Punnappa. Its name will have a permanent place in our national history.

People will remember it as a place which is hallowed by the blood of martyrs, a place where a battle for freedom was fought and WON.

Coming generations will march to Punnappa and say: "This was one of the first little outposts of autocracy, which the people CAPTURED".

Yes, CAPTURED... may be for only a very little while, but it was stormed and taken and held in our possession....

Yes, Punnappa was OURS... as some day all Travancore and all the States, the prison-houses of today, SHALL be ours.

A Magic Spring

It was October 24... Alleppey was like a magic spring, demonstrations were pouring out of its streets like a never-ending stream of water, bubbling, gurgling, hissing....

Martial Law? The workers snapped their fingers at it and threw out their sheets, challenging the military to shoot.

One mighty procession, ten-thousand strong, marched towards Punnappa.

The military had made Punnappa one of its centres for its terror-campaign. As the procession approached the military camp, the Captain in command of the soldiers sweetly invited the processionists to come nearer.

As soon as they advanced, the Captain ordered his men to open fire from every window of the building.

Bullet-Mail

The Captain thought he would see a full-scale retreat.

He had the shock of his life. The workers fell flat on their faces, and steadily in the hail of bullets, they advanced, crawling on their stomachs.

Three spears struck the treacherous Captain. And as he fell, a hand-to-hand battle began between the workers and the soldier-brutes.

Of course the military continued to shoot, coldly, deliberately at point-blank range. They shot on and on, till their ammunition was exhausted.

Then they charged with their bayonets. But the strong, bare hands of the workers beat them back.

The Herd Flees

The Captain was dead, others too were killed. The brutes could stand it no more. They threw away their rifles and ran...ran like frightened mice.

They, who swaggered about the State, killed where they chose, looted, burnt, raped... They were getting a bit of their own medicine.

Punnappa was ours...

Seven workers had been killed, several wounded... BUT... PUNNAPPA WAS OURS.



Vayala... Punnappa... This is the way to fight... this is the only way which can defeat autocracy. NOT the path of "negotiations" and sweet talk with the hated Diwans and Rulers.

Travancore calls out aloud to the leaders of the All-India States' People's Conference, to Pandit Nehru, to all the national leaders:

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT TRAVANCORE, ABOUT THE DEAD OF TRAVANCORE, ABOUT THE MURDERERS OF TRAVANCORE...?

Are you going to allow these men and others like them to sit side by side with you in the Constituent Assembly?

Or are you going to say: "TO HELL WITH THESE MASTER BUTCHERS"?

Are you going to stretch out your hands to the struggling peoples of the States and help them to victory over autocracy?

LEAGUE PRESS ON BIHAR

by
Sajjad Zaheer

blooded and all its actions pre-meditated, the result of deep-laid plans for the total annihilation of the other community.

Thus quite unmindful of its provocative consequences, while the Congress Press played up Noakhali, called for despatch of British troops there, the scrapping of the League Ministry, even aerial bombardment, and while Congressmen mingled their voices with Hindu Sabhakis who wanted "blood for blood" for the crime of Noakhali—it is now the turn of the League Press to do the same—completely forgetting all the criticism that it levelled against the Congress Press only a short while ago in regard to Noakhali.

How has the League Press treated the Bihar events?

First, reckless exaggeration.

What has happened in Bihar is undoubtedly one of the most ghastly massacres in our history—both in regard to the number of innocent persons killed and the brutal and fiendish manner of it. Nevertheless, some of the League papers think it necessary to magnify it still further.

Laying It Thick

Thus, the Zamindar (Lahore), in one of its editorials, says that "according to an estimate, the number of Muslims killed in Bihar is one lakh."

No responsible League leader of Bihar has made this estimate; nevertheless this fantastic figure is published, presumably to rouse the Muslims against the Congress leadership.

"Danger of total annihilation of Muslims in Bihar."

Second, bravado and threats. The Zamindar takes the lead here also. Thus in a full column headline it says:

"A handful of Muslims fought twenty to twenty-five thousand Hindus for six hours." (November 10). In the same paper a warning is given to the Congress that if atrocities against the Muslims are not stopped forthwith, then the League would declare war against them.

Other papers, echoing one of Mr. Jinnah's recent speeches, exhort the Muslims to become strong and powerful—this is the only argument which Hindus understand. They have been attacked in Bihar because they were weak. Let them remove their weakness.

This is the same age-old argument of all chauvinists: if you want peace, prepare for war. Translated in terms of Indian communalism, it means: if you want communal safety prepare for riots.

If you are well prepared, you can defeat the other community, even though you might be less in numbers.

Could one imagine a more diseased, a more jaundiced and a more bankrupt attitude of mind?

Third, an attempt to justify the political policy pursued by the League leadership.

Another Bombay Urdu daily (Qibla),

said that Noakhali was a sample of solved by the Governor-General of Pakistan. They abjectly enter the Viceroy's cries loudly that Bihar, U.P. and Executive Council, they accept the undemocratic Imperialist Plan of Hindustan and Hindu Raj. The only safety for Mussalmans lies in separation and Pakistan, and perhaps exchange of populations.

The case for a separate "Muslim State" is supposed to be conclusively proved. Therefore, those Muslims who have been the unfortunate victims of Hindu communal frenzy, are according to League papers, martyrs in the cause of Pakistan.

Divinity And Destiny

The Dawn puts forward this argument with characteristic frenzy:

"They who shed our brothers' blood on this Indian soil are planting with every drop of it the seed of Pakistan, the Land where Islam shall prevail... they are building with the slaughtered bodies of our martyrs the surest foundations for the Islamic State of our dreams. We indulge in no figure of speech. In this Great Human Tragedy, we see the Divine Way of our Destiny's fulfilment."

But even the invoking of Divinity and Destiny cannot hide one glaring fact—that those who talk of a sovereign independent Pakistan are running to British imperialists for protection and for the vindication of their rights.

They complain that not enough white troops have been sent to Bihar, the Morning News (Calcutta) demands that the democratically elected Bihar Ministry should be dis-

�ogether, Together

The destiny of Indian Muslims would be realised when they successfully forge common links with the oppressed Hindu masses for communal peace now—in spite of their own and the Hindu communal leaderships.

It will be realised when Muslim peasants participate in the joint struggle against landlordism for land. It will be realised when Muslim workers jointly fight the capitalists for a better life.

It will be realised when with their Hindu brethren they march forward for the revolutionary overthrow of the deadliest enemy of us all—British Imperialism.

BATTLE OVER TRUSTEESHIP AT U. N. O.

REVOLT INSIDE BRITISH LABOUR

COMMUNIST PROPOSAL FOR FRENCH GOVT.

BIGGEST issue at the United Nations Assembly last week was the discussion in the Trusteeship Committee of the Assembly.

Fifteen months ago when the United Nations Organisation was formally set up, it was agreed by all the nations that were signatories to the Charter that a Trusteeship Council should be set up as a part of UNO; this Council was to be responsible for supervising the administration by the various Trustee powers of the former mandated areas; for instance after the last war, Britain had been given by the League of Nations the mandates for Palestine, Tanganyika, etc; under the UNO, Britain would now be the Trustee for these countries working under the supervision of the Trusteeship Council.

At the time of the San Francisco Conference the Soviet Union had sharply criticised the proposals of the British and Americans and had forced them to agree that the clearly defined objective of the Trusteeship Council must be the rapid advance to self-government of all areas coming under the Trusteeship Council. Trustee powers were then asked to submit their proposals for the administration of the various mandated areas to the Trusteeship Committee of UNO after which the Trusteeship Council was to be formally set up.

Violating The Charter

In the year that has passed by, however, these proposals have either not been made at all, or for instance in the case of Palestine, or the proposals submitted have been in complete contradiction to the principles laid down at San Francisco.

Most blatant example of all was the case of South-West Africa. In this case the mandatory power, the Union of South Africa, far from putting forward proposals which would enable the people of this area speedily to achieve self-government, simply and crudely proposed that South-West Africa be incorporated in—annexed to—the Union of South Africa.

At UNO last week, however, this proposal met with bitter criticism from the delegates of all democratic countries, particularly India and the Soviet Union; the Indian delegate Sir Mahara Singh, opposed the proposal, indicting the South African Government for its policy of blatant racial discrimination, which resulted in \$900,000 being spent on the education of seventy lakh Africans while £7,000,300 was spent on the education of 22 lakh Europeans.

The Soviet delegate, M. Novikov, terming the South African request "a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter," opposed it as a proposal for annexation.

This firm opposition from India and the Soviet Union has already made certain that South Africa's proposal will be rejected; all the new democratic countries of Eastern Europe have opposed it, so also a number of states in Latin America. Even the United States, seeing the extent of the opposition, has quietly announced that it will not support Smuts.

Only Britain, for the sake of Empire solidarity (!) has unblushingly supported Smuts.

Line Of Division

On the general issue of setting up the Trusteeship Council, however, the battle still continues inside the sub-Committee set up to discuss the draft agreements. Here again the Soviet and India (whose entrance into that Committee was on the suggestion of the Soviet delegate on the ground that India was a nation "strong in supporting the Charter") are heading the opposition to imperialist attempts to use the Trusteeship system as a cover for continuing colonial exploitation.

In the forefront of the "colonial" imperialists, of course, are Britain and, today, the United States.

According to the Patrika Special Correspondent, the U.S. delegation is faced with a dilemma; if it supports the Trusteeship principle without condition, it cannot annex the Pacific Island bases that it today is coveting! So also in relation to the Indian complaint against South Africa, both Britain and the U.S. are trying to keep this question "out of the Assembly at a time when Anglo-American relations with Russia already are strained." (Hindu, November 14).

Thus the discussions over trusteeship in New York have already shown a clear line of division—between the imperialists of Britain and the U.S. striving to perpetuate and extend colonial exploitation and the democratic countries headed by India and the Soviet, demanding the sincere application of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Rebel Labour M.P.s

THE rising criticism inside Labour ranks of Bevin's foreign policy reached a new climax last week when over forty Labour M.P.s put down an amendment to the King's speech, demanding a change in foreign policy based on "greater collaboration with all nations and groups striving to secure full socialist planning."

Following the sharp criticism of Bevin's policy at the recent session of the Trades Union Congress, when 40 per cent voted against Bevin, the opposition to a foreign policy that commands the total approval of Winston Churchill has steadily grown; in fact, this opposition was considerably strengthened by Churchill's warm words of praise for Bevin's policy, when last week he refused "to blame the Government" and said that he was "in full agreement" with large parts of its policy.

The depth of the Labour revolt could be seen from the voting at the special meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, called to consider Herbert Morrison's resolution, censuring the "rebels."

The voting on this resolution was 126 votes in favour, 33 votes against, while as many as 129 members present

in the meeting abstained from voting; i.e., only a minority of those present actually voted for Mr. Morrison's "censure" motion.

It is, of course, unlikely that this "revolt" will lead to any immediate change in Britain's foreign policy.

But there is no doubt that it represents the steadily rising discontent in Labour ranks with Bevin's total subordination to the aggressively anti-Soviet policy of U.S. Imperialism; this discontent has increased particularly after the Republican victory in the U.S. elections and the growing refusal of the U.S. Government to participate in control of international trade, evidenced in the U.S. rejection of the British-sponsored plan for a World Food Board, to control food production and distribution.

And although it is unlikely that any major shift in Britain's foreign policy will take place now, there can be no doubt that the ranks of Bevin's opponents will grow stronger as the full effects of his pro-U.S. and anti-Soviet policy, tying British economy to the unstable chaos of U.S. economy, becomes plain for all to see.

Final Results

THE final results of the French elections have given the French Communists an even greater victory than originally appeared. The figures for all seats, except four (i.e. 615 seats) are as follows:

Communists	133
M.R.P.	103
Socialists	103
Radical Left	61
Rest	114

The Communists have proposed to the Socialists the formation of an undenominational

Front (NDF), which includes Communists, trade right of all colonial peoples to unionists, Kisan Sabha leaders and all progressives put up Mr. Lambert Saravane, elected last June to the Constituent Assembly by a majority of 64,858 to the colonial countries for this but was defeated by a combination of Right-wing parties led by the PRL and MRP.

The results of this election gave an equally overwhelming victory to Saravane. Here are the figures:

	Votes.
Saravane	79,339
Saverinathan	653
Callette Anandan	6
Fernande Marx	0

All the three other candidates lost their deposits, 20,000 francs each!

Saverinathan was the candidate and founder of the French Indian "National Congress" which is utilising the name of the Congress, though in fact it is linked to the blatantly imperialist party in France, the Republican Party of Liberty (PRL).

The voters in French India thus expressed their full confidence in Saravane and the NDF which also swept the polls in the municipal elections early this year.

By this they approved of Sa-

(i.e. lay, and therefore excluding the Catholic MRP) Government of Democratic Union based on close cooperation between the Socialists and Communists, and presided over by a Communist.

If our two parties are in agreement," the Communist proposal says, "it will be impossible for anybody to prevent the formation of a Government based on Socialist-Communist unity and including the Radicals but excluding the MRP, are com-

November 15

SWEEPING VICTORY FOR PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE

According to France's new constitution, the voters of French India went to polls on November 10 to elect a representative to the National Assembly.

THE National Democratic ravane's struggle in the Constituent Assembly to win the rights of all colonial peoples to elect their own Constituent Assembly and frame their own Constitution. Saravane brought together all the representatives of the colonial countries for this but was defeated by a combination of Right-wing parties led by the PRL and MRP.

He however, was able to compel even the reactionaries to agree to the local Assembly having the right to discuss and vote every item of the budget except the salary of the Governor and General Secretary.

NDF Policy Approved

The electors by their big vote for Saravane have also approved of the policy of the NDF. In organising in the past six months effective rationing and improving the conditions of the workers and peasants.

It is this solid work that blew up the efforts of Saverinathan and his friends, among them a number of nationalist papers in Madras who tried to rouse hostility by dubbing the NDF a Communist show; the people have shown that the NDF is the real people's party of French India.

The Socialists who had already stated in their paper *Le Populaire* that "it is in a faithful and confident collaboration of the Left-wing parties that the solution of the new Government must be found" have asked the Communists for further clarification, but it appears that the chances of a Government based on Socialist-Communist unity and including the Radicals but excluding the MRP, are considerable.

At his wit's end, the Havildar reported to the authorities that a mutiny was brewing. The Brigade Major rushed to the men and gave them a talk on discipline and the consequences of mutiny.

There was no cook now for the mess. The Havildar ordered the men to go back to the old communal messes. They refused and decided to share the work of cooking and cleaning.

At his wit's end, the Havildar reported to the authorities that a mutiny was brewing. The Brigade Major rushed to the men and gave them a talk on discipline and the consequences of mutiny.

But all their efforts were in vain. The 20 young men stood united before the officers and assured him their demand. They were determined to live together in a common mess, and they won.

The airmen were satisfied, but they are determined to put an end to this system of blind discipline, by resisting it on every occasion.

Cookhouse Kitchen

A N Eastern Command Press Note reveals the existence of a common kitchen for Hindus and Muslims in an Indian cavalry unit. This is, however, an exception. Usually the men themselves have to cook their own food.

We agree with Capt. Jaiji that "there is no officer, nor has there ever been one, of the name (Capt. Cromwell) in Nagpur." The name should have been Capt. Cromwell. We regret the printers' error.

As for the rest of the story, there is nothing to contradict. For Capt. Jaiji's information, the Gurkha Unit concerned, is stationed at Nagpur aerodrome, near Sonagpur.

(OUR FORCES CORRESPONDENT)

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BLOODBATH IN KOLAR

Miners Strike Against Brutal Firing

Ten thousand workers of Mysore and Champion Reef Mines of the Kolar Goldfields have struck work from November 11, demanding the release of their leaders and withdrawal of the police from the mining area.

THE situation in the Kolar Goldfields is very grave. Ban on meetings and processions, patrolling by the armed police, indiscriminate arrests and raids on the trade union offices—all these have made the normal functioning of the trade unions impossible.

The rigorous censorship and the blackout of news, imposed by the Mysore State Government, have prevented the public from knowing the facts about the firing at the Kolar Goldfields on November 4.

The White bosses of the mines, hand in glove with the State authorities, have been conspiring to crush the trade union movement ever since the successful 78 days strike battle for living wage last January.

Rowdies Encouraged

The mines' management and the reactionary State officials tried again. They encouraged some anti-union rowdy elements under the Scheduled Castes' Federation (SCF) to organise meetings and demonstrations, and attack Communist and trade union workers.

The SCF took out violent demonstrations and freely held meetings; the police never interfered. But the peaceful meetings and processions and other normal activities by the Labour Association were objected to by them. The police threatened to re-impose the ban.

This created a stir among the mass of the workers loyal to the Red flag.

In response to their request a mass meeting of the workers, numbering about 5,000, was held at the Mysore Labour Association office, on November 1, where Govindan, Secretary of the Mysore Mines and Labour Association, exposed the real game of the SCF stones from the crowd.

leaders as anti-working class. After the meeting was over, about 50 rowdies of the SCF attacked the Labour Association office and threw stones, as a result of which several volunteers were injured.

Cowardly Assault

On November 3, some goondas in order to create panic and provoke the workers, paraded the streets with dangerous weapons and attacked a peaceful meeting of workers.

About 50 of them attacked the Communist Party office and stabbed K. S. Vasan, Secretary of the Champion Reef Mines' Labour Union.

They went around shouting, throwing stones and attacking workers. The situation was surcharged, feelings ran very high. The same day in a clash between the SCF rowdies and other workers in a Muslim area, a Muslim unfortunately fell a victim and died on the spot. This added to the general tension.

To drown all, on November 4, interested people spread wild rumours that Govindan had been murdered. On hearing this news, thousands of workers of Mysore and Champion Reef mines downed their tools and came out.

The mining authorities did nothing to assure the workers that the rumour was baseless. The workers went out in a procession.

Immediately, the reserve police came to the scene and stopped the procession. After a few minutes, while Narsimhan Devadass and other labour leaders were persuading the workers to disperse, the reserve police fired on the workers point-blank under the pretext that they were being pelted by a few rowdy anti-union disruptors.

Murderous Firing

At the time of firing, neither the Magistrate nor the District Superintendent of Police were present on the spot. The order for firing was given by the Inspector of the Reserve Police Force.

Four workers died on the spot and 12 received serious injuries. Two workers succumbed to their injuries later.

The workers were shot on the forehead and chest, which makes it obvious that the police fired to kill rather than to disperse the crowd.

The firing was most brutal. The workers who took shelter in houses nearby were severely lathi-charged. Dead and wounded were dragged to the police van.

This deliberate firing has infuriated the workers and there is no possibility of any industrial peace in Kolar unless the leaders are released, reserve police is withdrawn and normal conditions are restored.

The authorities taking advantage of the situation have launched an attack on the trade union movement. So far they have arrested nearly 100 militants, including two women and students and have detained V. M. Govindan and K. S. Vasan, respected leaders of the miners, Communists, trade union workers, SCF members—all are under arrest.

Armed police pickets are patrolling the streets and the whole area has an appearance of being under a military seige.

False Communique

The State Government is dishonestly giving a communal colour to this firing incident. In their communique, they talk about a clash between the Communist and Scheduled Caste workers, whereas the fact is that it was a fight between the mass of the workers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and they were being pelted by a few rowdy anti-union disruptors.

The Mysore Government thereby seeks to fan communal bitterness and also create a justification for the inhuman firing.

Janavani, organ of the State Government, wrote three editorials calling upon the Mysore Government to ban the Communist Party because of the Kolar Goldfields disturbances.

It is quite clear that the Government plans to make the present firing an excuse to crush civil and trade union liberties still further.

Growing Public Support

The State Congress President Chengalaraya Reddy has condemned the firing as unwarranted and uncalled for and has criticised it as an attack on the trade union movement.

Ramanathan, Joint Secretary of the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress, and N. L. Upadhyaya, Secretary Karnatak Committee of the Communist Party of India, visited the Kolar Goldfields area to study the situation after the firing on November 4. Enquiries made by them reveal unmistakably that the firing was totally unjustified.

In a statement condemning the firing, Ramanathan says:

"I demand an open enquiry, shocked the entire State."

withdrawal of the reserve police and prohibitory orders; release of all arrested leaders belonging to all parties and compensation to the families of those who fell victim to firing."

N. L. Upadhyaya, has appealed to all State Congress leaders and labour organisations to agitate for the same demands.

Release Our Leaders

This brutal firing was aimed at crushing the Kolar miners workers who have all along been demanding nationalisation of mines and responsible government. But the workers are undaunted.

The mass of workers are determined to resist the offensive. All the 10,000 workers of Mysore and Champion mines have struck work since the 11th instant. They are determined to continue the strike until their leaders are released.

The police terror is increasing every day. They are going about the workers' quarters threatening the workers to go to work. The police officer even held out the threat of shooting down workers if they do not go to work. The police are extracting money from the workers under the threat of arrest.

This firing and murder have shocked the entire State.

STRIKE DIARY

TEXTILES AND JUTE

NAGPUR:

Mills 1, 2 and 3 of the Empress Mill Group were locked out on November 2 by the management. Over 5,000 workers affected.

This enraged the textile workers of Nagpur.

The workers of Empress and the Model Mills have gone on strike. The workers of Shrivat Art Litho Press and All-India Reporter are also abstaining from work from November 8.

UJJAIN:

All the four Mills have declared lock-outs from October 26, on account of the strike of the clerks from October 18. 10,000 labourers are set idle. Labour Officer left without deciding anything.

RAMPUR STATE:

The strike of the workers of Raza Textile Mills, owned by Sir J. P. Shrivastava continues.

The beatings by the Weaving Master had led to a strike which was set through the intervention of the National Conference after a fortnight. But the word of Chief Secretary of the State was not honoured. Workers were assaulted and the President of the Union and four workers dismissed. The workers went on strike again.

KANJANGADU:

There was a lock-out in the Sree Ram Handloom Textiles. The workers picketed before the Manager's bungalow. He yielded and accepted the demand to open the Company. Provided the Labour Officer says that the lockout is unlawful, he has been compelled to give the wages for lockout days.

CHIRAKKAL:

In the Someswari Textiles, workers conducted a stay-in-strike in protest against the Management disallowing meal allowance. People gathered round. By 8 o'clock, the demand was accepted and the strike was called off.

TRICHUR:

In the Sitaram Mills one worker was beaten to unconsciousness by a master. The workers have gone on a protest strike. Management declared a lockout. Huge demonstrations are being held.

Workers in the mill of Alagappa Chettiar served strike notice. The owners launched the offensive and the workers were forced to strike even before the expiration of the notice.

TRANSPORT

HOWRAH:

1,000 workers of the E.I.R. living in railway quarters struck on October 29, as a protest against the arrest of an employee from the railway quarters.

The Divisional Superintendent immediately assured to look into the matter.

MADRAS:

30 pilot trainees of the Madras Flying Club have gone on strike because the Club Administration terminated services of the Chief Pilot Instructor.

CALCUTTA:

Workers of Agarpura Jute mills are on strike since October 25, demanding restoration of wage-cuts.

STEEL AND ENGINEERING

ALLAHABAD:

Cheoki Depot is closed for a fortnight. Press-note issued by H. Q. Allahabad Sub-area says it will reopen as soon as communal harmony is restored.

BURNPORE:

Conciliation failed due to unrelenting attitude of the employers. The workers have decided to continue the strike till the fulfilment of their demands.

COLLIERIES

DHANBAD:

The strike of 6,000 miners of the 16 collieries in Dhanbad and Tera groups was called off on November 3.

MISCELLANEOUS

SHILLONG:

Assam Bengal Cement Company—The strike has now been going on for 14 days. So far 48 workers have been arrested. Congress, League and Communist leaders are negotiating with the Prime Minister on behalf of the strikers.

CALCUTTA:

Workers of Bengal Pottery launched one-day stay-in-strike on October 26, when 13 workers were arrested by the police. The employers accepted the main demands of the workers and the strike was called off.

Owners agreed to give compensation to the 13 arrested workers; take responsibility of the cases of prosecution against the workers; change the time for night shift; American Engineer to apologise for insulting a worker, etc.

CALICUT:

The workers of Neelimali Company have gone on strike. Picketing with Tricolour and Red flags is started. A day before the strike, Mr. K. Kumaran, in charge of labour work of the local Congress, spoke about certain decisions arrived at in the negotiations with the management. It fell far short of their demands and the workers rejected the advice of Kumaran not to strike.

1. The widow and the child of Thangavelu, one of the martyrs of Golden Rock.



2. G. Muthu Rangam. His forearm was injured by the police.



3. Thomas, a charwoman. His thigh was fractured by the Malabar Special Police.



4. Azariah, a worker of the carriage repair shop. Another of the wounded.

