

The Revolutionary Situation in India.

By V. Chattpadhyaya.

Even in peace time, an anti-British demonstration in the streets of **Peshawar** would be a serious matter for British imperialism. It assumes far greater significance when it takes place in the midst of a general mass revolt against imperialist domination. Peshawar is a city of vital military importance, for it is situated on the North West Frontier of India, a few miles from **Afghanistan**, and is an indispensable point of advance in military operations against that country or Soviet Russia. With the independent "unruly" tribesmen on the Frontier British imperialism has been at war for a century in order to reduce them to subjection and to extend the imperialist frontier into Afghanistan. Peshawar is also of importance because it is situated in a province from which the majority of Indian soldiers are recruited for the imperialist army that "defends" the country, and any rising in that city has an effect upon the whole of the Punjab.

The conflicts that have taken place in Peshawar during the last few days have been far more violent than those hitherto reported from other cities. British armoured cars attempting to force their way through the streets were set fire to, MacDonald's British regiments were hailed with a

shower of stones and bricks and several British officers and soldiers have been killed. It is reported that the city is still in the hands of the revolutionaries, and that the MacDonald Government has surrounded it with British soldiers and intends bombarding it with bombing-planes. Heavy artillery is also being dispatched from Central India. As usual in such critical moments, the British women and children have been removed from the city and sent to a place that is safer for the present. As the events in Peshawar are bound to have their effect upon **Lahore**, where there have already been serious demonstrations and conflicts with the police, martial law has been declared in Lahore, the city is occupied by troops and every street is patrolled.

The wave of revolt has spread to **Simla**, the summer residence of the Viceroy and his Government in the Himalaya mountains. There has been severe street fighting and the English women and children have been removed from that city also.

It is significant that in the operations against the "rebels" the British Government has used no Indian troops except the Gurkhas.

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There is good reason for this. The Sikhs, who until fifteen years ago constituted the most "loyal" troops of the Imperialist Army, are today unlikely to fire upon the workers and peasants. In the recent street fighting in Calcutta, the Sikhs were prominent among the revolutionaries. Amritsar, the holy city of the Sikhs, which has become world-famous through the massacre perpetrated in April 1919 by General Dyer, is the active centre of the Workers and Peasants Party to which a very large number of Sikh peasants belong. As the recruits for the Indian army are drawn mainly from the peasantry, it is obvious that any revolutionary movement among the peasants is bound to have a serious effect upon the troops. It may be prophesied with considerable certainty that Sikh troops will not be relied upon by the Government and that as the revolutionary movement assumes more a proletarian character they will probably join the revolution.

This is not yet the case with the Gurkha troops who are recruited chiefly from the State of Nepal and who have been carefully isolated from the Indian movement. The latest reports from the Gurkha territory, however, show that a national revolutionary movement has already begun among them, and that intensive propaganda is being conducted so as at least to prevent them from serving in the Imperialist Army.

In the province of Bengal the anti-imperialist struggle has grown more intense. In Calcutta, there was a serious conflict in Alipore Gaol between the political prisoners and the police, in the course of which the leader Subhas Chandra Bose was beaten and fell to the ground. The rumour that he and the Mayor of Calcutta, Sen Gupta, had died of their injuries led to extraordinary excitement among the masses and thousands stormed the gaol demanding that their leaders should be produced dead or alive.

Fighting is still going on in Chittagong where British troops are said to have killed twelve of the "rebels" who had set fire to the arsenal. Martial law still prevails there, and throughout East Bengal, numerous arrests are taking place daily on the charge of being connected with the rising in Chittagong.

While the revolt is spreading from one town to another, the Indian agents of the Government are busy trying to break the independence movement. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Lord Irwin's agent, has been doing his best to get the "moderate" leaders together into a so-called All Parties' Conference with the object of appointing delegates to the proposed "Round Table Conference" in London. It is to enable this Conference to be held that the British Government has hitherto refrained from arresting Gandhi. It is announced that Sapru has convened the Conference to take place in Bombay on May 14. The intimate connection between religion and imperialism is shown by the recent action that has been taken by the two great religious organisations of the Hindus and the Muslims. The Hindu Mahasabha, which represents Hindu orthodoxy and the great Hindu landowners, held its yearly conference on April 19th and 20th and elected delegates to the Round Table Conference to protect "Hindu" interests against the Mohammedans. The Mohammedans, on their part, held a meeting under the well-known leader Mohammed Ali, denouncing the present movement as an attempt to establish "Hindu" domination over the Muslims and urging participation in the Round Table Conference in order to protect Muslim interests against the Hindus. The protection of these different interests is, of course, to be undertaken by the imperialist exploiters whose interests will be well looked after by Ramsay MacDonald. It is worth recalling that Mohammed Ali was in Europe a year ago and gave the Secretariat of the League Against Imperialism a message to India and the Islamic peoples to fight for national independence and overthrow imperialism in every form! At the same Muslim meeting just mentioned, the Arab countries were called upon to fight for their independence! In this way the attention of the Indian Mohammedans is being diverted from the revolutionary struggle at home to an academic defence of the independence of their co-religionists abroad.

But Mohammed Ali represents only the Muslim landowners, industrialists and commercial bourgeoisie. In the Punjab and in Bengal, the two provinces where the Muslims constitute half the population, the poorer Muslims and the nationalist Muslims of the Congress are participating in the struggle for independence. It is obvious that no such Hindu-Muslim question exists among the industrial workers.

The outstanding feature of the present revolutionary situation, in addition to the widespread revolts in the town, is the growth of the strike movement among the workers. The G.I.P. railway workers are still on strike, the B.B. & C.I. and the Southern Mahratta Railway workers are demanding higher wages, and the strike movement among the railway workers promises to be general. The jute workers in Bengal are on strike and their union officials have been arrested. The "Workers' Weekly", the new organ of the Workers & Peasants Party, points out in its last issue that the movement has gone far beyond Gandhi and the Congress, and calls for a general strike throughout India. The prospects for such a strike are extremely favourable. The agitation for the release of the Meerut prisoners has been carried into the factories and the workers have been contributing their maximum to the Defence Fund. The frantic efforts of MacDonald's British and Indian labour agents to control the labour movement in the interests of imperialism are being met by the workers with revolutionary action.

In fact, the growing strength of the Indian revolutionary movement may be judged not only by the actual revolts, strikes, etc. that have been taking place almost hourly, but by the severity of the regime of violence and terror to which the Labour Government has been resorting. Ramsay MacDonald, the lackey of British imperialism and one of the leading practical exponents of the Social Fascism of the Second International, is governing India by martial law, machine guns, bombing planes, shooting down of workers, mass arrests, vindictive sentences, torture of political prisoners and repressive ordinances. He has discovered to his surprise that the Indian masses are not disposed to serve the purposes of their imperialist exploiters by accepting the doctrine of non-violence preached by Gandhi and the I.L.P. They have begun their offensive against imperialist exploitation on various fronts, and, although there has not yet been a clear formulation of their social and economic aims owing to the variety of the social groups participating in the struggle, they have already given ample proofs of their determination to liberate themselves from the yoke of imperialism. It is the task of the Indian Communist Party to formulate those demands and give a clear direction to the movement.

HANDS OFF THE SOVIET-UNION

The Growing War Danger.

By W. Tischler (Kovno).

The following article was written before the discovery of the intended bomb outrage on the Soviet Embassy in Warsaw. It serves however to show the atmosphere of anti-Soviet incitement and war preparations against the Soviet Union in which such outrages are planned.

Ed.

The article by Roman Dmowski, the leader of the Polish National Democrats, in "Gazeta Warszawska" has aroused public discussion of the question of the military attack on the Soviet Union. Wherein consists, the differences of opinion between Dmowski and Pilsudski's followers. Firstly, in the question of the date when war shall begin. Dmowski is not against a military attack on the Soviet Union—else he would have come forward much earlier against its preparations—but he is against the date for the outbreak of the war being fixed for the immediate future. The economic crisis in Poland is developing into an economic catastrophe. Disintegration has set in in the camp of the Pilsudski-ites. The working class is more and more frequently using the sharpest weapons of the class struggle. The peasantry is not in a position to pay the taxes; in a number of districts the peasants are suffering from chronic famine and are frequently passing over to a complete tax strike. The government does not possess any economic programme, no programme regarding the way out of the crisis. Pilsudski wishes to come out of the crisis by means of war. But the Polish bourgeoisie has something to lose, hence Dmowski is against a war adventure at the present moment.

The second question is: Who shall conduct the war?