

BLACK ORDINANCE RAJ IN MADRAS

Defence Of Imperialism, Not "Maintenance Of Public Order"

At night on January 22, the Governor of Madras struck a big blow to put the bureaucracy on top under the plea of emergency, cheat the people of their liberties and crush every struggle of the toiling masses for a better life.

HE issued the 'Maintenance' rouse his holy wrath at the instigation of Public Order Ordinance pernicious bureaucracy.

1 of 1947, the plea being that immediate action was necessary to save 'the peace and tranquillity' of the Province by preventing and putting down disorders that menaced it.

The excuse is need 'to save peace and tranquillity' but it is the same old plea, the same old technique. These are the familiar taltered rags with which British imperialism always tried to conceal its naked savagery to crash every rising Indian upsurge.

'Maintenance of Public Order' now, 'Defence of India' then, these are just different names for the same aim, the maintenance and defence of imperialism against an awakening, advancing Indian people.

Under Popular Ministry

What is new is that this savage Ordinance (Raj) is clamped down on the people while a popular Congress Ministry is in power. The Ordinance has been years' imprisonment or/and hurriedly promulgated, though the Legislature is to meet in a week.

The bureaucracy's game seems to be to arm itself with savage powers first and then face the Legislature with a fait accompli.

Even the Press summary of areas of supplies and services the Ordinance is quite enough to which are essential to the country—every Indian and try.

Under the S-

GROWING PEOPLE'S STRUGGLES FOR BETTER LIFE

Background To Ordinance

South India in 1946-47 has had its great revolutionary baptism of fire. The blood of men and women martyrs, in heroic struggles for wages, food and land, has consecrated the solemn pledge of the workers and peasants to advance the Indian Revolution.

Vayalar, Telengana, Golden Rock, Coimbatore, Karivaloor and Ellerlenji—they speak of a new South India, of the revolutionary transformation of unified workers, oppressed Harijans and backward women into a new fighting people.

NOT all the Malabar Special Police (MSP) terror could

smash this upsurge. Terror so savage that it was seen only

in Chittur, Ashi and Ballia, at

the peak of the 'Quit India'

movement. Women workers

shot dead; a wounded peasant

tied to a tree and shot dead

point blank; urine poured into

the mouths of Telengana peo-

pants; prisoners beaten till their

body was full of black patches

of clotted blood, rape, loot,

burning all household goods—

such is the story of terror and

undeclared Martial Law.

Old Lies In New Garb

And yet these great epic of resistance by the Tamilnad workers and Malabar Kisans, of the Telengana peasants and the people of Travancore, found little mention in the daily Press. The Nationalist Press dominated by soulless profiteers and their shameless spokesmen blacked it out almost entirely, and the few bits that were allowed to creep through were just lies.

"POLICE FIRE ON COMMUNIST MOB: 2 KILLED", was the cryptic cynical way in which it were rising and the workers would dismiss heroic struggles standard of living was falling.

by

A.S.R. Chari

by peasant men and women often armed only with pieces of firewood against the savage MSP and its guns.

Did not the Churchills and Amerys try to dismiss the national movement as the work of a few agitators and extremists? So today the profiteers and hoarders, and their friends depict every organised struggle for wages, food and land as Communist 'mischief'.

Workers' Struggles

Everyone knows that the workers of Tamilnad are the lowest paid compared to workers in industrial centres in Bombay and North India, and the oppression and exploitation of the Tamil Harijan landlords, the worst in India.

Six years of war burdens, the rising cost of living even after the war (Indices cost of living index in July 1946 was 250 with 1939-190), prices and profit;

A collective fine can be imposed where a workers' strike or a peasant struggle for elementary rights take place. Even those who shelter strikers can be punished.

5) Lastly, the Ordinance empowers any police officer to arrest any person suspected of being an offender under this Ordinance.

These are savage powers, more brutal than the old ordinances.

It is an attempt to practically illegalise the Communist Party, beat the worker and peasant movements of their leaders and crush the toiling majority of our land by large-scale naked terror, while the Press is gagged and the people are told that the 'tranquillity' of the Province and the 'need of the community' make it necessary.

Repudiate The Ordinance

This Ordinance must rouse the holy wrath of every Indian who loves freedom and democracy. Let them raise their voice as loud as they can, and all together. Let them make the demand that the Praekasam Ministry should publicly repudiate this Ordinance and release all the detainees.

Let us all, unitedly, tell the imperialists:

Ordinances have come and gone by the dozens, but the Indian people's struggle for liberty and life, has never been crushed. It has grown stronger, ever stronger and broader. So it was and so it shall be.

(See Page 12)

Against this economic degradation, the provocative victimisation and splitting tactics of the profiteers bosses, Tamilnad's workers fought.

The Municipal Corporation workers, the sweepers and scavengers of Madras began to fight with a demand for higher wages. The answer that the Congress Ministry under Syt. Praekasam gave was to let the MSP loose on them. The first martyr of the new upsurge was an old woman.

And since then, whenever a strike took place, for higher wages or dearness allowance, the Praekasam Ministry helped the profiteers by sending the MSP. In fact, in Tamilnad, it soon became common talk that a stranger could easily infer the existence of a strike from the presence of the MSP!

During S.I.R. Strike

In the glorious SIR strike of 40,000 workers, the entire MSP force of several thousands were posted all along the line. And at Golden Rock, they wantonly attacked the Union Office, rained death, hoping to smash the workers' resistance. Five more martyrs, but several new heroes came to the forefront of the battle.

And so the story of the epic struggle goes on, with unarmed men and women workers resisting with their bare hands, the savage MSP.

In Coimbatore, it was Subbatha, a woman worker who was in the frontline, who was shot dead. And on that day, November 11, 32 workers also joined the roll of martyrs.

(Continued on page 2)

PEOPLES AGE

VOL. V NO. 81. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1947. AS. 3.

STOP MADRAS MINISTRY FROM DOING IMPERIALISM'S JOB!

P.C. Joshi's Statement

In the three Provinces, Andhra, Tamilnad and Malabar, of the Madras Presidency, as big a blow has been struck against the Communist Party as in 1932, culminating in the Meerut conspiracy case, and in 1934 which ended in liquidation of the Party. Then it was by the imperialist bureaucracy which struck, today it is under a Popular Ministry that action has been taken.

On the night of the 22nd, a Public Safety Ordinance was issued by the Madras Governor which has all the features of war ordinances and the old Bengal ordinances. It is an ordinance under which any person can be detained without trial; any building seized; and any person arrested.

Two of our Central Committee members, H. M. H. Nambodiripad and H. E. Krishna, have been arrested and a third, P. Sundarayya, is wanted.

In Madras, all the leading Party organisers down to Tuluks; in Tamilnad all leading Party members down to the lowest Party unit have all been arrested in one swoop.

In Andhra, news of large-scale arrests is yet pouring in. They include all the Trade Unions and Kisan Sabha leaders, all our leading journalists editing our Telugu and Malayalam dailies and the Tulu weekly and some members of the managerial staff.

The CPI office has been sealed up and a large police force has cordoned the large Praekasam colony in Bezwada, which was bought and built by the Andhra Kisan.

The Praekasam Ministry cannot be allowed to act in the old bureaucratic way and annex all that the imperialist bureaucracy wants which still reigns supreme. The people must judge and intervene.

What are the activities of the Communists which are being condemned as crimes? They are such that a Congress Ministry must support and not suppress. But such are the Ministry's ways today that the people must judge and intervene to save the situation.

The Communists took the foremost part in organising the Travancore and Telengana struggles against Princely autocracy. The mass of patriotic opinion in Malabar and Andhra was in sympathetic solidarity. That was upsetting the plans of the Political Department.

Weakening Battle For Freedom And Democracy

But for their sake, can the Praekasam Ministry be allowed to suppress the Communist Party and thus weaken the battle for democracy and freedom, on a very important sector?

Tamilnad is going through the biggest strike-wave. The textile gauze, the padi taros and even the semi-military Malabar Special Police, with its vans and machine-guns have been tried. All of them have failed.

Even the workers under Congress influence have been one in fighting shoulder to shoulder with Communist workers. The mass of popular opinion irrespective of political differences has supported the struggle. But the capitalist profiteers have become new and ardent Congress supporters, and they have been pressing the ministry to arrest all working-class organisers.

After all measures failed, mass arrests of all Trade Union leaders have now taken place.

Lastly, a big peasant upsurge is rising against encroachment by landlords, for a fair share of the produce and cultivation of fallow land. The peasants have been demanding prompt Ministerial measures but the landlords wanted removal of all peasant leaders. It is the anti-national parasitic landlords who are being aided by the ministry and the peasant leaders that are being taken to Vellore, the old Bastille of Madras.

The issues are very big both for the immediate present and the future of our country.

Can a Congress Ministry be allowed to suppress our Party in the same way the imperialists tried to suppress the Congress? The imperialist bureaucracy still reigns supreme and it does want Congress-Communist conflict, to disrupt the freedom forces.

We appeal to Congressites to raise their voices and stop the Madras Ministry doing the job of the British overlords against whom we shall all have to fight unitedly one day.

The second and equally important issue is: Will the mass of common people tolerate the weakening of the democratic struggle of the toiling people against the vested interests and allow the Popular Ministry to jail the leaders of workers and peasants instead of meeting their demands?

This way Indian reaction is strengthened and not Indian democracy.

Defence Dept. Sells Parachutes For Use Against Viet-Nam

"In the first week of January FIVE THOUSAND PARACHUTES were sold by the Defence Department of the Government of India to the French Government.

"These parachutes are to be used by the French Government in its war against Viet-Nam."

This report has just been received by us. We are publishing it after having made sure of its accuracy.

Pandit Nehru and our people have dedicated themselves to the cause of Viet-Nam. Our youth has shed its blood for Viet-Nam. Volunteers are being enlisted to go and fight against French imperialism by the side of the valiant people of Viet-Nam; medical supplies, funds are being collected for Viet-Nam.

And while all this patriotic endeavour in aid of Viet-Nam is being made, the White Generals of GHQ are selling parachutes to their fellow-imperialists of France.

By this criminal act of theirs, they have tarnished the name of India, of the national movement, of Pandit Nehru, in the eyes of the progressive peoples of the world.

How are these dirty deals allowed to be made with Pandit Nehru at the hand of officials?

The Indian people must demand that the men—White Generals, ICS Sahibs and all—responsible for this "transaction" with French imperialism be sacked on the spot.

BENGAL BATTLES FOR DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES

League Ministry Going Deeper Into Clutches Of Vested Interests And British Bureaucracy

Bengal's peasants, Hindu and Muslim together, have won their greatest victory. The Bengal Gazette has published the text of a Bill accepting the justice of the Tebhaga demand (2/3rds to the share-cropper and 1/3rd to the jotedar). But the Bengal Ministry, manned by League leaders, has also almost simultaneously come out with an Ordinance on the lines of the universally cursed war-time Ordinance, which gave all powers to the police to suppress the people.

It is the same old British bureaucratic way of seeming to give concessions with the left hand to gain time, while getting the whip ready in the right.

The Tebhaga Bill has been paring lists of kisan leaders and published because the Ben-Communist organisers.

A gall peasant had already enforced it in practice. The movement had spread to 10 districts and the peasant had got the harvest safe in his own hands. The parasitic jotedars' unjust demand for half the crop could only be enforced through Martial Law, with the risk of a united Hindu-Muslim popular revolt.

The Tebhaga Bill has been drafted to legalise what has already been done by the peasant and accept the inevitable.

The new ordinance has been promulgated to destroy the peasant's real strength for further and greater battles; to arrest his leaders, weaken his organisation and thus shake his newfound self-confidence and help the jotedars to put through another offensive of mass evictions, etc., under the shelter of Ordinance Raj. Thereby it is sought to restore as much of the old regime as possible.

Surrender To Bureaucracy

Behind all this is the story of a growing surrender to the bureaucracy as demanded by the vested interests. It is, therefore, necessary that patriotic Muslims know what is happening in Bengal and what worse is coming under the League Ministry the way it is going, unless they rise equal to the occasion and see the danger.

The zamindars and jotedars let loose their hired goondas to beat, loot and rape. Yet it is not they who were arrested, but the peasant leaders under completely faked-up charges of rioting, dacoity, etc. The ordinance came because those fake-eases could never be proved.

The police had arrested hundreds of peasants in every district under Sections 144 and 107 but expert legal opinion said that convictions could not be secured under these Sections; they were being wrongly used. The ordinance came as the only way out.

The police were permitted to fire and terrorise as much as they could, till there was not enough police to go round doing the job. The roll of martyrs is long enough to set the blood boiling. It includes Muslim peasant Sameruddin of Dinajpur, who was shot dead in police custody itself, and peasant woman Hajaribala, who was killed when the police went marauding into her village in Khulna.

New Ordinance— A Lawless Law

When even the British-made laws, operated with British-taught ruthlessness by their creatures of the Bengal police, have failed to cow down the Bengali peasant, the League Ministry has come out with the lawless law that is the new Bengal ordinance.

The District Magistrates, British Civilian leading, have been denouncing this ordinance and the same police officials, who deliberately did not do a damn when Hindus and Muslims were killing each other in the same Bengal, are now furiously pre-

The same police that failed to function during the riots and brought the League Ministry into disrepute for failing to protect even life and property under its regime, have succeeded in blackmailing the Ministry to get arbitrary powers and freedom from popular control for themselves.

This was tragically proved when the police threw 120 tear-gas bombs and made 40 lathi-charges before the Senate House alone on the students of Calcutta on January 31 (Viet-Nam Day). They arrested 200 students, including 30 girls, and even opened fire, killing two.

There has been Province-wide protest against this police butchery as our news pages show. The next day itself, a lakh and twenty thousand students and workers struck together, Muslim Students' League participating.

The Bengali working-class,

by P. C. JOSHI

lakhs and lakhs of Bengal had already taken the initiative to unite all parties and popular organisations behind the single demand for withdrawal of Section 144, took one further step forward when on the 23rd the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress UNANIMOUSLY decided to call a general strike on February 5 if in the meanwhile the Bengal Government did not fulfil the following demands:

Setting up an Enquiry Committee to find out the officials guilty of firing, who should be punished;

Compensation for the killed and wounded;

Release of all the arrested and—

Withdrawal of prosecutions and of Section 144.

This is how the Bengali working-class has come to the aid of its fighting Bengali youth. It wants to rescue the Bengal Ministry from the grip of the British bureaucracy and the police and to get it to restore and

fulfil the demands of the people.

Would it make it function in the popular way, as expect-

ed of a Popular Ministry, pressing for and guaranteeing civil liberties, teaching the police its place and helping the people to come into their own to fight their real enemies?

It is a bold move to teach the Popular Ministry to respect the people and not let the police suppress them.

Premier Subrahmanyam, however, is not going to listen easily. When the students' and workers' Council of Action met him, he was so sorry to hear that Muslim students too had joined the demonstrators on the 21st and 22nd. He said that the arrested could be released only on the basis of giving an undertaking that they would not do any such thing again!

Only a few months ago, the League Ministry had claimed the credit for releasing the Andaman liens against the advice of the police. Today it voices the police demand against popular leaders. The reason is simple.

If the League goes out to fight the Congress in Bengal, its Ministry has to rely on European votes for its own safety and the necessary price has to be paid: back to the old Ordinance Raj, delegating all authority to the British-controlled bureaucracy and no interference with the police trying to knock the fighting spirit of the people out.

Hindu and Muslim workers and students of Calcutta are out to fight a great democratic battle for the whole of Bengal, for elementary democratic liberties for every section of its people and for all its parties to function normally. The whole of India will watch it with great interest and wish it well, because the issues are the same in all Provinces.

Responsibility Of Muslim Public Opinion

Muslim public opinion within Bengal faces a great responsibility.

Would it let the League Ministry go into the arms of Muslim reaction, British Big Business and the bureaucracy, or would it successfully prod it in time to make a decisive break with the policy of ordinances, lathi-charges and shootings?

Would it make it function in the popular way, as expect-

The very bonafides of the League are at stake. In the Punjab, under a Congress Coalition, its leaders have organised a satyagraha against the use of ordinance. But in Bengal, its own Ministry has passed a similar ordinance! In the United Provinces, Mr. Lala moved an adjournment motion over police暴行 on Cawnpore strikers under the Pant Ministry, while in Calcutta similar brutalities have taken place under the Subrahmanyam Ministry!

The League would be charged with lack of political principles and moral dishonesty, if the Leaguers within and without Bengal fail to press their hardest upon Premier Subrahmanyam to promptly meet the demands of the Council of Action and guarantee that the ordinance will not be used against the kisan movement and our Party in Bengal.

It was easy enough to claim civil liberties for oneself in the Punjab or use it as an argument against the Congress in the U.P. The acid test of the Leaguers is in Bengal under their own Ministry.

Dr. ADHIKARI ARRESTED AGAIN

On Tuesday January 28, the Bombay Police again arrested Dr. G. Adhikari, Consulting Editor, and D. S. Hatangdi, former Managing Editor, of the People's Age. They were released on bail of one thousand rupees each.

The arrests under the Official Act for an alleged offence, article published in the People's Age on October 27, 1946—four months ago.

The Police again raided the Central Headquarters of the Communist Party for about an hour, and took away all copies of the People's Age dated October 27.

PEOPLE'S STRUGGLES IN S. INDIA

Championing Cause Of Exploiting Minority

(Continued from Page 1)
The majority of peasants in Bengal are Muslims. It was not their demand that the League leadership championed, but that of the selfish food-grabbing parasitical Muslim jotedars who wanted as much paddy as they could get hold of to sell in the blackmarket, i.e., of the exploiting Muslim minority against the exploited Muslim majority itself.

Moreover, it is only the minority of jotedars who are Muslims while the majority are Hindus.

All talk of Muslim brotherhood during the elections was only meant to befool the Muslim peasant, get his vote to set up a reactionary League Ministry subservient to vested interests, serving their selfish needs.

It was this selfish Muslim reaction, its fear of its own awakened fighting peasantry, that the British bureaucracy exploited to re-impose Ordinance Raj, as the only way to keep the peasant in his old place.

A man-hunt for kisan and Communist organisers, a large number of whom are themselves Muslims, has begun under the ordinance. These organisers have now to function underground to keep alive a movement that is patently in the interest of the Muslim majority, and this under a Muslim League Ministry!

The British bureaucracy is pressing from all sides and the League Ministry is yielding all round.

right to take thatching grass, fencing sticks and green manure from the forest land. The Jemmis say no. The Jemmis go and take it.

Then an MSP force 100 strong is rushed there. Kisan organisers are rounded up on false charges of dacoity. Peasant homes are smashed up and shops looted by the MSP. Section 144 is in force.

In Karikalur, in Chikkal Takka, the strongest Red kisan base, the kisan movement is based on the refusal to pay rent in kind. They had done so for years and found that the grain that went to the Jemmis, never came back to the people. It went into the blackmarket.

And so the Jemmis said they would sell all their surplus grain to the co-operatives set up by Government, the central price of Rs. 19/11 for 100 seers. The Jemmis refuse to accept this because if they grab all the kisan grain, they can get Rs. 75 for 100 seers in the blackmarket. So there is a deadlock.

So on December 21, an agent of the Jemmis brings 50 MSP men to take away the grain forcibly from the kisan. The kisan resist. The MSP have guns and bullets. The kisan men and about 300 women have only brooms, sticks and stones. Two are killed, three arrested and severely injured in Telliheevu jail, the concentration camp for kisan fighters.

M.S.P. Terror Fails

A reign of terror was unleashed in North Malabar. The Malabar Special Police, a quasi-military police that had been created by the British to crush the Moplah peasant revolt in 1921, fighting, and the demands that they are making are such elementary demands, that none who has a spark of humanity left in him, can oppose them.

In Charatter Kirka, the red belt, which gave the Kavvayi martyrs to our freedom movement, the demand is patently illegal.

It is that the peasants want the right that they have had for centuries, the

Red kisan bases to crush the kisan movement.

There are 1,500 concentrated in these areas. MSP is everywhere in South India—5,000 of them with guns and machine-guns mobilised against the workers and peasants.

But all these terror tactics failed to crush these democratic, defensive struggles of the workers and peasants.

The bureaucracy is panicky. It wants to crush this fine fighting force, before the rest of the people join up in the fight for liberty, in the fight to liquidate imperialism and landlordism.

In Andhra, the Party is strong. It has run a huge solidarity campaign for Telengana, and roused the Andhra people against the Nizam's autocracy. It has to be crushed, if possible.

And Now The Ordinance

And so the Ordinance was issued. Its main purpose is to behead the working-class and peasant movement, practically illegalise the Communist Party, gag the Press and crush this fine fighting vanguard of the revolution by unbridled terror.

It is to make South India safe for the British imperialists, the Deaks and Harrisons and their Indian allies, the blood-sucking Jemmis, the profiteers and corrupt officials.

So the demands must rise:

"Withdraw the Ordinance".

"Release the Detainees".

"Dismantle the MSP".

"Accept the Just Demands of the Workers and Peasants."

BRITISH TROJAN HORSE INSIDE INDIA'S DEFENCE INDUSTRIES

MORE INDO-BRITISH BIG BUSINESS DEALS

Right under the noses of members of the Interim Government, a very dangerous development, which started before they took office, is going ahead at full speed.

READY before they took office, firms of the British Buna-Shell group, for example, were further extending their grip over India's oil resources. On top of their monopoly grip over existing oil-fields in India, they scoured the right to prospect for oil in Sind and the Punjab.

It is known that modern mechanised armies—however great and well-equipped—can be completely paralysed for want of oil. The British oil monopoly, therefore, already meant they were dictators (or saboteurs) of India's defence.

Aircraft Industry

In the case of the aircraft industry, penetration planned by the British was more skillful, but equally powerful. In 1940, under popular pressure the Hindustan Aircraft Co. was at last allowed to set up a plant at Bangalore, to be run by an American management.

The Government of India and the Mysore State Government held 'considerable' shares in the firm. By 1942, the first India-made plane was turned out at the factory.

But this frightened the British officials so much that the Government bought up majority shares in the concern, and made the Supply Department manage the plant.

Under the Supply Department, machinery was removed from the plant, so that all manufacture and even assembly of imported parts were stopped. The plant became a mere 'repair shop' for the United States Air Force in India, till December 1945.

After that, the Government of India thought of using the plant for making wagons for the railways! When there was a hue and cry against this, an experts' mission was sent by the British Government to 'investigate' for a couple of weeks and make a report.

The British experts grudgingly admitted that aircraft manufacture could be started in the plant. But they declared that Indian aircraft would not be able to 'compete' with foreign aircraft—so they fixed no production targets. They thought the demand would be 'small'—how small was seen in their recommendation that only Rs. 13 lacs should be spent on it for the next five years!

Delaying Tactics

But the best indication of their real intentions was to be found in recommendations for the Board of Directors of the new 'nationalised' plant. The Eastern Economist revealed last June that two out of three full-time Directors—the Technical and also the Managing Director—are to come from England (connected with British aircraft firms, no doubt, judging from past experience). Only one, the Finance Director, is to be an Indian.

Then again, by 1946, the results of the Nuffield-Birla automobile deal made in 1945 had shown that private Indo-British business deals only meant that the British get into positions to delay the establishment of vital industries as long as possible.

Even then there was no British Director in the Hindustan Motors firm. Nuffield's experts were in charge of technical direction.

And 18 months after the

deal was finalised, the Chairman of the firm, B. M. Birla, confessed at the annual general meeting that even assembly of parts had not begun, and 'Hindustan Ten', advertised as 'India's Own Car' was being bodily imported from England!

Meanwhile, by a similar business deal between the British Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) and Tata's, ICI got complete technical control for over 20 years over India's dyestuffs' monopoly, therefore, already meant they were dictators (or saboteurs) of India's defence.

Here, too, ICI have been taking advantage of a clause in the deal which allows ICI and Tata products to be sold jointly under common labels in the Indian market, to sabotage the speedy setting-up of a full-fledged dyestuffs' and explosives' industry in India.

Interim Govt.-No Change

When the Interim Government was formed, a drive against this British grip over India's defence was expected.

Pandit Nehru, Vice-Chairman of the Interim Government, had got the National Planning Committee (of which he was the President) to agree to State-ownership of defence and other key industries related to defence.

The National Planning Committee Handbook, published in 1946, had listed industries like aircraft, automobile, oil, explosives, etc.

Apart from that, all spokesmen of the Interim Government (including Pandit Nehru, speaking to the Associated Chambers of Commerce in Calcutta) have been deliberately silent on the question of Indo-British private business deals, as also of the so-called 'nationalised' concerns like the aircraft plant in Bangalore.

The result has been a virtual tidal wave of Indo-British business deals, putting the British in control of wider and wider sectors of India's defence industries.

Austin's, for instance, have recently announced a deal by which an 'independent' Indian ship-building deal this month. It is announced from London that Messrs. John Brown's of Glasgow have almost clinched a deal with Indian ship-builders' Raghunandan Saran, member (generally taken to be Seindias)

of the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee) are all to serve under a British Executive Director, Mr. E. F. M. Pratt of the Austin Motor Export Corporation.

Judging by the experience of the Hindustan Motors (in which Nuffield's have only hidden and not open control), this British Executive Director can be expected to put off the establishment of a full-fledged manufacturing plant as long as he can.

The Motor House (Gujarat) Ltd.—in which Ispahani is a Director—are a little more skillful. They have struck a deal with Jowett's of England, but so far not taken any Jowett's man into the Board of Directors, in order to keep up the pose—like the Birlas—of 'independence' of the new firm. But Jowett's are giving 'technical guidance'.

And what this means is explained in a Reuters message from London (dated January 16, 1947) which lets the cat out of the bag. This message makes it clear that Jowett's are planning to go on supplying parts and machinery for ten years, netting a profit of £1 million (or nearly Rs. 44 crores).

Ominous Silence

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In Name Only

It also adds that 12,000 workers will be employed to fulfil these orders—i.e., that the plant will be in England for anything up to 10 years and the only thing 'Indian' about the car will probably be its name. For a fast-paced auto plant employs about 10 to 12 thousand workers.

After a long string of automobile deals of this type, has come a ship-building deal this month. It is announced from London that Messrs. John Brown's of Glasgow have almost clinched a deal with Indian ship-builders' Raghunandan Saran, member (generally taken to be Seindias)

for setting up yards at Karsaphi for building deep-sea-going liner, up to a tonnage of 20,000.

The exact terms are not yet known, but the following facts indicate that John Brown's have driven a very hard bargain:

• British shipping and ship-building monopolies—very actively backed by the British Government in India—have always refused to allow a proper ship-building industry to be developed in India.

Mr. M. A. Master of Seindias has made repeated charges that the British Government—under the influence of the powerful British monopolies—did everything during the war to put Seindias' yards at Vizagapatam out of action.

Whose 'Safety'?

In the name of 'safety', Seindias were forced to spend almost the whole of the war period shifting their yards back and forth between Vizag and Bombay.

Then, when the Indian Industrialists' Mission went to England in 1945, representatives of Indian ship-building interests were kept out on instructions from the Government of India.

Even a private mission was not allowed to proceed to buy boilers and machinery lying idle in Glasgow yards for several years.

• Nor can it be said that with British ship-building in decline after the end of the war, John Brown's are being forced to accept Indian terms and radically reverse the old British policy. For John Brown's are no 'black sheep' in British industry.

They are the biggest ship-building firm in the world, the leaders of the British ship-building ring. And just at present, John Brown's are experiencing a boom. The same newspaper reports (API January 1947), announcing the deal also fulfilled a of post-war orders.

It can safely be said, therefore, that John Brown's are signing this contract on their own terms, to sabotage the development of a full-fledged ship-building industry in India as long as possible.

But a recently announced Indo-British business deal in Travancore is the most dangerous of all—from the point of view of India's struggle against Britain, of the interests of the peoples of Asia in revolt against British imperialism and of humanity which wants to take away the power of imperialists to make war.

These deals concern the manufacture of high-explosives (vital for ships in aircraft, submarines, etc.) and the processing of elements essential for the development of atomic energy.

An API report (January 15, 1947) says that the British Titan Products Ltd. have struck a deal for the manufacture of titanium pigments with the Travancore State and four mining companies (mainly British-owned).

A direct subsidiary of the British Titan Products Ltd.—the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd.—are to be Managing Agents. They will have complete technical control and consultation on the output for 30 years.

It is further reported that the Government of the U.K. is directly putting pressure on the Travancore State Government for a similar deal for the manufacture of thorium and monazite—essential for the development of atomic energy and the atom bomb.

A special clause in the deal is being insisted upon, by which definite quantities of the output will be earmarked for export to England.

By this deal, therefore, India's resources will be used by the British to make atom bombs—while Mr. Frank, representing India at the United Nations' Organisation, has said that India stands for international control of atomic energy and the outlawing of atom bombs.

It is not too late to stop these basilean intrigues of British Big Business. All these deals are at a very early stage of development.

Can't the Interim Government break their alliance on these deals, ban off further deals of this nature, conduct a full enquiry into the form and nature of these deals at the first step to nationalising India's industries?

It is good the Interim Government and Provincial Ministers are following of anti-imperialist industries like road transport, etc.

Will not steps to nationalise India's defence industries be a far more obvious step, with universal popular support?

A PATRIOT'S NOTEBOOK

Recruits—All White

THE Times of India carried an interesting advertisement in its issue of January 20. The advertiser was the British Army—and this is what it had to say:

"Recruitment to the Regular British Army on regular engagements has been re-started."

"Enlistment is for five years with the colours and seven years with the reserve."

"Applicants for enlistment must be of pure European descent and be able to speak English fluently...."

And so on.

How has it suddenly become necessary for the British Army to recruit in India, directly? And recruit not only British citizens, but all Europeans—who are prepared to kill for us?

We know what these White recruits will do in India—what the Army of Occupation has always done, what it is being trained to do every minute today: KILL the Indian people in massacre through brute military force.

Who said "OPERATION ASYLUM" was six months old? It is as alive and kicking as ever.

By the way, who runs this country? The Indian Government—or the local agents of the British Army, the British Intelligence Bureau, and the British bureaucracy?

A Foreign Legion?

ALKING at the new gates of Calcutta, we see many who are swelling the ranks of the Army of Occupation, here is a significant piece of information.

The other day seven hundred or so British soldiers were landed in India and are to be stationed central Government Provinces.

goodness, knows where to "Keep Usans had organised a demonstration in front of the Home Department to demand alternative employment for the British Army in Denmark—and those clerks who are being thrown out of work by the Government of India.

They waited on Sardar Patel, but he turned them out of his office. They were often laid-off, targeted; their leaders were arrested.

Since then clerks who took a leading part in the demonstrations have been suspended by the Home Department, by the Directorate General of Industries and Supplies and other Departments.

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The bureaucracy which controls the Government of India Secretariat insists that it can solve the acute problem of unemployment by tear-gas, by suspension and dismissal. It has always suffered from this illusion.

But why must Sardar Patel and the Interim Government also suffer from the same illusion? Why should Sardar Patel condone this vindictive punishment of men, of whom the nation should be proud—for they make the numberless clerks to their rights, brought them into the battlefield of freedom?

Discipline and the rest are July fine words to play with—but not on an empty stomach, not with the grim prospect of unemployment hanging over you.

Romesh Chandra

WITHDRAW 'OPERATION ASYLUM' CASE!

More Protests And Condemnations Of Govt. Action

'DID GHQ AND INTELLIGENCE BUREAU HOODWINK INTERIM GOVERNMENT?'

— Tribune —

In an editorial in its issue of 20 January 20, the Tribune, leading English daily of the Punjab, comments on Pandit Nehru's cable to R. Palme Dutt, which stated that the raids of January 14 "took place without the knowledge or authority of the Ministers."

The Tribune states:

"...Merely to say that the proceedings were not expressly authorised by Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel or their colleagues neither that the Central Intelligence Bureau absolves the Congress leaders at the head of the administration, nor does the party directly concerned with it put an end to the 'Who-Killed-Cook-Robbins?' discussion that goes on...." Both hoodwinked the Interim Government. The whole episode

shows the central working in a divided light."

Unfair Harassment

THE Morning News (Calcutta League Daily), in an editorial note published on January 21, writes:

"...With all our differences with the Communists, we strongly repudiate the concerted action amounting to unfair harassment of a political party.

"The public is entitled to know what exactly the charges are against the Communists and what authority or authorities have been offended. ... The police could not have moved on its own initiative all over India and this is not being explained."

In the end it recalls that similar raids had taken place in connection with the Meerut Conspiracy case.

Urdu Press On Raids

'GOVT. ACTION--AN ATTACK ON PRESS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES'

— Mansoor —

Acted Tyrannically

THE Khilafat of Bombay, a leading Urdu League daily, founded by the late Maulana Shaukat Ali, has very strongly condemned the raids of January 14. It writes:

"The recent attack on the Communist Party and other labour organisations shows that our Popular Governments are not taking our country towards freedom but dragging it backward."

"By exposing the secret documents, the Communists have done a great service to the Indian people. And in the future also they will be regarded as great patriots, who will expose such things because we cannot tolerate the suppression of our popular movements at the hands of the military."

"The Ministries, whether of Bengal, Sind or Bombay and U.P., have acted tyrannically."

Intolerable Acts

THE Hindustan, another League daily of Bombay, has also strongly criticised the action against the Communist Party.

"We have many differences with

the Communists," says the paper in its issue of January 23. "But we do not follow it. These mean tactics of various Provincial Ministries in attacking the Communist Party. In this period of democracy, freedom and announced that action was taken on the initiative of the Bombay Government. But no one can believe that the raids in the whole of India are possible without the knowledge and consent of the Home Department of the Government of India."

"The Governments are feeling panicky because of the acute discontent among the workers and peasants. And, therefore, they want to destroy those organisations which boldly champion their cause. But they must know that this discontent cannot end unless the lot of the poor is improved."

How Made Possible

THE Mansoor of Delhi, official organ of the All-India Muslim League, writes on January 20:

"We do not agree with the policy and activities of the Communists, but we cannot tolerate an attack on the freedom of the Press and the civil liberties of the people.... It is the Communist Party today; it can be any other party tomorrow."

"This 'crusade' against the Communist Party must stop, because it is a blot on the fair name of the Congress."

"The Congress is getting great."

Marathi Press

'SAVE CONGRESS REPUTATION'

— Tarun Bharat —

Wanted Explanation

THE Bombay Marathi nationalist daily Lokmanya, in its issue of January 24, published an editorial, "Those Who Raided Communist Offices", in which it writes:

"Pandit Nehru says that these raids were not carried out under the orders of the Central Government. If the Provincial Government ordered these raids, then it may be asked, since when have the Congress Government of Bombay and the League Government of Bengal become so chummy?"

"These raids took place in Bombay under the very nose of the Bombay Government and if Pandit Nehru is denying responsibility for these, then why is the Bombay Government not giving any explanation?"

Calamity For Freedom Of Press

THE Navyug, Independent Left Congress weekly edited by P. K. Atre, foremost Marathi play-wright, humorist, poet, scenario writer, ex-President of the all-representative

tar, (Independent) in a one and a half Marathi Literary Conference and one page editorial in its issue of January 22, severely condemns the restrictions on the Press imposed by the Popular Ministry. Referring to the raids, the editorial says:

"...We totally disapprove of the way in which Communist Party papers were raided the other day. We

have absolutely no love for the policies of the Communists. But we definitely feel that it is a calamity to the freedom of the Press to arrest the editor of their newspaper, without giving him any idea as to the truthfulness or otherwise of the secret State documents which he published six months ago and extracts from which were later published by many other papers."

Home Dept.'s Explanation Unsatisfactory

THE Tarun Bharat (Independent Left Nationalist daily of Nagpur, edited by G. T. Madhokar, front-rank Marathi novelist, literary critic, ex-President of the all-representative

BOMBAY PROGRESSIVE WRITERS CONDEMN RAIDS

In January 26, in a big various offices should be returned meeting of the Bombay ed and the Interim Government Progressive Writers' Association, held to celebrate the Independence Day, scathing condemnation was made of the India-wide raids on the offices of the Communist Party and other organisations like the Trade Unions, the Kisan Sabhas, the People's Theatre Association and the Friends of the Soviet Union.

Attack On Art And Culture

Moving the resolution, Dr. Anand said:

"The raids seem to show the shape of things to come. If such things continue, I warn you," he said, "there will be no chance for the flowering of art and culture in this country.... The achievement of the 20 years of our battle for a free and noble life will be negated...."

"If we do not rise against these assaults, whether they are directed against the Communist Party or the People's Theatre or any other organisation in the country, tomorrow the attack will come on us; and believe me, the voice of all writers and artists who want to speak clearly and sharply, will be silenced. We will be persecuted.... Then there will be neither democracy nor freedom, nor art nor culture in India...."

Seconding the resolution, the well-known actor and Director, Balraj Sahni said:

"It is a slap on the face of our leaders. It is a slap on the face of all our people and we must answer it appropriately.... While re-dedicating ourselves to the service of our country on this sacred Independence Day, we must tell the British Government and warn it that we shall not tolerate such things."

The resolution was passed unanimously.

ALLAHABAD PROTEST MEETING

A REPRESENTATIVE meeting of Allahabad University, Sjt. S. K. Das, Sub-Editor, Amrita Bazar Patrika (Allahabad), Mr. D. L. Anand, Progressive Leagues, University teachers, provincial Organiser, Hindustan Scouts Association (U.P.), Mr. Zaheer, Vice-President, Electric Workers' Union; students, labourers and journalists raised its voice of protest against the country-wide searches of the Thinkur Srinath Singh, prominent offices of the Communist Party, Kisan Hindi Journalist, Mr. Azhar Ansari, Sabha, Students' Federation, etc., and research student, Allahabad University Chaitanya of the Allahabad University presided.

The following resolution was adopted unanimously:

"This meeting of the citizens of Allahabad places on record its emphatic protest against the country-wide searches of the offices of the Communist Party, Kisan Sabha, Students' Federation and other organisations, the residences of their members."

'THE PAPER DID ONLY A PATRIOTIC ACT'

Pt. Sunderlal's Statement

P ANDIT Sunderlal, an old Gandhian Congress leader of the Provinces, which control a much larger number of Government than does the Communist Party, could have men Angrej Rajya, has issued the following statement:

"The recent raids on the Communist Party offices in several Provinces are to me a surprise and a painful surprise. I am not a Communist. I have perfect faith in non-violence. The idea of class war, as administered by the Communist Party is abhorrent to my nature. Yet I have failed to understand the justification of these raids. Such a step could not have been taken by several Provincial Governments simultaneously without the full agreement of the Government of India."

"After all, what has happened in all our talk talks about the freedom of press, the freedom of platform and the freedom of association. I consider to think of the implications of these raids. I hope our country is not experiencing a new type of civil conflict, within national ranks, as information was not true, the Government of India."

Cawnpore Workers Call Off Strike To Prepare For New Battles

18 DAYS' STRUGGLE WINS UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LEADERS

The 18-day old strike of one lakh Cawnpore workers (in case of some mills over three weeks) has been called off. The decision was taken at a meeting of 15,000 workers held on the Parade Grounds on January 26. It was adopted amidst shouts of "Hang the murderers of Cawnpore workers", "Victory to the General Strike", "Inqilab Zindabad".

Two days earlier, the Negotiating Committee of the City Congress Committee had made an announcement at a workers' meeting at Shradhanand Park, calling upon the workers to resume work because they had secured an assurance from the Government that a number of their demands, including the following, would be conceded:

Demands Conceded

- Unconditional release of all labour leaders and withdrawal of all cases and warrants in connection with the strike.
- No victimisation.
- Compensation for the victims of the firing—to the relatives of the dead and the wounded.
- The Provincial Government will give its full consideration to the recommendations which will be made by the Enquiry Committee appointed by the City Congress President.

BENGAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' VICTORY

A LMOST as a sequel to the general strike by 20,000 Central Government employees in Calcutta beaten while taking tea, dragged out sweepers' and Municipal Workers' workers and various Municipalities on January 19, the Directorate of Supplies strike ended on January 22 with communal riot...that is the merit, its demands regarding wage increase, Dairies Allowance, etc. They were well-reached among the people as seen in the general strike, the Director of Administration and Rubber Co. that their picketing pathetic consideration" was promised.

The terms conceded that notices of discharge and demotion would be postponed until January 31, and nothing would be done without consulting the employees themselves. They also promised no victimisation for strike, withdrawal of police prosecutions, strike period to be counted as leave, anybody retrenched would be sought to be reinstated in some other job.

The settlement is a big triumph for Government employees for the first time fighting their battle.

DOCK WORKERS' UNITY WINS DEMANDS

T HE mighty unity of Bombay's 9,000 dock workers—Hindus and Muslims, Pathans and Marathas—has won its reward. They have forced the bosses to cancel their orders for the discharge of 1,200 of them and have also substantially won their other demands.

They were to go on strike simultaneously with the Railway workers on June 27 last. Then the Navy authorities assured them against retrenchment and they withdrew the strike notice. Soon, however, true to their character, the bosses went back on their promise and decided to dismiss 1,200 men even when the exact complement needed in the Docks had yet to be decided upon.

Again the workers were forced to give a notice of strike and once again they have brought down the bureaucrats.

DOLLARS AND THE BOMBAY POLICE

F IRING twice, lathi-charge several times, over 80 arrested, the Goonda Act applied to refuse bail, strikers chased by armed police,

by
Our Correspondent

* The Adjudicator's Award regarding ten days' leave with pay had been accepted by the employers and all workers who worked for 12 months in 1945 shall be paid 10 days' wages, even if they had absented themselves for seventy days in that year.

The workers, however, were totally opposed to the nature of the settlement, as beyond the without putting the question of release of those arrested and the calling off of the strike to the payment of compensation to the democratic vote of the strikers.

When the vote was taken, half of the audience of 6,000 had left the place.

To Maintain Solidarity

Many were determined to preserve the greatest achievement of the strike—namely, the Congress Committee had already solidarity of the workers—the next week—Editor).

announced an end of the strike resolution advised the termination and a few workers had gone back to work. The situation was such that in order to maintain the glorious solidarity of Cawnpore workers, it was necessary to call off the strike and prepare ahead for further action.

Workers' Meeting

Accordingly the Mazdoor Sabha called a general meeting of the workers on January 26.

Fifteen thousand workers assembled on the Parade Ground. Kalishanker moved the main resolution which greeted the workers on the heroism and solidarity displayed by them and paid homage to the martyrs.

The resolution further condemned the leaders of the City Congress Committee for calling off the strike on conditions which did not include the main demand of the strikers and the without putting the question of release of those arrested and the calling off of the strike to the payment of compensation to the democratic vote of the strikers.

The resolution, however, noted the fact that an impression had already gone round among the workers that a settlement, however unsatisfactory, had been arrived at and the result was that workers had already begun to resume work.

Under the circumstances to continue the strike. But the merit of the strike—namely, the Congress Committee had already solidarity of the workers—the next week—Editor).

In the end it warned the employers that any victimisation following the strike would be resisted by the workers with all their strength and by declaring that the unity forged in the strike would be utilised by the workers for continuing the struggle for the unfulfilled demands and for securing the major demands regarding wages, trade union recognition and security of service, formulated by the Mazdoor Sabha.

Strike Called Off

After speeches by Kalishanker and by Maulana Yusuf, the famous leader of Cawnpore's workers, explaining and commanding the resolution, the workers from various mills spoke—some of them appealing for continuation of the strike despite the calling off by the Congress leaders, others agreeing with the resolution that in the interests of preserving the unity of the working-class, the strike should be called off.

Finally by the show of hands the resolution was carried.

Cawnpore's workers will go back to work, to prepare for the coming battles.

(We hope to publish a review article on the Cawnpore strike

On January 8, all the workers' organisations of Allahabad jointly formed a 'Cawnpore Relief Committee' and condemned the firing. Next day the Revolutionary-Socialist Party also condemned the firing and demanded inquiry into it.

On January 10, Congress, Communist and Congress Socialist Labour leaders agreed upon a strike on the 11th. On that day a procession was taken out to the Assembly Hall where Hariat Mohanty, the veteran League leader, offered them his fullest support. Their united might forced the police officers to quietly withdraw their threat of lathi-charge.

Later at Aminabad Congress Socialist and Communist leaders addressed the meeting.

SUPPORT FOR CAWNPORE WORKERS

Meetings And Processions All Over U.P.

The inspiring unity exhibited by Cawnpore's one lakh workers has won its reward. But even more than the reward, it has revealed a new awakening not only among the working-class of the U.P. but a new unity among its citizens, Congressmen and Leagues, Congress Socialists and Forward Blocs, Communists and others. It was this unprecedented unity that forced the Ministry to climb down.

Below we print a brief account of this remarkable solidarity of the people of U.P. against bureaucratic terror and lies and in support of Cawnpore's workers—Editor.

T HE Cawnpore Thing took place on January 6. On the 7th Sjt. Damodar Swami Nath, President, U.P.P.C.U., severely criticised it and demanded open inquiry into it.

On the same day Communist leaders Sardar, S. A. Nagvi, and Mahamudar appealed for January 11 to be observed as Cawnpore Day. Three demands they made: 'Release the Labour leaders; Punish the guilty officials; Grant the workers' demands.'

This appeal was endorsed by K. Shrivastav, President U.P.T.U.C.

Banaras

B UT even before this appeal reached them the Banaras workers came out on protest strike. On the 7th were held four meetings of railway workers and citizens. On the 8th, 5,000 workers of the Banaras Cotton Mills struck work, both the 'Fat Hind Union' and the Red Flag Union actively participating.

In the evening there was a huge procession and a mass meeting. The resolution condemning the firing and demanding inquiry was moved by Communist leader S. P. Tripathi and seconded by R. Mishra, Secretary, Congress Labour Committee.

Lucknow

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Later at Aminabad Congress Socialist and Communist leaders addressed the meeting.

Mirzapur

T HE Cawnpore Day was jointly observed by local Congress Committee, Communist Party and the various workers' unions. A big procession was taken out from the Gandhi Park headed by S. T. Colur and a Red Flag. A meeting in the Town Hall was held under the Chairmanship of Sjt. Sitaram Dwivedi, President, Town Congress Committee.

Shahjahanpur

A T Shahjahanpur the Forward Bloc, Congress Socialist Party, various labour organisations and the Communist Party jointly observed the 'Cawnpore Day' by taking out a procession.

Jaunpur

J AUNPUR City Magistrate had prohibited the "Cawnpore Day". Despite the ban the Congress, Muslim League, Communist, Janata, Weavers' Association, Revolutionary Socialist Party, Tridrikhi Party, Khadi Sevika and student organisations jointly observed the "Cawnpore Day" by observing a complete hartal on January 10.

Gorakhpur

G ORAKHPUR workers started peaceful picketing. On January 20, Section 144 was on. No striker would be allowed anywhere within 25 feet of the beedi shops and factories.

On January 21, workers started peaceful picketing. On January 22, Section 144 was on. No striker would be allowed anywhere within 25 feet of the beedi shops and factories.

Against this gag order, local college and High School students, Municipal employees, tonga-wallahs and hawala came out to picket. Their Union also gave a call for general strike on January 22.

On the night of January 21, the owners came down. At the intervention of M. Sugandhi, ex-Congress MLA, they agreed to pay Rs. 1/8 per thousand beedis. The workers accepted the settlement and the strike was successfully called off.

Strikes of workers took place at Banda (where 20,000 came out) at Agra and at other places.

Students of Lucknow struck on January 12; Benares students observed Workers' Day.

BRITAIN USING SUDAN ISSUE TO KEEP EGYPT CHAINED TO HER CHARIOT

British Troops Must Evacuate Nile Valley

The long drawn-out farce officially described as the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty negotiations is at last over. Prime Minister Nokrashy is reported to have announced in the Senate on January 25 that he was submitting to the United Nations "the whole question of Egypt and the Sudan."

THESE negotiations were started in May last for a new treaty between Britain and Egypt, superseding the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium of 1899 on Sudan and the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1836. Under the veil of recognising Egypt as "a sovereign Independent State", these two treaties had really turned Egypt into a strategic base for the British.

The Condominium established an Anglo-Egyptian (but in reality only British) administration over Sudan while the 1836 Treaty authorised the British to station forces on the left bank of the Suez. The duration of the Treaty was 20 years at the end of which period the question of British troops remaining in Egypt was to be reconsidered.

Even at that time opposition to this Treaty had come from all freedom-loving Egyptians. Actually this "freedom conferring" Treaty had to be forced on Egypt against the will of the people and at the point of bayonet. Hostile demonstrations in Alexandria and Cairo had to be banned.

Scrap Old Treaties

It was inconceivable that after World War II the resurgent Egyptian people would tolerate this indignity of "imposed sovereignty" any longer and wait for another ten years to discuss anew the question of "the necessity of the presence of British forces."

And so after the war came insistent demands from all sections of the Egyptian people, including Nahas Pasha's Wafid Party and the centrist Kotah Party, for the rejection of the Condominium of 1899 and the 1836 Treaty and the immediate withdrawal of all British forces from the Nile and the canal zone.

There were mighty demonstrations in Cairo and Alexandria headed by the joint Workers' and Students' Committee of National Liberation, which on many occasions ended in pitched battles between the armed British soldiers and the unarmed Egyptian workers and students.

It was in these conditions that Bevin was forced to open negotiations for a new treaty, for, as Laski explained in defence of Bevin, it would have been "very foolish... to incur the ill-will of the Egyptians." (Indian Express, 6-6-46).

Bevin's Offer

But it was soon clear that the British Government did not mean the negotiations seriously. The terms offered by Bevin to Sidky Pasha, the then Premier of Egypt, meant nothing more than continued slavery both for Egypt and Sudan under new forms. The terms included:

1) Complete evacuation of the British within three years, which in the words of Ali Maher Pasha is a mere pledge, the fulfilment of which is not at all guaranteed.

2) A joint Anglo-Egyptian Defence Council, a plan for perpetual British interference in Egypt's internal affairs and to place the Middle East under their protection against "the danger of attack."

3) Sudan's separation from Egypt, which in practice means indefinite occupation by British troops even if they were forced to leave the Egyptian soil.

Sidky Pasha, that stooge of British Big Business in Egypt who was on the Board of Directors of 22 foreign-controlled industrial and banking enterprises and who always came to terms of evaporation of British

by
Ali Ashraf

their help in times of stress and crisis, accepted these terms or Egypt's eternal slavery after much attempt to hoodwink and suppress public opinion.

Every voice raised against these servile negotiations was stifled in the name of uprooting Communism and even liberal oppositionists and Left Wafidis were stigmatised and shut up in jail on vague and unproved charges of "spreading Communism", when actually they were only agitating for the removal of foreign troops from Egypt's soil.

Popular Indignation

But these manoeuvres were of no avail. Such was the popular indignation against the Bevin-Sidky project that no sooner it saw the light of the day, Sidky had to go.

After that, the breakdown of the negotiations was a forgone conclusion. But the people's patience had reached its end. Demonstrations continued.

And even as late as January 18, both in Cairo and Alexandria they observed a day of national mourning to mark their protest on the 48th anniversary of the signing of the 1899 Convention imposing joint Anglo-Egyptian rule on Sudan. Two persons were killed and 40 injured in a clash at the British military camp at Abu-Hammad.

Even the reactionary Senate had to take note of the mood of the people. Defeating the Government's motion to postpone the debate, the Senate passed, on January 22, an all-party agreed resolution urging upon the "Government to take prompt action in the face of hostile conduct adopted by British Government towards Egypt and the Sudan."

Makram Ebad Pasha demanded the immediate abdication of the Sudan Condominium of 1899 and the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1836.

Nokrashy's Government has so far not taken this step, but all sections of progressive Egyptian opinion welcome the first step that has been taken in this direction.

But even this first victory of the popular will is not yet free of all dangers. For what is most astonishing and regrettable in this whole affair are the issues on which the Egyptian Government is raising the question in the United Nations and the way it is doing so. And here the sinister hand of the British is clearly visible.

Divide And Rule

The British Foreign Office and its political representatives in Cairo are playing the old game of divide and rule with as great skill as they are doing in Palestine and India.

While Nokrashy is threatening to raise in the UNO the question of the unity of the Nile Valley under Egyptian Crown, the Umma Party and the Sudanese nationalists have already drawn up a programme of "Sudan for the Sudanese".

And the stage is set for a battle royal between the Egyptian and the Sudanese nationalists. And then the British will intervene as the disinterested party upholding the just right of self-determination of Sudan.

Meanwhile, the British have succeeded in relegating to the backwater the crucial question of evacuation of British

troops and the Committee of Joint Defence.

The Communiqué issued by the British Embassy in Cairo announced that apart from the Sudan question, "agreement between the two Governments on the proposed revision of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty is complete." (Free Press—27-1-47).

Nokrashy like Sidky has in fact accepted the British Plan of abject surrender. For as the Special Correspondent of the Hindustan Times pointed out, Nokrashy Pasha was always in full accord with Sidky Pasha. And Nokrashy's "plain speaking" to the British on his assumption of office was described by one Wafidi paper as only "another plot" to maintain himself in power and carry on negotiations.

Reaction's Trick

His efforts to break the negotiations on the issue of the "unity of the Nile Valley under Egyptian Crown" seem to be yet another trick, as a correspondent writes, "Circulating rumours in Cairo state that the whole affair has been set up by the British and Egyptian reactionaries in complete agreement."

For there is no doubt that the Sudan issue becomes an ideal weapon in the hands of the British Foreign Office not only against the unity of the Nile Valley, but also against its independence.

To separate the question of the unity of the Nile Valley from the question of immediate evacuation of British forces is not only to deny self-determination to Sudan but also to keep Egypt chained to the chariot of British imperialism.

The true guarantee of the freedom both of the Egyptian and the Sudanese peoples lies in their unity on the basis of

the following clear demands:

1) Immediate evacuation of all British troops from the Nile

and withdrawal of bases.

The Egyptian progressive élites including the Kotah and the Wafid Parties and the Leftist Workers' and Students' Committee of National Liberation are fighting for the complete evacuation of British troops from the Nile Valley.

Let Sudan Decide

But what the Kotah and the Wafid are unable to see is the justice of the Sudanese demand for self-determination, thus playing into the hands of Nokrashy-Sidky and Co. and the British. They are rightly afraid that Sudan will be an easy prey to the British in case its separation from Egypt was declared without the simultaneous abolition of the present administration and the withdrawal of all British forces.

But the co-operation of the Sudanese people in the anti-British struggle that lies ahead can only be obtained by guaranteeing to them the complete right of self-determination, which as Ismail el-Azhari, head of the Sudanese Delegation to Egypt, declared in an interview, "The Sudanese consider as their natural right and cling to it."

El Ashraf further assured that El Ashraf further assured that in giving the Sudanese the right of final say in the matter, Egyptians who are anxious regarding the unity of the two countries need not entertain the slightest fear." (The Middle East Opinion—13-11-46).

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1) Immediate evacuation of all British troops from the Nile

INDEPENDENCE DAY MEETING IN LONDON

"We have celebrated Independence Day for years but this year the struggle for India's freedom is reaching its highest point," said Communist leader R. Palme Dutt, addressing the Independence Day meeting in London organised by the Communist Party of Great Britain.

"Today we express our support for this struggle," he said continuing, "and send the Indian people on behalf of the British labour movement a message of solidarity."

"We also condemn the recent attack on the vanguard of India's freedom forces, the Communist Party, and demand the release of all arrested leaders and workers."

The meeting was attended by a large number of Indians and was presided over by Bert Papworth, Trade Union leader.

The meeting passed a resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of British troops, declaration of Indian independence, protested against the arrest of Communist leaders and demanded their release forthwith, return of seized documents and withdrawal of cases.

A deputation was elected to meet Pethick-Lawrence, in this connection: Rajani Palme Dutt and Philip Piratin, M.P., will lead this delegation. Lobbying of Members of Parliament will also be organised.

Valley:

2) Rejection of the proposal to form an Anglo-Egyptian Joint Defence Committee in any form whatsoever; and

3) Recognition of complete self-determination for the people of Sudan.

The Workers' and Students' Committee of National Liberation has already shown the way by fighting for these objectives and this is the only way of defeating British disruption and their attempts to mislead world public opinion about Egyptian democracy.

★ INSIDE THE FORCES ★

A YEAR has nearly passed since the Order instructing all Indian Officers of men by whom the forces are man-

ning. Now the Enquiry Committee for one week daily from two to

justifying the stand taken by the "This was obviously a punishment ratings during the strike. Yet even what was worse, it was also a case as bad as they were before the strike. BOBs who had been on parade with

A friend has written to me to say we had also been out of steps, yet that life in H.M.S. Dhanush has there were no extra parades for them, become intolerable.

Prepared To Resist

"The Indian Officers swallowed the

"There is an acute shortage of staff insult, but we were not prepared to here", he says. Instead of 24 stokers do so. We complained to the Welfare

we have only 15. As a result our Officer. No notice was taken of it. hours of work have been increased. Now we decided to act on our own,

from eight to eight and a half hour.

"But that is not all: Everyday we camp and on the evening before the have some extra duty or other which first extra parade the Administrative

keeps us busy for another four or Officer, one Flight Lieutenant Sunil five hours. During war long hours of rush to our barracks.

work were understandable. But this is after one year of peace.

"In despair the stokers put up a request to the Chief Engineer, Mr. Hussain, and asked him to get more men and reduce their hours of work.

"Lt. Hussain replied: "This is the Royal Indian Navy. There is no Trade pleaded with us not to make him captain here. If you do not know what call the order formally. He promised

RIN discipline is, I can teach you by that if we attended the first extra putting you in jail. You have no right to question me. My orders must be trouble.

"It was difficult to convince the

"This is how we live. Extra duties majority of the men. Finally they all continue and we work under constant threats of punishment for petty morning and P.M. Sunil kept his word.

The SRO was not implemented.

"This is another proof how if we remain united behind our just demands, we can force concessions out of the authorities."

Relief Funds

PROMISED sometime back to publish details of contributions by various organisations to various relief funds. These are the reports I have got so far:

Indian Army of Bombay—Rs. 10 for the Travancore Relief Fund.

Men of the RIN, Bombay—Rs. 10 for the People's Relief Committee for the riot victims of Bihar and Bengal.

More money and more news of contributions are required for this year's column.

--Our Forces Correspondent.