

# CONGRESS LEADERS ACT AS STRIKE BREAKERS

Congress leaders in Andhra are circulating a story that "a young lad who raised INA slogans was beaten up by Communists at one of their meetings." Repeating this story at a recent public meeting at Guntur, Prakasam, President of the Andhra P.C.C., said: "Terrorism would not be of any use in the elections and the Communists must be ashamed of their conduct." (Bombay Free Press Journal of Nov. 16).

LET Prakasam go and repeat his story in front of the 14,000 High School students of Tanuku town (West Godavari District, Andhra), their parents and the town public; and let him seek their verdict on his "charges."

These students have every right to give a verdict; for they not only talked, but acted, for the defence of the I.N.A. men. They organised a one-day Protest Strike in their High School, to protest against the Imperialist intervention in Indonesia and the inhuman treatment being given to the INA men.

Prakasam's lieutenants acted that day as strike-breakers, a role which even the police dared not play.

The strike was organised by the Students' Federation (S.F.) in which Communist students play a leading part.

The SF has become the most popular organisation among the students because it has fought for their interests during the last three years.

\* In the worst days of paper scarcity, the SF successfully fought the paper-blackmarketeers, unearthed paper hoards, and distributed them to the students at controlled rates.

\* It fought for High School Co-operative stores where students could get all their educational needs at fair prices.

\* It fought against kerosene-blackmarketeers, and secured a regular supply of kerosene for students.

\* In the days of cloth scarcity, it fought for and won cloth for students at controlled rates.

As a result of this work, the parents of the students and the public of the town look on the SF with respect and affection.

## District Congress Leader Threatens, Then Plots

The Tanuku SF gave a call for a one-day protest strike on October 31 in support of the Indonesian struggle for freedom and for the release of the INA men. They approached the local leaders of the Students' Congress (SC),—the rival anti-Communist student organisation set up by the Andhra Congress leaders—for joint action.

Gopala Rao, one of the top Congress leaders of the District, and a true disciple of Kaleswara Rao (one of the anti-Communist Provincial Congress leaders) is the boss of the Students' Congress. He called upon the SC boys not to have anything to do with the strike.

Gopala Rao did not stop with this. Along with the SC boys, he went to the homes of the students and told them that "to strike is to betray the country." "If students strike, the authorities will fine them and they will be made to undergo unnecessary hardships"—this was his argument with an eye on the parents!

Seeing that despite all his arguments and threats, the mass of the students were responding to the call of the SF, Gopala Rao in the end wired the District Congress President Bapineedu (ex-Parliamentary Secretary and another leading anti-Communist of the Province) and brought him to Tanuku. They decided to break the strike at any cost.

On the morning of October 31, the strike began; the SF workers and members were busy at the school gates, explaining the significance of the day to the students and asking them not to go in.

Then began the real incidents of the day.

## Young Picketeers Trampled On

A group of ruffians of the town (men of the blackmarketeers whose paper and kerosene hoards the SF had formerly unearthed and who had been waiting to get a chance to wreak their vengeance on the SF workers) together with some SC boys, led by Gopala Rao himself, came to the school gates with the Congress flag in their hands. They began actually forcing the students who were outside the gates to go in.

The SF workers wanted to avoid a scuffle with Congressmen at all costs. A group of them, therefore, lay flat in front of the school gates, peacefully picketing and appealing to the students not to go in.

The police were sent for but even they did not dare to do anything beyond merely asking the boys to clear out. So solid were the student ranks.

But what even the Police did not dare to do, was now done by Gopala Rao himself. He walked straight over the heads of the 15 student picketeers (all of them youngsters below 16) into the school compound and ordered all his followers outside to get into the school as he himself had done.

The SC boys followed their Congress leader. Seeing this, autocratic teachers of the school also joined in and began kicking and trampling upon the picketeers. Even cycles were taken over them.

Many of the picketeers were seriously injured. One of them, Sharma, began to bleed from the mouth and nose; another thirteen-year old youngster, Suryanarayana, was rendered unconscious; a third one received serious injury in the abdomen.

## What Town People Thought of Them

The entire mass of the students were shocked at this incident. It created an uproar among the town public. A huge crowd which had gathered at the school gates became so indignant that they wanted to beat up Gopala Rao and his men. The SF workers themselves restrained them, telling them that to do so would only be playing into the hands of the waiting Police.

A well-known local Congressman and lawyer, Mr. Chhala Sur-

yanarayana, went to Gopala Rao and told him straight: "What the SF boys are doing, we ought to be doing ourselves; and what you have been doing, is what the police always do."

In the evening, after a procession which marched through the whole town, the SF held a big public meeting where both student and public speakers spoke on the freedom struggles of the Indonesians and the Indo-Chinese and demanded the release of the INA men.

## Even Ask Principal To Punish Them!

And next day, after all this, Bapineedu (ex-Parliamentary Secretary and Provincial Congress leader) whom Gopala Rao had wired for and brought to Tanuku, is reported to have met the headmaster of the High School and demanded from him what action he had taken against the strikers and against the SF workers! Bapineedu had all along been directing the whole show from behind.

This is how Prakasam's lieutenants are fighting for the Indonesian people's freedom and for the INA men. Let Prakasam go and repeat his charges against the Communists in a public meeting at Tanuku Town. He will get his answer from those who saw both Communists and his followers in action on October 31.

## Cawnpore Nationalist Press Today

# DEMANDS PAYMENT TO PUBLICISE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE!

## Prints False Anti-Working Class, Pro-Khaksar Reports

THE CAWNPORE NATIONALIST PRESS IS MAKING itself ridiculous by its gross exaggeration and wilful distortion of news. Hardly a trace remains today of the great patriotic traditions set by the late Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi, father of nationalist journalism in Cawnpore. "Any weapon against your opponents in election-time"—this seems to be their unscrupulous slogan.

Here are a few examples of their recent performances.

GOVINDH BALLABH PANT VISITED CAWNPORE ON Oct. 21, 22. A mass meeting was held in Lenin Park and another at Phool Bagh which he addressed. Both times, all he did was to attack the Communists. In neither meeting was the attendance more than 25,000.

In fact, everyone in Cawnpore knows that Lenin Park which is a small park surrounded by houses on all sides in Gandhinagar area, can by no stretch of imagination hold more than 50,000 at a time. But the Pratap (Congress Hindi daily founded by the late Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi himself) reported on October 24 that the attendance at the Lenin Park meeting was one lakh!

Not only that. Actually at the Lenin Park meeting, mill workers were barely 5,000, the rest of the 15,000 or so being made up of clerks, supervisory staff, shopkeepers and the general city people who had flocked to the labour area. But according to Pratap the audience of 1 lakh consisted predominantly of workers!

## How They Give "News"

On Sunday, Oct. 27, a workers' rally was held at Lenin Park under the auspices of the Mazdoor Sabha (Communist-led) to give a reply to Pantji's attack on the Communists. In spite of the failure of the mike, 10,000 workers turned up at this rally and listened—for over an hour to Communist-Mazdoor Sabha leader, S. Yusuf.

But the Pratap of the next day reported that "it is rumoured (!) that the proposed meeting of workers could not be held as it was dispersed by a black-flag de-

monstration."! According to other Cawnpore papers, however, the meeting did take place, but only 200 workers were present!

This is how the Nationalist papers are "educating" their readers to believe that the Cawnpore workers are turning anti-Communist!

## Opposite Of Truth

Similarly a Khaksar meeting held at Parade on Oct. 21, was reported the next day as a meeting of 10,000. In fact, the Khaksars who were present at the meeting in uniform were about 200 people—and the remaining audience of another three hundred—altogether 500.

Not only this, but reporting the clash between the Khaksars and the Leaguers at this meeting, the entire U.P. Press gave the impression that two Khaksars had been killed by the Leaguers. In reality it was the other way round. Ask any person who attended the meeting and he will tell you that it is the Khaksars' swords and knives which had wounded the people among the unarmed crowd.

Reporting the truth would not suit their anti-League policy, therefore facts must be reversed!

How corrupt and callous the whole press has become was revealed when the Secretary of the local Women's Association attempted to get the news of a proposed Women's Conference print-

ed in the daily papers. Every single one of the local papers, Pratap, Vertaman, Daily Telegraph, etc. was approached but the only reply received was that the press could not publish matter free of charge! Publicity for a women's conference must be paid for!

Finally when the Amrita Bazar Patrika of Allahabad began giving the news, the local press woke up to its responsibility and some short notices appeared.

The day before the Conference the representatives of all the local papers turned up, demanding advance copies of the presidential address of Mrs. Kuisum Sayani (well-known General Secretary of the AIWC). At the same time a demand was made for payment for printing the full report! The Daily Telegraph offered to print 100 copies for distribution to the delegates provided the Conference met the printing charges, etc.

## For Profiteers Or People?

When the Press representatives were categorically told that no paper has ever been paid in the U.P. for publicity to the women's cause, they showed extreme surprise and attempted to "compromise" by asking only for the cost of the blocks of the pictures!

"Surely" said a reporter, "You don't think we have extra paper to waste, that we can print your report free of charge? Why, even the Governor's speech at a dinner the other day was paid for, or it would not have been printed in full!"

Nobody could have put it clearer than this reporter how profiteers' morals have today, invaded our Nationalist Press too. Is this how they are going to defend our people's interests and help them in their fight for freedom?

# ATTACKS—PART OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN

(Continued from Page 2.)

Jug Singh, a local Congress leader, a notorious anti-Communist and friend of the blackmarketeers.

It is these who two months ago had severely assaulted Communist students when they had gone to present a purse to Sjt. Sri Krishna Sinha (ex-Congress Premier) on behalf of the students for Political sufferers in the Province.

It is these also who were imported into Ballia town to carry on anti-Communist slander on the eve of the Kisan Conference. The people of Ballia remarked about them: "These boys are disgracing Congress and its flag by shouting such slogans."

After the Kisan Conference, they began organising systematic beating up of Communists. It is reported that when they talked about their plan to some very responsible Congress leaders of the Province, one of them answered: "Do what you like. Why do you ask me?"

With this encouragement, these boys went ahead with their plans.

On the night of October 30, when two Communist workers, Ramkrishna Rai and Bhubhneswar Rai (who are beloved Kisan leaders of the District) were returning from the Koria Conference, while they were waiting for the train in the dark at the station, about a dozen of the "Jawahar Jatha" boys came up and severely beat them up with stones and whips. They were badly injured and had to be immediately removed to hospital.

The gang ran away when chased by Brahmadeo Singh, a Congress worker of Teghra Thana.

Chandrasekhar, another leading Communist (and son of one of the most respected Congress leaders of the Province) rushed to the spot along with Manzi Kumar and Kamli Babu, two prominent Congress workers of Teghra Thana, and removed them to hospital.

The Police came immediately and wanted to make it a police case. Because Congress workers and leaders were involved in this, Chandrasekhar did not want to allow Police intervention but wanted to get the matter settled by appealing to the saner elements inside the Congress itself.

The "Jawahar Jatha" is continuing its terror tactics against the Communists. It is reported that their leader actually went and threatened the hospital compounder and staff because they treated the assaulted Communists!

There is reason to believe that all this rowdiness has been systematically planned by the anti-Communist Congress leaders of Bihar as part of their election tactics. Sarjug Singh, father of the leader of the "Jawahar Jatha" and a local Congress leader openly said to one Communist: "Communists should be eliminated from India by all means..." Only recently, Sjt. Nandkumar Singh, Secretary, Monghyr D.C.C. is reported to have remarked to some Congress friends of his—when they expressed their readiness to come and help him to fight the Communists in the elections in Monghyr District—"Do come. But come armed with whatever weapons you can get—Talwar, Farsa, Garasa, etc."!

It is time all honest Congressmen of Bihar did some hard thinking and spoke up boldly against all this. The anti-Communist influence among the kisan masses of the Province by breaking the heads of a few Communist workers. The only result of this would be to destroy all that is healthy and democratic inside the Behar Congress and turn the Kisan masses themselves against the Congress. Prominent Congress workers and leaders of Teghra Thana (like Brahmadeo Pd. Singh, Mithan Chowdhury, Manzi Kumar and others), who have come and visited the injured Communists in hospital have themselves expressed their disgust and indignation.



INTERNATIONAL NOTES

- ATTLEE-TRUMAN ON THE ATOM BOMB
- INDONESIA — WHAT NEXT?
- DE GAULLE MANOEUVRES FOR POWER

**T**HE ATTLEE-TRUMAN declaration on the Atom Bomb is a triumph for reactionaries both in the United States and Great Britain.

It puts into practice Churchill's slogan, given in his House of Commons speech last week that Britain "will march at their (America's) side in the cause that President Truman has defined."

It is a complete reversal of what was unofficially announced, before his arrival in Washington, to be Attlee's plan—that of handing over control of the Atom Bomb to the Security Council of the United Nations.

By this declaration, Attlee, Truman and, of course, their satellite, Mackenzie King of Canada, in effect proclaim that the secret of the Atom Bomb is to remain in their possession. Of course, some platitudinous generalities suggest that scientific information will be exchanged between different countries—but this will only apply to atomic research when the generous sponsors of the bomb are sure that there will be adequate safeguards against its use!

Clearly this is the most shameful piece of anti-Soviet power-politics to which the Anglo-Americans have yet committed themselves, for against whom else is this secrecy directed? Even the chief organ of Anglo-Indian reaction, *The Times of India* has been forced to describe the declaration as "a collection of platitudes" and to suggest that "America, Britain and Canada are sabotaging the work of the Commission (on exchange of scientific information) by their own policy of secretiveness."

**Democratic Protests**

There is no doubt, however, that the policy expressed in this declaration is the logical policy which has emerged from the speeches of Bevin and Churchill last week. And there is no doubt also that these speeches have aroused great uneasiness in democratic circles in England.

*The Manchester Guardian* weekly of November 9 reports that, "Tory approval of Mr. Churchill's counsel, demonstrated from time to time, only making the silence on the Labour benches the more marked."

Again Mr. Bevin carried the Tories, but what about his own (Labour) backbenches? They were silent. . . . Not a whisper of encouragement did Mr. Bevin get from a single Labour member. . . .

Outside Parliament, the reaction was the same. The unofficial organ of Toryism, the *Daily Telegraph*, fully endorsed Bevin's policy. The jingo-Imperialist *Daily Mail*, of course, was quite crude and blunt in its praise for Bevin's policy as arising out of "mistrust" for "a Third Power" (the Soviet?).

In contrast *The Times* stressed the need for cooperation with the Soviet; even official Labour's *Daily Herald* stressed that "there

can be no enduring peace" unless the Big Three work together.

The *Liberal News Chronicle* was far more straightforward, stressing that:

"There is every reason to hope that Mr. Attlee will press for a revision by President Truman of his recently declared policy. The suggestion made by Mr. Churchill, that Britain should ally herself unreservedly with America does not foot the bill."

The liberal *Manchester Guardian* also stressed that Churchill's argument was "a counsel of despair."

**Economic Blackmail**

How then, in spite of all these clear protests, did Mr. Attlee quietly line up behind Truman?

The fact is that the Labour Government in Britain is deadly afraid of offending its American ally because it thinks that America has the cash and resources that Britain so badly needs.

Last week came further news of the Anglo-U.S. loan talks that have been going on for over a month. From the report (*Reuter*, November 18), it is clear:

- (1) The British are asking for a loan of 4,000 million dollars at 3 p.c. interest, the U.S. is offering 3,500 million dollars.
- (2) In return the U.S. are asking for the removal of exchange control, i.e. giving permission to individuals etc. in the sterling area to buy American goods freely.

Doubtless the Labour Government hopes that if it lines up with the U.S. in its foreign policy, it will be able to secure some economic concessions; like all reformist Labour leaders, instead of depending on its people and its country's resources, it is looking abroad for help—and naturally in the process it is joining up in the anti-Soviet policy of its paymaster, U.S. imperialism.

This is why last week *Pravda*, organ of the Communist Party, sharply criticised those who hold that the atomic secret should be a sacred trust, saying:

"It seems there are even now people who have not learnt anything from the Second World War. It seems to these people that it is still possible to return to the old times."

**Imperialist Difficulties**

**I**N Indonesia, fierce battles are going on particularly in and around Soprabaya between the Indonesian nationalists and Anglo-Dutch forces.

As usual, the imperialists are putting out their slanders about Jap aid to the Indonesians. An American Associated Press message of November 14 reports that two dead Japanese were found in a bunker captured by British troops. Yet the very next day came a *Reuter* account of "radio reports that Japanese soldiers were fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Allies."

In fact, the "pacification" of Java which is the task the Anglo-

Dutch have set themselves is going to prove no easy job.

"It might be unwise" warned the *London Times* War Correspondent in a dispatch to the Statesman dated November 8, "to underestimate the capacity of the Indonesian nationalists to organise themselves, especially now that the leaders of the Communist Party who were imprisoned by the Japanese are again at large."

"The 'reconquest of Java,'" he adds, "will be a major military operation requiring large numbers of trained, equipped and steady troops and modern machines of war."

So also an official Australian broadcast of November 13 commented that:

"Britain in her handling of the Indonesian situation . . . is hypocritical. Australia cannot be blind to the fact that 40,000,000 Indonesians in the near north may well, in the long run, be more important to our national security, not to mention trade and commerce, than the few thousand Dutch who formerly controlled the area."

Thus the proclaimed Anglo-Dutch decision to teach the Indonesians a lesson will be by no means easy to achieve—particularly since in addition to Indonesia's own strength, the democratic movement all over the world is coming to its aid. Already reports have come through of strikes of seamen in New York, London, India and Australia.

**Crisis in France**

**T**HE political crisis in France continues, and it is a crisis in which is expressed the battle inside France to decide which path France is to follow—the old discredited path of restoration of the Empire and anti-Soviet alliance with British reaction or—the new democratic path of freedom for the colonies and alliance with the

Soviet and democratic forces in Britain.

In fact, it is over this that de Gaulle and the Communists have clashed during the last fifteen months since liberation.

The Communists have sharply criticised de Gaulle for going back on his promise of 1944 of complete self-government to Indo-China and thus betraying the colonial people. They condemned French policy in Algiers which led to massacres of thousands; they opposed French refusal to recognise the independence of the Levant which gave the British an opportunity to establish themselves in Syria and Lebanon.

The Communists have equally sharply criticised de Gaulle for his line-up with Britain in attempts to establish the Western Bloc as a sort of anti-Soviet power, and pointed that the way to peace was not through playing a balance-of-power politics but through frank and friendly collaboration between all nations.

Lastly the Communists have criticised de Gaulle for the hesitant infernal policy that has not taken sharp action against the rich traitor-industrialists who helped Hitler's occupation regime and has not implemented the plans of the National Council of Resistance for reorganising France's economy on a democratic basis.

Till now, however, the Communists could only criticise; their representatives inside the Government had only unimportant offices (Air and Health) and could not decisively influence policy.

**Policies, Not Personalities**

But the results of the elections and the emergence of the Communist Party as the major and biggest party has changed the situation. The Communists are now demanding one of the three important portfolios—Foreign Affairs, War or Interior—i.e. they are demanding that they be allowed a hand in shaping policy, that they be allowed "to assume all responsibilities resulting from the general elections."

De Gaulle does not want this; this is why, after being elected President by 555 to none, he first handed back his mandate, stat-

ing that he was not satisfied that Communist policy was not inspired by Moscow—the old, old red berry that reactionaries in every country drag out whenever they wish to cloud the real issue!

In this battle between policies (and not personalities as *Reuter* and de Gaulle have tried to make out), the Catholic Left (M.R.P.) with its 142 seats is solidly behind de Gaulle. The Socialists (146 seats), however, are wavering, the rank-and-file favouring the Communist stand while the leadership is closely linked with de Gaulle and particularly his anti-Soviet foreign policy, just as Bevin is with Churchill.

**Which Way?**

The latest news is that de Gaulle has been re-elected President by 400 votes to 163 (the Communists voted against)—on condition that he form a Government of the three major parties with an equal division of portfolios and to apply the programme of the National Council of Resistance.

**POSTSCRIPT**

Thursday morning's paper brings the news of a compromise by which de Gaulle is the Prime Minister and Minister for National Defence, the Communist leader, Maurice Thorez, is one of four Ministers of State without portfolio. The Communists, like the other two major Parties (Socialist and M. R. P.) have five representatives in the Government including the Minister of Armaments and Minister of National Economy.

This compromise clearly does not settle decisively the policy of the Government—since de Gaulle keeps the main ministries in the hands of his own men; he is the Minister of National Defence, Bidault (M. R. P.) continues as Foreign Minister, while Tixier, a right-wing Socialist continues as Minister of Interior. The battle over policies thus will continue inside the Government itself, with however the Communists in a much stronger position, than before when they had two very minor ministries.

**SOVIET SUPPORTS INDONESIAN, INDO-CHINESE FREEDOM Press Sharply Condemns British Intervention**

[We give here extracts from articles in *PRAVDA* and the *NEW TIMES* on the situation in S.E. Asia. Clear and sharp, they proclaim the Soviet's sympathies with the freedom movements of the countries of S.E. Asia and indict the imperialists for their plans to reimpose colonial rule—EDITOR.]

**T**HE urgency of the colonial problem is emphasized by the *Pravda* commentator in a review of the events in Indo-China and Indonesia.

"We do not know," he writes "the full picture of the events in the southern part of the Pacific Ocean area, but it is perfectly clear that they are bringing forward the colonial problem to the forefront of international politics. The war of freedom-loving nations against fascist enslavers has left a deep mark in the consciousness of colonial peoples."

**Old Times Gone**

"The horizon of the struggle for peace and freedom, the announcements of the ideals of the United Nations at the conference at San Francisco—all this gave the colonial peoples the hope for a change from the pre-war order. The war did not pass without a mark on the economy of a majority of the colonial peoples for years torn away from the metropolitan country. For the colonial world, the old times have gone for ever."

"The sympathies of the progressive forces of the whole world are fully on the side of peoples who are striving for freedom and have a right to be free" declares another important Soviet journal *New Times* in a review of the events in Indo-China and the Netherlands East Indies.

This is the first direct comment here on the situation in these territories and it combines sympathy with the liberation movements with condemnation of colonial regimes.

The *New Times* recalls how Japanese propaganda found ready soil among colonial peoples, "especially in Indonesia and Indo-China where under the Dutch and French Governments the local populations were deprived of elementary democratic rights."

It continues: "Rising in struggle against the Japanese occupation, the colonial peoples never thought of the possibilities of a return to the colonial regimes as they existed before the war."

"The noble claims put forward by the United Nations for the destruction of Fascism and the provision of democratic rights for all peoples not only encouraged the colonial peoples to new activity but assured them of quick achievements of political and economic equality."

"After the defeat of Japanese imperialism the colonial peoples began the realization of their old hopes and aspirations. However, the obstructions of these peoples towards freedom are meeting with serious obstacles."

*New Times* says that the nationalists in French Indo-China "with full rights accused the French colonial government in Indo-China of collaborating with the Japanese."

**British Role Exposed**

Turning to the Dutch East Indies nationalists the journal draws attention to the repeated "wide and truly mass character of the movement." The role of the British is also mentioned thus:

"Despite the declaration of non-interference with internal affairs, British representatives of the Allied Command from the very beginning took the course of supporting forced

restoration in Indonesia and Indo-China of Dutch and French rule. A large part of the Japanese war effort was not dissipated. The reason for this is not that the military forces of the Allies in Indonesia and Indo-China are insufficient for carrying out this operation, but the Japanese are being used for the suppression of the local national movement."

"Naturally such an attitude by the British Communist has caused deep disappointment among the population of Indo-China. These facts cause surprise and alarm among the democratic public in England."

"The significance of the events in Indo-China and Indonesia spreads far beyond the borders of these countries. The movements and responses and support among the democratic forces of the whole world."

**People's Resistance**

"British circles are quite active in the countries of South-East Asia. At the same time the English understand it is difficult to count on the re-occupation in Indo-China and Indonesia of the pre-war colonial regimes. This stimulates England, as one of the most important colonial powers in Asia, to use not only the method of arms but also to seek to retain its position in South-East Asia by encouraging a compromise between the nationalist movement and former and present

"The threat of restoring colonial rule in the previous form is unbearable for the peoples of Indonesia and Indo-China and is meeting ever-growing resistance."

"Democratic forces of the whole world are fully on the side of the peoples who are striving for freedom and who have a right to be free."

[From the *Antita Razar Patrika*, November 6]

**UNIONIST TRICK**

(Continued from Page 8.)

dates will not be able to stand in the elections." And this is how Virendra's *Pratap* explains the result of the Unionist announcement, "It is now clear that many Communists who were to stand against the Congress will not be able to stand."

What a disgraceful thing for a Congress paper to do, to come out and say that this most atrocious anti-democratic move by the Unionists helps the Congress!

The Punjab bureaucrats cannot get better allies today than these anti-Communist Congressmen. Is it with the help of Glancy and MacDonald that these Congressmen intend defeating the Communists?

Last week, I reported how the President of the Provincial League had protested against the new rule. But today the League too seems to have resigned itself to the inevitable. Just because

the League itself is not too severely affected, its League leaders are not making this issue a major plank in their campaign!

But the workers and peasants throughout the Province are taking up the matter and demanding that their best and most trusted leaders be allowed to contest the elections. In Lahore, the railway workers have already nominated as their candidate, worker-Communist Mirza Ibrahim, Vice-President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. They are carrying on a vigorous propaganda that he should be allowed to stand, though his name will appear only on the final list of voters and is not included in the old out-of-date lists.

At a giant workers' rally on 11th November, under the auspices of the Punjab Trade Union Congress a resolution was passed severely castigating the Unionists and demanding steps to make it possible for new voters to stand as candidates.



"PEOPLE SUPER-HUMANLY SELF-CONFIDENT"

Production Feats Of Railwaymen, Miners, Textile Workers

(We give here a brilliant eye-witness account of what the new Yugoslavia looks like, feels like, is moving towards, written by Frank Pitcairn, ace foreign correspondent of the London DAILY WORKER.

Last week general elections took place in Yugoslavia—even according to Reuter "completely free and secret". And they resulted in a decisive overwhelming victory for the candidates of the National Liberation Front, led by Marshal Tito.

Read this article—and you will understand why—Editor).

If you want to see the new hope getting born, this is the place. Life is hard. In the war-torn countryside millions are hungry while thousands are on the ragged edge of starvation. For lack of transport, both coal and wood are scarce. What there is, must go to industry and railways.

In Belgrade, cabinet ministers work in unheated offices although the winter wind is already coming off the snow-capped mountains to whistle through all the broken windows. They will stand it. These cabinet ministers have been used to spending their recent winters in the frozen woods leading the Army of Liberation. They are tough—as tough as the people they sprang from and brought to victory.

Supplies of food, even in Belgrade, are short, spasmodic and horribly expensive. An egg, if you can lay hands on one at all, costs nine annas. A two-course meal in a very moderately priced restaurant runs into fifteen shillings a head (Rs. 10). And the wage of highly skilled industrial workers or the higher paid government officials averages approximately six pounds (Rs. 78) per week. But they manage. Everyone who works—soldiers, industrial workers, or office workers—feeds in one of the many, specially organised common messes (often run by trade unions) where there is at least enough food.

Yearnings Of The Rich

As for the rich, they live on their fat. They sell their jewels, deal on the black bourse, hog black market supplies, eat hearty, invent interminable lies about the government, intrigue with British and American personalities, listen to the BBC and go to bed to dream of a great Anglo-American army of intervention dropping somehow from the sky to take the place of the Germans as their protectors against the terrible, incomprehensible common people.

If you tell them that the British are never coming to make Belgrade safe for the Stock Exchange, they will tell you that you are a victim of Communist propaganda. For, in the words of a popular poster which can be seen all over the walls here: "The saboteurs of the struggle for liberation yesterday are the saboteurs of the struggle for reconstruction today."

Workers' New Will

Hard the struggle certain is and hard the life. But, the will and grit of these people in their determination to construct and reconstruct a great, new, prosperous country, is harder still. For three, four and five months, railwaymen, miners and metal workers work-

by Frank Pitcairn

ed entirely without pay on essential reconstruction jobs. They worked on much less food than they are getting now, worked in rags and often bare-footed.

Bad News For Saboteurs

And to-day they ask proudly: "What liberated people of western Europe has as yet got itself a state and form of government for which the workers would be prepared to do that?"

And day by day the news gets better. Laboriously, the struggle is being won.

There are textile factories which, within the last few weeks, have actually surpassed pre-war production.

The coalminers of Serbia were last month only three per cent below pre-war output. A week ago the miners of Urdnik launched a competition for all the miners of Serbia, of which the winner will be the pit which not only reaches a production of ten per cent more than pre-war output by the end of December but which also gets the largest increase above that figure.

On the land Autumn sowings have begun under conditions which, experts here say, can create an entirely new situation within a few months.

All this is bad news for the saboteurs of the struggle for liberation and the struggle for reconstruction. Here, there has never been a break or contradiction between these two struggles. The war of liberation was the inspirer, organiser and educator of reconstruction and the legacies of that war—in terms of 1,700,000 dead, in terms of ravagement, wreckage and robbery, are the centre of all the problems that are facing a people which is battered and hard-pressed but almost super-humanly self-confident.

Barometer of Victory

Look down from the centre of Belgrade towards the Sava river and you will get a quick, composite picture of the way things are. Here is a wide, cobbled street. Soldiers, workers, women in uniform and women in shawls are dancing on the roadway. It is the national dance. Several score of people, hundreds even, link arms to form a slowly revolving circle, going round in a kind of shuffling step, while in the middle two or four or six people come forward to dance a leaping, bounding dance, and everyone sings. They have come from a huge election meeting—around 60,000 I would say—in Slavia Square, which is Belgrade's biggest Square.

There are five tombstones in a little public garden beyond this road as well as many graves covered with flowers of Red Army men who died on that spot in the battle for Belgrade one year ago. They had Tommy-knocked their way through to the Koskva Hotel which the Germans held as a strong point. Almost every public square in Belgrade has some of these graves, each with its polished brown gravestone and a five-pointed star on top.

As you are standing by the graves, with the dancers and slogans behind you, you look direct-

ly down into the principal market of Belgrade. You are looking at a barometer. For the market stalls tell the story of how the crucial, central struggle of the country is going.

If the peasants throng in with food at the newly-fixed maximum price levels, things are looking up, industry can eat, industry can work, industry can produce the boots, clothes and metal goods the peasants must have—the vital circle is complete. To-day, the barometer of the Belgrade markets is moving slowly, jockeying towards 'fair'.

Building Bridges

Below the market is a muddy square with a dozen or so brand new tractors waiting to get out to the fields. Beyond that are the Sava and Danube bridges. Over on the left there is the great railway bridge—wrecked. Over on the right there is another—wrecked. In the middle there is a temporary bridge which the Germans built.

Now, it is thick with traffic—with peasant carts loaded with pumpkins, cabbages and potatoes; other carts crowded with people because these little horse carts have to be used as buses, because there are no proper buses, because there is no petrol, an occasional

jeep, an occasional lorry.

For bulk goods traffic between Belgrade and the railhead across the river, a ferry is now the only link. The government and the workers have set themselves the target for complete repair of the railway bridge by the middle of December. This is a big job. But, within the last nine months no less than 1,700 wrecked bridges have been restored in this country of ravines and wide rivers.

River traffic and, above all, Danube traffic has always been important to this country and, since the Germans wrecked the railway tracks, and stole the lorries, it has been more important than ever.

Vital River Craft

And right here you come up against one of those happenings which taken together seem to add up to an almost grotesque tale of spite and intrigue on the part of the old world against the new. Before the war, Yugoslavia had the largest fleet of barges and tugs of any Danube power. Danube traffic was then recognised as the central part of their economy. The Germans in their flight from the Balkans seized the barges and towed them from the country via Budapest to Austria. They took 35 per cent of the pre-war fleet which means a much

greater percentage of the present fleet—a total of more than 100,000 tons.

Foreign Reaction's Plot

These barges are now in the American Zone of Austria. They have been there ever since the German capitulation. And, ever since, the Yugoslav government has been asking the Americans to give them back. A high Yugoslav official, white with anger, said to me: "If people die of starvation here this winter, if children suffer, it will be in part the direct guilt of whoever is holding up those barges."

Quite recently, the Yugoslavs made one more request to the Americans to get their barges back. The reply was: "The question is one which involves political consideration."

"Do you expect," I asked, "that they will ever give up the barges?"

"Yes," said he, "we have certain indications that they may do so towards the middle or the end of December."

Towards the middle or the end of December the Danube freezes over and the barges will be useless until Spring. This is certainly an important political consideration!

For Democratic Control Of Ruhr Industry GERMAN COMMUNISTS' CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS

From a Special Correspondent

The German Communists of the Ruhr, the biggest and dominant industrial base of Germany, have just held a Conference and produced a manifesto, containing their proposals for the reorganisation of the industries of the Ruhr.

The importance of the Ruhr is twofold. First, it can be the industrial base for a war economy—as it was in Hitler's days—it was from the monopoly-industrialists of the Ruhr that Hitler got his greatest support.

Secondly, it is the key to Germany's industrial regeneration as a peaceful power—for it must be the base of Germany's "peace economy".

Thus, the problem is also twofold: first to destroy the power of the war-makers so that they cannot use the Ruhr as an industrial base for war; second, to build up the peaceful people's Germany.

The Manifesto which has even been stated by the British military authorities on the spot to be the most constructive programme so far prepared by democratic Germans in Western Germany calls for a united effort of the Ruhr people to transform the Ruhr district into an industrial centre which "works no longer for war, but for the peace and the welfare of the German people."

Purge Of Nazis

Besides a complete purge of all active Nazis from the administration and leading positions in factories and pits, the Communist manifesto suggests the complete liquidation of the Steel Trust and the Langbaum-Verein—the most powerful association of Ruhr and Rhine industrialists—including all their planning organisations which helped in the preparation of war. It also proposes that some of the factories formerly making arms should now manufacture products for current use.

This plan should be worked out under Allied control by the regional and provincial administrations in closest co-ordination with the Trade Unions and shop stewards and with the assistance of the technicians of the factories concerned. Naturally this plan

will have to fit into the plans of the Reparations Commission for removing armaments industry from Germany.

End Of Monopolies

The manifesto suggests the liquidation of the German Coal Syndicate and of the Mineowners' Association and the taking over of the whole mining industry by the Provincial administration. The Ruhr Communists are firmly convinced that this measure is indispensable in order to break the grip of the German coal-owners and of their officials, who were Hitler's earliest supporters, and to put the mining industry—the key for all armament production—under democratic control.

They feel that for the increase of coal output it will be necessary to give the trade unions and shop stewards a much larger share of responsibility in the industry. At the same time they appeal to all miners of the Ruhr to produce more coal, the best means to get more food and play their part in paying reparations.

Other important points raised in the manifesto are concerned with urgent measures for the reconstruction of all possible means of transport and the necessity for the carrying through of the agrarian reform in Western Germany in order to liquidate the estates of the Junkers and arment landings and thus to increase food production.

For Reconstruction

The document is all the more important as the Ruhr is unquestionably to-day the region of Germany where Military Government has achieved the least progress, both in the political and economic fields.

At the end of September, 1945, 90 per cent of the key positions were occupied by members of the German Catholic Party of varying degrees of reactionary outlook, while still 75 per cent of the ma-

nor positions in the administration are occupied by former members of the National Socialist Party.

The purge is going on very slowly, and the number of German anti-fascists both from the Social Democrats and Communists in the administration is extremely small.

The arrest of 21 leading coal-owners by the British Military Government which took place not long ago under pressure at home in Britain and from the Soviet internationally, has been welcomed by the Ruhr miners. But that this step was only a halting move under extreme pressure is shown by the fact that it has not been followed up by a purge of those mine officials above and underground who had been active Nazis.

Practically nothing has so far been done to encourage the miners in their endeavours to purge the Nazis and to help them to organise a Ruhr-wide campaign for more coal. The Miners' Trade Union of the Ruhr wants to start a campaign for more coal, but it is not yet officially recognised.

True there are many local trade union branches who are doing excellent work, but to run a campaign to conduct an efficient propaganda all over the area, a district-organisation is needed which gives a lead to the branches, organises the job through the whole Ruhr and whose officials, in close co-operation with the pit stewards, must have a say in production.

On similar lines a wide campaign among the entire Ruhr population could be started for the reconstruction of the many bridges, railway tracks, sidings and roads which the Nazis destroyed last winter during their retreat to the West and Elbe.

Transport is one of the keys to the very unsatisfactory coal and food situation in the Ruhr. But it should not be impossible by a democratic mobilisation of the population and forced measures against former Nazis to get similar results as have been achieved.

(Continued in col. 1, below)



# Autonomy, Not Separation

## PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING, GENERAL ADVANCEMENT OF NATIVE LAND

### Interview With Kurdish Leader

**AGA MOHAMMAD QAZI** is the leader of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan which has been so much in the news in connection with the so-called 'Kurd Revolt.'

In January, five representatives of democratic Teheran newspapers paid a visit to the town of Mahabad, the headquarters of the Kurd leader. They describe Aga Mohammad Qazi as "a very cultured and genial personality, handsome, an excellent conversationalist, about fifty years old, but looking much younger."

We give below the questions these correspondents put to him together with his answers, translated from a report in the Tudeh Party organ Rahbar — answers which show clearly the true nature of the Kurdish uprising, democratic and based on the people, and not dependent on foreign aid or support — EDITOR].

**Q.** WHAT are the objects of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and do you also, like the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, demand autonomy?

**A.** FOR the last four years, autonomy is being practised here. We have already achieved this aim.

#### Party's Manifesto

Our aims and objects are clearly stated in the Manifesto of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan:

1 THE Kurdish people inside Iran are autonomous and free in their local affairs.

2 THE medium of education is their own Kurdish language, and they carry on all official business in that language.

3 THE Committee of the Kurdish region, elected according to the Fundamental Law, controls and supervises all social and Governmental affairs.

4 ALL Government officials must be from the local population.

5 A LAW be passed with a view to establish co-operation between the peasant and the landlord.

6 THE Democratic Party has Kurdistan makes special efforts to establish good relations between the people of Kurdistan and other peoples like the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians who live here. It strives to maintain complete unity and brotherhood between the different peoples in their struggle for freedom.

7 THE Democratic Party of Kurdistan makes efforts for the exploitation of all the natural resources of Kurdistan, for the development of its agriculture and trade, for the spread of education and for the improvement of the health of the people and the general advancement of our native land.

**Q.** ARE the organisations of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan limited to Mahabad, or have you branches all over Iran?

**A.** THE Democratic Party has branches and organisations in all places in Kurdistan and where the dictatorial regime of Iran makes our working openly impossible, we work secretly.

**Q.** DOES the Democratic Party maintain relations with non-Iranian Kurds?

**A.** ALWAYS.

#### How Autonomy is Exercised

**Q.** HOW does the Democratic Party fulfil its administrative jobs? What has been the concrete form of the autonomy which you say has been practised for the last four years?

**A.** THE moment we got an opportunity to put our desire for autonomy into practice, we held elections. Elected representatives from all over (Iranian) Kurdistan came to Mahabad. These representatives formed a body to manage the affairs of Kurdistan and to maintain relations with the Central Government of Iran.

This body, whose Chairman I am, is called "The Higher National Committee," and manages the affairs of Kurdistan.

**Q.** THE daily Ettelaat published a news item alleging that you and your colleagues went to Baku, and while returning, brought a large quantity of armaments, and paper and printing machines for the establishment of a Communist Party. Is this news correct?

**A.** I most emphatically deny this. I bought paper and a printing machine at Tabriz and this can be confirmed by anyone from the dealer there.

**Q.** CAN you tell us what can be the motive of this newspaper in inventing this story?

**A.** I believe this canard was invented by the military staff at Tabriz, and the main reason is the intense hat-

red some of those at the helm of affairs at Teheran feel towards the Soviet Union.

**Q.** IS there a Communist Party in Kurdistan?

**A.** WE stand for democracy, and so in the area under the Democratic Party's administration, the people are free to have any political beliefs they like. But the only organisation so far openly working in Kurdistan is the Democratic Party.

**Q.** IS any daily newspaper printed and published from Mahabad?

**A.** I am publishing the daily Kurdistan from here. It is the official organ of our Party. But the Iranian Government does not permit its distribution in other parts of Iran.

#### Negotiations With Central Govt.

**Q.** DURING the last few years in which you have been practically autonomous, have you ever carried on negotiations with the Central Government?

**A.** YES, I entered into negotiations with the Central Government twice. I went to Teheran on both occasions for this purpose. The first negotiation took place three years ago.

The second, only last year, when I came back to Mahabad with AQA KAZMI, the Education Minister, I told him that our "fallow land" has the capacity to grow everything. Why is the Government sitting idle? With the aid of edu-

cation and propaganda you can sow any seeds that you like.

I told the Education Minister that the way to do this is to allow the Kurds to use their own language. Today he has to waste five years of his life to master the Persian language. If education is given through the Kurdish language it too will expand and develop the capacity to express newer ideas.

I met the King also. He complained to me about the behaviour of the Kurds living near Rezaiah. I reported that this complaint is really against the Government. If no steps are taken to educate and enlighten them, the people remain ignorant and do not know what is in their interest and what not. The King looked serious and asked me to write down our demands.

Last year also I saw the King. None of the promises of the Central Government had been fulfilled. I again reminded him of all that.

#### Unity With Democratic Party Of Azerbaijan

**Q.** YOU say that you stand for the autonomy of Kurdistan. Why have you sent your representative to the Democratic Committee of Azerbaijan?

**A.** AS the aims and objects of the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan are very similar to those of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and as in this struggle complete unity exists between the two parties, the presence of our representa-

tive in the National Committee of Azerbaijan is meant to strengthen our co-operation.

**Q.** DOES this autonomy you claim exist anywhere in the world?

**A.** THIS type of autonomy already exists in the United States of America and the U.S.S.R. In the Soviet regime complete democracy exists and the constituent units fully enjoy the autonomy we demand.

The hostile attitude adopted by the Iranian Government has made imperative big changes.

As a matter of fact, I consider the whole of Iran to be my Motherland. And I am ready to sacrifice my life for her. But if the Central Government continues its reactionary and anti-popular policy and sends guns and rifles to kill us here, what alternative is left for us?

#### Programme Of Reforms

The reactionaries try to cover up their shameful activities by saying that Kurdistan wants to be independent and raises the banner of revolt. On this plea they want to crush and kill us. The Azerbaijanis and we had no intention of separation, but the Central Government and SYED ZIA-ED-DIN'S clique have made life hell for us. (Here Aga Mohammad Qazi's eyes became moist, and he became silent. After a long pause he again continued and told of his plans for introducing reforms in Kurdistan).

I want the Latin alphabet to be introduced here and Kurdish books printed in it. In mosques, men and boys will be taught this alphabet. I want all this to be done in the very near future.

Similarly, I want to introduce the normal international dress instead of the Kurdish one. I attach special importance to this. The Kurdish dress is a permanent impediment both in work and on the battlefield.

Many things have to be done because the Central Government has not taken a single step for the betterment of the Kurdish people in the last four years.

### Behind Renewed Civil War In China

## KUOMINTANG REACTION PLANS TO BLOW UP ALL-PARTIES' AGREEMENT

### U. S. Imperialism's Dubious Role

By Air Mail.

CHUNGKING, April 15.

THE agreement achieved at the Inter-Party Political Consultative Council in China at the end of January was greeted by freedom-loving people throughout the world. For the first time after many years, China was united again.

But within the Kuomintang (KMT) there was a regular revolt against the Agreement. Leading it were, first, the "C. C. clique," (so named after its two leaders, the Chen brothers), the controllers of the KMT Party machine and the most viciously Fascist-minded group in the KMT and second, the Whampoa group of militarists, who represent in the Army what the C.C. clique represents in civil life—the most hard-boiled Fascist reactionaries.

During the last three months these groups have rapidly strengthened themselves inside the KMT and are reported to have decided to "place some five hundred crack party-careerists in various Government posts in order to capture the administrative machinery."

In a recently held KMT Assembly the clique severely attacked the Agreement. Several liberal members of the KMT represented in the negotiations with the Communists).

#### Extended Influence Of C. C. Clique

The C. C. clique has also strengthened and extended its influence in banking and financial circles by securing complete domination of the Farmers' Bank of China, and almost complete domination of the Bank of Com-

munications. Through these banks—two of the four Government banks in China—the clique is securing control of various financial enterprises. Already it has a monopoly of the publishing business.

It is the C.C. clique, backed by other reactionaries, which is putting through a well-planned conspiracy to blow up the decisions of the Inter-Party Political Consultative Council (IPCC), preserve the present KMT dictatorship and launch a final civil war to exterminate all democratic forces, with the financial and military help of the Americans.

#### KMT Breaks Truce And Attacks

Already they have started to enforce their Fascist order in certain areas under KMT rule. Murders and kidnapping of progressive students are reported from Peiping. The Communist headquarters and press in the

same city were raided by KMT police and troops on March 3rd, and many arrests were made.

Despite the truce, signed on January 10th, the KMT has been attacking the Communist areas and troops, thus threatening the whole country with civil war. The following facts (revealed by the Communist leader General CHOU-EN-LAI, at a Press Conference on April 5th) give a striking picture of the way in which the KMT is violating the "Cease Fire" Agreement.

● SIXTEEN towns and 331 villages have been forcibly wrested by KMT troops from the Communists, since the date of the "Truce."

● DESPITE the clear agreement that all troop movements should stop, except by agreement of the Joint Military Operation Department (in which the KMT, the Communist Party and the Americans are represented) the KMT sent seven armies to Manchuria, concentrated troops in Hopeh, Jehol, Hupeh and Honan, and besieged with nine KMT armies the 50,000 men of the Fifth Division of the New Fourth (Communist) Army.

● JAPANESE and puppet troops, instead of being disarmed, are being kept for the anti-Communist war. In Shensi Province, 50,000 Japanese troops were kept armed and actually to attack the Communists by the KMT Governor of Shensi!

#### Sham Demobilisation

● THE "demobilisation" part of the Agreement by which both the KMT and the Communists agreed to reduce their armies, is on the KMT side,

being reduced to a complete force. Most of the demobilised soldiers are being recruited into a new organisation to be called the Military Labour Corps and into the Traffic Police Force. Both these organisations are meant to be used, quite obviously, as shock troops for anti-democratic repression.

● AND to crown everything else, on the 1st of April, fighters of the KMT Air Force demonstrated over the Communist capital of Yen-an for a full half hour. When Yen-an protested, the KMT authorities admitted the "manoeuvre" but refused to explain it, dismissing it as a "minor incident."

#### Civil War Begins—In Manchuria

In Manchuria the situation is very much worse. And fighting on a mass scale has been provoked by the KMT.

It was decided under the terms of the Agreement that Joint Field Teams composed of the representatives of the KMT, the Communists and the American Military Command, should be sent to Manchuria to enforce truce. But the KMT delayed the sending of these Teams and, in the meanwhile, launched a civil war.

When at last the Field Teams arrived at Mukden, the KMT troops in Manchuria, under the command of General CHEN TUNG-KUO, refused to stop their offensive against the United Democratic Armies on the fantastic plea that this offensive was necessary for the purpose of taking over sovereign command, and, of course, "has nothing to do with civil war."

The whole purpose is to delay and obstruct the work of the Peace Teams, in order to secure enough time to present them with a fait accompli.

When considering the Manchurian question, it is important to remember that it was the Communists who first started guerrilla warfare and formed the "United Anti-Japanese Army" and who resisted and fought the enemy for fourteen years.

(Continued on Page 16.)



Reminiscences Of Nalini Das ; by Nirranjan Sen

BARISAL'S REVOLUTIONARY FREEDOM-SOLDIER

IT WAS IN 1929. I had then just come back to Barisal after four years of detention under the Bengal Ordinance. A feeling of joy and relief was in me after the monotony of prison-life. A friend practically forced me to go along with him to witness a football match, which was having a big draw in town.

Football Star

The local college team was due to play against a European team. Excited discussions went all round the field about the prospects of the day, and many had misgivings that the barefooted college lads might be no match for the well-shod European team. But a young body cut this short: "It's not going to be so simple as all that, sir. Don't you know NALINI DAS is playing for the college? He certainly does not care for all the boots that they can bring to the field."

Nalini had by then taken the field, thousands applauded him, and every movement that he made was greeted with loud cheers. The college team put up a really splendid show, and won too, and Nalini was, of course, the star-performer of the evening. He was borne shoulder high by his innumerable admirers through the streets after the match.

I was impressed by the young lad's popularity, but dismissed it as the usual reward of a good sportsman.

Shop Keeper's Faith

But a few days later, I had another experience of his popularity: passing the college, I found a man desperately crying, vomiting all the time. There were several people around him just watching the fun. Cholera was raging in Barisal at this time and the man was obviously a victim of it. I was at a loss as to what to do with him, how to remove him from there and get him treated. A shopkeeper came from round the corner and said: "Why, call Nalini Babu from the college hostel; everything will be arranged as soon as he is informed."

I could not get Nalini in the hostel that day, but what I got was the impression that Nalini was already a leader among his people, not only through sports but through service of his people as well.

Months later, one night our revolutionary group was discussing our future plan of work. Sachin (Sachin Kar Gupta, just released after serving a term of 15 years) said: "Let us wait a bit; let Hari

come, for he can let us know the position inside the college, how popular we are with the students." I asked: "Who is this Hari?" Sachin answered: "Hari's real name is Nalini Das, he comes from Bhola. In my opinion, he is the best of our cadres." I was intrigued: "Is that the renowned footballer?" I asked. Sachin said with a laugh: "That's right. He is our boy." I was filled with pride to learn that such a popular boy, perhaps the most popular in Barisal at the time—belonged to our party.

Pucca Swadeshi Family

Nalini came from a pucca Swadeshi family. His uncle was a leader of old terrorist revolutionaries, and had passed a number of years in prison. His elder brother was a noted Congress worker of Bhola. In the Non-Co-operation of 1921, his uncle and brothers joined the movement giving up their studies. Nalini was then a young kid, reading in the junior classes.

But he was already being schooled in patriotism. In those days, the Congress and Khilafat leaders attending political meetings at Bhola and the neighbourhood would take Nalini with them. He was a great favourite of many of the leaders like Badshah Mesh, the Pir of Faridpur, Wahed Raza Choudhury of Utania, Lal Mesh of Bhola, Chuni Sen, Anulya Mukherji and others. It was through them that Nalini was initiated into Swadeshi.

First Fight

The Government was hiring people to break up the Congress movement then going on; but despite their best efforts, these despicable were usually found out.

One day Nalini on his way to the National School (which he had joined during the Non-Co-operation Movement) met one such agent of Government. The little boy went up to him and told him to his face: "You are a lickspittle of the government. That makes you an enemy of the country. Why don't you give up your job right now?" The man was furious, and pounced upon him. Nalini was undaunted, and he hit him back. The scuffle went on for some time before the passers-by came and rescued him, and the man disappeared.

But the matter did not end there. Nalini and a couple of his friends were prosecuted, and the case became the sensation of the town. Nalini was convicted, though the sentence was light. But this earned him the unstinted respect of the Congress and Khilafat workers of Bhola who came to greet the young lad with bouquets.

We give on this page the story of Nalini Das by Nirranjan Sen. There are 43 such Pro-Refugee Revolutionary Prisoners still rotting behind the bars in Bengal. Between them, they have already spent 603 years in jail. YOU can hasten their release by making YOUR voice heard. The Bengal All-Parties' Committee set up for campaigning for their release consists of Congressmen, League, Nationalist Muslims and Communists. The Committee has issued a public appeal to leaders of all political parties and editors of all newspapers to take up this demand. Every patriotic organisation should pass resolutions calling for their release. Wire copies of your resolutions both to the Central Government AND the Bengal Government.



Sketch in Ink by PRAN KRISHNA PAUL

By 1942, the Non-Co-operation Movement had started to ebb and many students went back to Government school. Nalini too was made to leave the National School and return to the other. But the day he had to go back saw him in tears which continued for the next two days. His relatives and teachers tried to console him, but it hurt the patriotism of proud Nalini who kept on saying: "It's only because we could not win Swarnj that we have now to go back to Government school."

Joins "Jugantar"

Shortly after this, Nalini joined the Jugantar Party and soon became one of the ablest and most trusted lieutenants of Sachin, who was then the key man of the Party in Barisal.

At first, Nalini, as is natural in schoolboys, was rather careless and exposed himself and a few of his friends. The police began to suspect him and informed the headmaster accordingly. The headmaster was enraged that his school should have become a nest of the Swadeshis. He threatened Nalini to find out who his associates were, and what he was doing. Nalini would not utter a word. The headmaster was equally adamant, but completely baffled when he could get nothing out of him even after caning him. Nalini, of course, became more cautious and careful in his movements now.

In those days, between 1925-30, Nalini was the moving spirit behind every social service activity in Bhola, which became one of the busiest centres in the whole of Barisal district.

Cholera was a normal occurrence in Bhola every year. Nalini came forward to organise a 'Seva Samiti' to tend and nurse the sick. Hindus and Muslims both were equally grateful to him for the services that he rendered them in distress. Even when he moved on to Barisal, he could never hold himself back whenever there was an epidemic in Bhola.

The boys at Bhola had no library or reading room. Nalini took this up too; and soon the Sahitya Mandir (Reading Room) at Bhola became an object of pride for the whole district.

Not only this. At his studies too, he was good. His teachers recognised his exceptional capabilities. But the young revolutionary could hardly spare time for his books with a thousand and one things on his shoulders. Yet, in college, his tutors used to say, "If Nalini could pay a little more attention to his studies, he would become a fine scholar."

His Character

There is no dearth of facts to show his integrity, tenacity and sense of responsibility. All these marked him out as an exceptional revolutionary worker even at an early age. I remember when we were caught and imprisoned in 1929, our group was almost left without cadre. But even in jail, Nalini was one of the few outside on whom we pinned all our hopes. And he justified our expectations too in no small measure.

After our arrest, Nalini was busy reorganising everything. At this time he himself was in hiding. In November 1930, he was arrested. The police tried to implicate him in the Dalhousie Square Bomb Case. But failing to do so they sent him off to Hiji camp as a detainee.

At that time, to the prisoners in Hiji was meted out the worst possible treatment by Government and they went so far that there was shooting of unarmed prisoners in 1931, resulting in the deaths of Santosh Mitra and Tarakeswar Sen. Tarak was a friend of Nalini from childhood. Nalini himself was also wounded in this shooting.

The incident roused the anger

of the nation which brought Tagore down to preside over an unprecedented demonstration in Calcutta. Inside the prison, Nalini vowed to avenge the murder of his comrade. Within three months, Nalini escaped from Hiji.

So began the second round of his revolutionary career, this time completely underground. The police issued warrants and offered rewards for his arrest. But Nalini defied all that, put his entire energy in building up the group, re-forging the old links.

In 1933, the police Commissioner of Chanderbago was murdered, and the police was trying to fast the blame upon Sachin and Dinesh Majumdar (both of whom had escaped from prison) together with Nalini. But despite their best efforts, they could find him nowhere, though Nalini was moving from village to village, sheltered by the villagers themselves who loved and respected him.

In June 1933, the police net caught them in Calcutta. Without warning, their flat in Cornwalls Street was surrounded, and a regular exchange of shots took place for sometime before the police could break open the door. Nalini tried to escape by slipping down the drain pipe, but he was wounded and captured. All the three were tried; Dinesh Majumdar was hanged, Nalini and Jagadananda Mukherji, who is still in prison, were sentenced to transportation for life.

Over To Communism

So Nalini came to the Andamans, and here I met him again. Through all the storms and stress of prison-life, Nalini's spirit never admitted defeat. And here too in the Andamans, I was struck by the remarkable capacity for self-analysis that he possessed. So bright and so full of noble sentiments and emotions, yet Nalini had a mind of steel that could never be broken; and like steel, it could never get rusty.

This together with his infinite love for his people brought him over to Communism, and he joined the Communist Consolidation in 1935.

Fourteen years he has served in jail, fourteen years that have taken away the best part of his youth, but no sacrifice is too great for this freedom-soldier, among the finest that our people have produced.

Buy Quick And Read!

The Bengal famine shook India. But even to thinking Indians the tragedy was seen as the death of destitutes in the streets of Calcutta.

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ASSAM COMMUNIST WEEKLY GOVT. REFUSES PERMIT FOR REPUBLICATION

FROM JYOTIRMOY NANDY, Sylhet (Assam)

The Government of India has refused permission, without giving any grounds, for resuming publication of "Samhati", the Bengali weekly organ of the Surma Valley (Assam) Communists. It may be recalled that the Assam Government demanded security from "Samhati" in 1941 but subsequently withdrew it. Due to the unsettled conditions, political and financial, "Samhati" was discontinued then. In the coming elections, Assam Communists contemplate putting up four candidates from the Surma Valley, the Bengali speaking area in Assam. The refusal of permission to "Samhati" will severely handicap the Communists who have no paper of their own while no less than six local Bengali and two English pro-Congress weeklies, together with several papers coming in from Calcutta pour out anti-Communist stuff daily and weekly.



# In Monghyr: Home Of Veteran Bihar Communist-Kisan Leader

Under Red Flag

## BIG PEASANT RALLIES

In Congress Name

### "JAWAHAR JATHA'S" DOINGS

Monghyr District is one of the strongest Kisan bases of the Communist Party in Bihar and is the home of Sjt. Karyanand Sharma, most respected Communist-Kisan leader of the Province. Karyanandji is one of the oldest Congress workers of the Province, his service in the Congress dates from 1921. He has braved police bayonets and the lathis of the hirelings of zamindars in mighty kisan struggles since 1927 (since the famous struggle of Chanan).

He has been arrested and jailed seven times beginning with 1921 (once during the Congress Ministry itself!) and has spent over twelve years in jail.

NATURALLY ENOUGH, THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS CONTESTING THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS TO THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY FROM THE TWO CONSTITUENCIES IN MONGHYR DISTRICT.

THE straight path before all of us is to go to the kisans, our common people, and each of us put before them his policy and programme and seek their democratic verdict. But the Congress leaders of Monghyr District do not seem to be prepared to face the people's verdict. Thrown into a flurry by the Communist decision to contest the election, they are losing their heads and taking to abuse and lathis against the Communists.

#### Ballia Kisan Conference!

Two big Kisan Conferences were held recently in Begusaral area of Monghyr District, at Ballia and Korla, presided over by Brahmdo, veteran Communist-Kisan leader of the District and one of the prospective candidates.

Over 4,000 kisans attended the Ballia rally. Long before the Conference, kisans began pouring into the little town of Ballia in large batches with Red flags and shouting slogans of "Zemindari Pratha Nash Ho", "Kupre Ka Sabal Hal Karo", "Desh Ki Azadi Keliye Hindu-Mussalman Ek Ho", "Kisan Sabha Zindabad".

A week before the Conference, local Congressmen had already gone into "action". A handbill was circulated on behalf of the Thana Congress Committee calling the Communists enemies of the people and warning the kisans that the Communists are doing the work of fighting black-marketeers and securing and distributing cloth to the people only to cheat them!

On the eve of the Conference, a group of notorious and discredited anti-Communist workers were imported from Begusaral (more about them later) to parade in Ballia town with Congress flags, shouting slogans of vile abuse and slander against the Communists (such as that they forge currency notes, See P.W. No. 20).

The kisans of Monghyr District, however, know the Communists and their leaders quite well. It is the Kisan Sabha led by the Communists which has worked tirelessly for the interests of the kisans, during the last three years—building bunds to save their crop and homes against flood, fighting police corruption and zamindari lootings on kisans, fighting food and cloth hoarders and securing for the kisan homes their daily needs like cloth and kerosene.

#### Rival Congress Meeting

Finding therefore, that some of their tricks were working the Congressmen held a rival meeting. They called it Anushasan Day Meeting, at the same place and time as the Kisan Conference. But only about 300 people attended their meeting, the kisan masses could be called on anti-Communist standard.

The Kisan Conference, however, attended by over 400 Communist Kisan leaders put before the kisans their program

Here is something for Pandit Nehru himself to ponder over. While he goes up and down the country calling Communists "traitors," young Congress boys organise themselves into "Jawahar Jathas" to beat up and assault Communists and use obscene language against them. Does he see no connection between the two? If Panditji does not speak up now against such methods, where will it soon lead the Congress organisation and our people?

lems and the way forward to the country's freedom; and called upon them to vote for these candidates who honestly fight for their demands.

Korla is a small village of 2,000 poor peasants and agricultural

labourers. Ground down by age-long zamindari oppression, these people have begun straightening their backs only after long struggles led by the Kisan Sabha.

There are only a few anti-Communist Congressmen in Korla without any influence; they are boycotted even by the members of their own families who all belong to the Kisan Sabha, and actively worked for the success of the Conference.

Therefore, the anti-Communists mobilised to their aid top Provincial Congress leaders from outside like Babu Ramcharitra Singh, ex-General Secretary of the Bihar Provincial Congress Committee; and held a Congress meeting, the day before the Kisan Conference, attended by these Provincial bosses. As at Ballia,

here too, they thought they would blow up the Kisan Sabha Conference altogether this way.

At this meeting, all that Ramcharitra Babu and his friends did was to pour out vile anti-Communist and anti-Kisan Sabha abuse.

No wonder, once again only about 200 people turned up to hear this slander and abuse. The few kisans who were present were heard to say after the meeting: "They only abuse the Kisan Sabha and the Communists, but say nothing about our problems and demands."

#### Korla Kisan Conference

The very next day, over 6,000 kisans including 1,000 women turned up at the Kisan Conference and listened till late into

the night to the speeches and songs.

#### "Jawahar Jatha" in Action

The success of the Ballia and Korla Kisan Conferences in spite of all their efforts to break them, has made even the responsible Congress leaders lose their heads. Afraid of facing the people's democratic verdict, they are openly organising physical assaults against Communist workers.

A jatha of about a dozen Congress boys calling itself "Jawahar Jatha" has been organised which goes about abusing and beating up Communist workers with slogans of "August Revolution Zindabad" and "Amar Subhas Zindabad". The leader of this jatha is the son of Babu Sar-

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 5.)



A section of the gathering of 6,000 peasants at the Korla (Monghyr) Kisan Conference.

## In Lahore: INA Release Campaign

### KHIZAR'S POLICE ARREST CONGRESSMEN

#### LATHI-CHARGE PEOPLE

#### Gopichand's Apologia For Unionists !!

From Our Own Correspondent.

LAHORE, Nov. 10.

THE people of the Punjab have been agitated over the fate of the Indian National Army more than of any other province as the majority of its personnel belong to this province. Several organisations have been holding meetings and demonstrations demanding their release. Thousands have signed the memorial of the Punjab Congress to the Viceroy. Congressmen, Communists, League-ers and students, all have held meetings and passed resolutions demanding the release of INA prisoners.

#### Double-Faced Policy

But Khizar's Unionist Government has adopted a double-faced policy in this matter. On the one hand it wants to give the impression that it stands for their release while on the other it hurls its police hounds on those who participate in the INA Release Campaign. Khizar gave an interview to a Unionist MLA praying for the Viceroy's clemency to INA officers and men, and secured its wide press publicity. He is also reported to have made representation to the Government of India for their release.

The reason is obvious. Many of the INA personnel are connected with families who form the very backbone of the Unionist Party. For instance Captain Shah Nawaz is related to Khan Bahadur Batai Khan, Unionist M.L.A. Faced with the coming elections, Khizar has to safeguard his "soldier base" and put up the show of a sympathetic attitude. The Unionist Party have even drama-

tically announced that they are making preparations for the defence of the INA boys, but nothing has been done about it so far. But the real face of the Unionist Ministry was revealed when it launched police repression against those who are carrying on the campaign for release.

On November 4, Lahore broke away from its tradition of decades by not having the usual magnificent diwali illumination in sympathy with the INA men and a number of meetings were held. The Unionist police was let loose, and 14 people were arrested in Lahore on Nov. 4 and 5 under the Defence of India Rules.

#### AICC Member in Custody

They included Lala Kedarnath Sehgal, M.L.A., A.I.C.C. member. The "offence" according to the Punjab Government Advocates General was non-bailable. Sehgal was not produced before the court and instead the Magistrate was called at the Police Station where Sehgal is in remand.

Drwan Chamanlal put in an application in the court on the

5th for his release on bail so that Sehgal might attend the meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Board of which he is a member. The Magistrate said that he had a lot of work to attend to and could not hear the application before November 9, and asked Chamanlal to appeal to the High Court if he wished against this order. The High Court allowed him Interim bail on the 6th but this also was rejected by the Magistrate on the 10th.

The treatment meted out to the persons arrested was revealed when Harbhajan Singh Aluwalia was produced before the City Magistrate. He complained that both his hands had been handcuffed and he was given nothing to eat.

#### Lathi-Charge

On the 5th the Unionist police made three successive lathi charges in front of the girls' school at Krishna Nagar. 11 people were injured, one of them seriously, and had to be removed to hospital. Seven young boys were arrested for shouting slogans. Two Congress women also were taken into custody but they were released later.

The Government did all this on a day which according to Khizar's own Superintendent of Police "on the whole remained peaceful." News of similar arrests has come from Batala also.

This is how Khizar shows his sympathy for the INA. His double-faced strategy is clear—appeal to the soldiers by talking

sympathetically about the INA and at the same time smash the popular campaign for their release. Khizar's mouthpiece Shahbaz features INA trial news and writes in a sympathetic tone, while his Police resorts to lathi charges and uses the DIR against those who demand their release.

In their eagerness to win Unionist support against the League, some of the Punjab Congress leaders are afraid even to speak up against these deeds of the Unionist Ministry.

At a public meeting held under the auspices of the Congress, Sardar Pratap Singh, General Secretary of the P.C.C. warned the Premier that it would be stupid on his part to expect an absolute majority in the coming Legislature. He said "The Congress will be holding the balance and you will have to come to us if you want to form a Ministry. Take this into consideration!"

Speaking at another meeting, Mufti Ziaul Hasan, member of the Working Committee of the All-India Muslim Majlis said: "The Unionists seem to forget that the situation is all in their favour, if they know how to make use of it. We are ready to forget and forgive. But they are going too far."

#### People at Fault!

Gopichand Bhargava, leader of the pro-Unionist group inside the Punjab Congress went still further. He is reported to have apologetically said, referring to the Krishna Nagar lathi-charge: "The crowd started pelting stones at the school and the authorities sent for the police. That alone led to the unfortunate incident." And these are the men who shout loudest today, that Communists are betraying the I.N.A!