

A PAID-AGENT OF GWALIOR STATE

Secretly "Engaged" By Ministerial Clique

A document (see facsimile on this page) has come into my hands which throws light on Mr. K. D. Vaidya, one of the most sinister and unscrupulous figures in the Central India States' People's Movement and one of the leading lights of anti-Communism there. For nearly a decade, he has been sailing under the garb of a patriot and "ultra-revolutionary"; he has worked his way up, and has actually become the Secretary of the Central India States' People's Conference.

AND NOW THIS LETTER PROVES HE IS NOTHING BUT A PAID AGENT OF THE GWALIOR STATE!

LOOK at the facsimile closely.

The letter is written on the official pad of the Industries, Commerce and Communications Department of the Gwalior State. Its writer, Mr. K. D. MAHADIK, is the Minister-in-Charge of this department. He is an old and rich Jagirdar of the State and belongs to what is popularly called the Pawar-Mahadik-Hirway Axis (see below), the most reactionary and anti-people clique inside the Gwalior Government, as will be seen from the facts given below.

To meet the rising tide of the workers' movement in the State, the Government of Gwalior set up a Labour Commission in 1943 to study the demands of the workers. S. S. Mirajkar, Vice-President of the All-India Trade Union Congress was a member of this Commission. The Commission made unanimous recommendations, which if accepted, would have lightened the burden of the workers to some extent.

But they would have affected certain interests, against whom Mr. Mahadik did not like to go. Hence he used his position as Minister to shelve the report on the plea that the industries in the State were in a nascent stage and needed State help for securing cheap labour!

Disrupting People's Struggles

Equally strongly is Mr. Mahadik opposed to the just demands of the peasants. The Pawar-Mahadik-Hirway Axis played no small part in suppressing them in the well-known Nagda dispute in which hundreds of peasants were forcibly deprived of their land by Birla's agents in the Gwalior State. (We gave this story in a previous issue of P.W.) In a pretentious brochure called,

"Economic Planning for Gwalior," Mr. Mahadik has written that the Kisan Sabha workers are "parasites on the poor peasants."

MR. HIRWAY, to whom the letter is addressed is another member of the notorious 'Axis'. He is a renegade from the Sarvajanik Sabha (States' People's Conference). For a considerable time he tried to disrupt the Gwalior people's movement from

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by Ramesh Chandra Sinha

within. When this failed, he was appointed a Judge in the State.

At present he is "on leave" at Ujjain, and according to current reports, he is exerting his utmost to see that the candidates of the States' People's Conference (Sarvajanik Sabha) do not get elected in the forthcoming elections which are due on November 25 for the first Assembly to be set up in the State.

MR. PAWAR, the dominant member of the axis, is the Minister for Army and Police. It was his police which drove the Nagda peasant families from their fields and burnt down their huts.

MR. SURYAVANSHI, the Controller of Textiles, is a big and influential person. He earned his position through his services—during his eight years collectorship at Ujjain. Ujjain is also the headquarters of Mr. K. D. Vaidya.

Praja Hitkari Mandal: What It Is

The Praja Hitkari Mandal (which has "engaged" Mr. K. D. Vaidya) is a Government-sponsor-

ed organisation. Seeing that the Sarvajanik Sabha was becoming very popular and taking on a political character, the State authorities set up the Praja Hitkari Mandal in 1940 to counteract its influence. Normally the organisation remains inactive, but at all critical times when the State needs it, it springs into activity.

In 1942, it was used to slander the Sarvajanik Sabha leaders who participated in the August struggle. To-day it is being used to fight against the Sarvajanik Sabha candidates in the elections to the proposed Assembly.

The State Government incites it, but this fact is kept secret and denials are made to it "unanimously". Obviously through an oversight a reference was made in one of its recent reports to a sanction of Rs. 5,000 received from the Revenue Minister of the Gwalior Government.

The Gwalior Government has been repeatedly requested to declare its neutrality in the forthcoming elections. But it has not seen its way to do so and the officials are openly helping the candidates of this Praja Hitkari Mandal in almost every constituency. It is widely believed that a sum of one lakh has been placed by the Government officials at the disposal of this organisation for fighting the elections. It has also been generally circulated that people helping the Sarvajanik Sabha candidates are liable to be gaoled.

Naturally enough, this organisation has earned universal hatred. To express their loathing and contempt for it, the people in Gwalior call it Praja Hitkari Mandal (gang of people's murderers), not Praja Hitkari (benefactors) Mandal!

Mr. Kanhaiyalal Vaidya: His Past

And finally we come to K. D. VAIDYA, the full name of this worthy is Kanhaiyalal Doulatram Vaidya. But he signs himself as Kanhaiyalal D. Vaidya and is better known as such.

The news that he is in the pay of the Gwalior Government will not come as very much of a surprise to most of the people in the Central Indian or Rajputana States. They have suspected it for a long time. But thanks to the money which he always had at his disposal and through the

influence of some all-India leaders, he could always silence the local leaders into submission.

So far as I know, he has not participated in any movement of the States' people. He has been Secretary of the Central India States' People's Conference since 1940 when the last session of the Conference was held. These five years have been the stormiest in the life of the young States' People's movement, and in almost all the States, the People's Conference workers have had to put in two or more terms of imprisonment. But nothing ever happened to Mr. Kanhaiyalal Vaidya.

Keeps Aloof From August Struggle Himself!

Even in 1942 when following the Bombay AICC meeting the People's Conference in many States decided to launch a struggle and court imprisonment, Mr. Kanhaiyalal Vaidya kept aloof. He tried to bluff the people by saying that he was engaged in something very "important" and "secret" and had instructions from Acharya Narendra Deo, U.P. Congress Socialist leader, who presided over the 1940 Conference, to avoid imprisonment.

In spite of this, this man is never ashamed of demagogically lashing out against those who did not go to jail in 1942. At the time of the recent AICC Session in Bombay he was seen distributing a leaflet signed by some obscure people in which Sarvajanik Sabha leaders who had not gone to jail in 1942 were described as traitors.

He has no scruples. He takes full advantage of the internal dissensions among the States' People's Conference leaders. In 1940, there was, what has since been called a "ministerial episode" in the Gwalior State. One of the loyal leaders of the Sarvajanik Sabha, named TAKHATMAL, became a State Minister. Naturally for a time it split the local People's Conference into two, all the best and honest workers being in the anti-Ministry group. For some time Mr. Kanhaiyalal led a virulent campaign against the anti-Ministry group. But soon after something mysterious happened and he became a sworn enemy of the Minister, Mr. Takhatmal!

(Continued on Page 16, Col. 1.)

A Patriot's Notebook

Year's Biggest Joke In Nationalist Press

HERE is the biggest joke of the year in our Nationalist Press.

On November 10, the Associated Press of India, the biggest news agency which distributes news to all our papers, splashed a very interesting message from one Maulana Wahidullah. According to the A.P.I. this Maulana is the Vice-President of the All-India Jamiat-ul-Ulema and member of the All-India Muslim Majlis, two Nationalist Muslim organisations.

Maulana Wahidullah was reported to have appealed to all his co-religionists to follow Mahatma Gandhi and shun Mr. Jinnah. He "warned Jinnah that all progressive forces in the country, such as Congress, Ahrars, Jamiat, Khaksars, Shias, Momins, Qudus, Ikhidatgare—in fact every true Muslim of the Millat—are now determined to give a united fight to Jinnah." (A.P.I.'s own words).

Subsequently, according to the A.P.I. "Mr. Ghulam Mirdood, who saw Maulana Wahidullah recently, has decided to resign from the League and join the Muslim Majlis."

Quite a number of the anti-League papers like the Lahore Tribune (Mahasabha) and the Lahore Pratap (pro-Congress daily whose Managing Proprietor is one of Dr. Gopichand Bhargava's lieutenants), and the Bombay Morning Standard featured this "news" prominently. The Morning Standard published it on the front page under the double-column headline: "United Front Against the Muslim League." Pratap put it in a double-column box on the centre-page.

Now here is the real joke about this "news-item". Wahidullah in Urdu means "Born of Adultery" and no Muslim can possibly have such a name! Further, no Nationalist Muslim divine would call Congress and the other Nationalist Muslim organisations "kuffar"; this word in Urdu means "hypocrite".

And last of all, Ghulam Mirdood (Ghulam) is a Muslim name, since Mirdood means "condemned by God" and is a word used only for Satan!

So much does the A.P.I. our chief news-distributing agency, bother even to verify the correctness of the "news" it puts afloat!

Against League Or Common Patriotic Traditions?

But the story does not end here. The Editor of the Lahore Pratap probably knows Urdu, so he decided to use this "news-item", but by changing all these words he conveniently left out the "name" of the Vice-President of the Jamiat. He also omitted the original presidential address "addressing the Nationalist Muslim organisations in Muzaffar. And finally, he re-baptised Ghulam Mirdood as Ghulam Mirdad!

This is just one small example of how our daily newspapers give our people the "truth" these days. What they forget, however, is that:

It is not the League they are denigrating this way; what they are denigrating is our patriotic heart!

and decent in the patriotic traditions of our Nationalist Press, which our own people have built up as the weapon of their liberation.

Strength Of The Red Flag In S. Kanara

DOWN with the Red Flag—is a slogan heard very often these days from anti-Communist Congressmen. Here is a recent and most striking answer given to them—by the working-class of South Kanara. I am making special mention of South Kanara District, because politically it is one of those parts of India where the Congress movement is weakest; and it is a handful of young inexperienced Communist led, most of them barely in their teens, who have taken the Red Flag to the western of this District.

During the last three years, the Red Flag has not only organised the workers here, but taken upon itself the job of helping the town middle-class too. It was the Trade Union in Mangalore which fought the corrupt officials and blackmarketeers of the town, helped the townfolk to get their ration cards and their grievances redressed. The Police on every occasion singled out the Trade Union workers for arrest and repression.

For the workers themselves, it was the Red Flag which fought all the time for their pressing demands like bonus, and dearness allowance. The result has been that in three years the District membership of the Trade Union has shot up from 2,000 to 11,400 today; for the first time women workers too have been organised in the Union.

25,000 People Attended Workers' Rally

In the last week of October, the workers of South Kanara held their annual Trade Union Conference at Mangalore. No less than 15,000 people attended the workers' rally; some of the workers' batches walking 30 miles to come to the Conference. There was a special women workers' rally attended by over 1,000—from the film, cashew-nut and coffee-curing industries. For the first time in the history of Mangalore, 250 women workers came marching through the streets of the town to the Conference, in the heat of the afternoon sun.

Rs. 1,000 were collected for the Conference from the workers alone.

The Conference passed resolutions against wage-cut, and retrocession, for alleged bonus and dearness allowances, for proper application of the provisions of the Factory Act and for Minimum Wages to the women workers.

The Conference shook up the entire town of Mangalore. Many Congressmen themselves admitted that Mangalore town had not seen such a rally for the past several years. It was featured very widely in the Kannada national press.

When next time the anti-Communist want to shout "Down with the Red Flag" let them first take a little more sobriety about it.

V.K. Krishnan

FACSIMILE OF STATE MINISTER'S LETTER

MOST CONFIDENTIAL.



LASHKAR,
30th August 1945.

Dear Mr. Hirway,

I had a talk with Mr. Pawar; Mr. K.D. Vaidya may be engaged on the same terms as were offered to him during suryavanshi's time in Ujjain. As per your suggestion the Praja Hitkari Mandal has already engaged him.

Yours sincerely,

K. D. Vaidya

G.P. Hirway Esqr., B.A., L.L.D.

Durga Niwas,

UJJAIN.

Going up—but not fast enough

Calcutta Workers Answer Forward-Blocists

GOING up—and cash coming in—this is my report this week; but my comment—not going up fast enough and cash is coming too slowly!

But good work—yes, there are plenty of instances. And this time—as it should, the pride of place must go to the workers, the base of our Party all over India.

Workers Lead

Calcutta leads the way—the 1,000 workers of Brooke Bonds Tea had promised Rs. 5,000 (Rs. 5 per head), this I told you last week. Last week was their pay day and already reports have come in that Rs. 400 has been collected. What they think of our Party was shown by these two stories—and also by the reply of the workers to the anti-Communist propaganda of some Forward Blocists.

Keshab Chakravarty and Satish Das, two workers of the Brooke Bonds Tea Factory—have beaten all previous records. On pay day, our comrades were collecting money for our Bengali daily.

With the pay-envelope in his hand just received from the counter, KESHAB CHAKRAVARTY, stepped towards our comrades and handed over the envelope containing Rs. 40-13, his month's wage.

The collector was hesitating—how much to take out of that. Keshab dispelled all his hesitation by saying,

"Comrade, take all that is there. Don't bother, I will take some loans and somehow pass the month. I can do that, but the Party can't bring out the daily by taking loans."

SATISH DAS is another poor worker. He has to maintain his old mother and three brothers and sisters. Still he donated his month's earnings, Rs. 48-15. Our collector was reluctant. But he went on insisting,

"I have got some Rs. 40 in my Savings Bank account. I have saved this sum through my persistent efforts for the last three months for bad days. Now, I can happily spend this amount during this month."

One or two Forward Bloc members had been propagandising in the Brooke Bonds Factory:—Pay first for the Azad Hind Fouj Fund, the daily paper next. Many workers snapped back at them—Your leaders, on the day of the Azad Hind Fouj meeting at Shradhdhanand Park asked us to help the Azad Hind Fouj Fund. We had no objection to that. But in the same breath, they tried to provoke us to destroy the Red Flag. It seems they want to disrupt the unity of the workers, rallied under the Red Flag. That is the very reason, why we must first donate for the Lal Jhanda daily, so that it gets published immediately, and can tell us, "Yes, it is necessary to give money for the Azad Hind Fouj fund. But those who want to use that name to disrupt the unity of the workers, will harm the common interest of our country."

Belghariah Pottery Works is another stronghold, employs only 400 workers. Out of them, 225 workers have already paid one rupee each, the others promised to pay by next month. 500 workers from the Malleable Factory there have promised to give one day's wage on the next pay day.

Entire Month's Wages

So also in Ahmedabad—reputed stronghold of the Mazdoor Sevak Sangh.

Lallo, one of the Harijan workers (who form the Sangh's main base) gave his entire month's earnings of Rs. 40 for the Fund; another, Shankar, gave all he could, Rs. 40, saying, "This sum-

tion is too small, for the need of the Party is so great."

Muslim workers did not lag behind either; Rafik gave Rs. 115, Ibrahim Rs. 75, his whole month's wage and dearness allowance.

Kalaram, another textile worker, gave Rs. 52—and told our comrades:

"When I was in Chhargoon some years ago, I was a strike-breaker. But when I went to Indore, I learnt how the Red Flag fights for the workers. A year ago I came to Ahmedabad—and saw with my own eyes how the Red Flag is bravely fighting while the Major Mahajan is betraying the workers."

Then he added:

"It is my misfortune and weakness that I am giving only Rs. 52. But I hope the Party will accept it. And in future, I will try to save all I can for the Party."

Ahmedabad comrades are confident that they will collect much more than Rs. 14,000 which they have pledged to raise.

Service Boys Again

Workers lead the way this week, everyone of you will agree after having read these stories. But boys in the Services are also doing well.

When they read Joshi's appeal, ten boys of the I.A.F. collected about Rs. 80 among themselves and handed it over to one of our comrades in touch with them. All of them earn Rs. 65 a month, most of which they send home to their families. Still they

all gave either ten-rupee or five-rupee notes. Our comrades asked the youngest of them, not older than twenty, why he paid for our Fund. He replied:

"I think it is the only Party that is fighting for the poor—the ordinary worker and peasant. When I am released from the Force, I plan to work with the Party to fight for our people."

Another was asked—a well-educated lad who comes of a well-to-do family. He said:

"Where I come from, in the Nizam's, the people are the poorest and the worst exploited. I want the Party to teach me to organise them, set them on their feet to fight their battles. This is just tuition fees—in advance."

And all of them said:

"We did not know this call was coming. So we had already spent most of our money. Now we have read the appeal and heard the call. You can be sure that we will give you more next pay-day."

That is from the Air Force. But there are also Navy men. One Punjabi sailor was buying People's War from a street vendor. Our comrade, Gnanambal, a young Tamilian girl who works in the Central Office as a typist, asked him for a donation; he gave Rs. 3 and the next day came to our office and after discussing things gave another Rs. 3. Altogether Gnanambal collected Rs. 9-2-6 mostly in small sums that afternoon while she was selling People's War.

And lastly I come to the big-

ger donors—less this week than before (my complaint is that too few comrades write to me!) but still quite good.

Bombay Sympathisers

A rich Bombay Muslim friend of the party, young, progressive and League-minded, has given Rs. 1,000. A building contractor also from Bombay who is a strong sympathiser of the Party, gives Rs. 5 a month regularly—this time in response to our appeal, he has promised to give at least Rs. 250—partly from his own pocket, and partly collected from friends.



And one last story—a young Gujarati businessman of Bombay is a strong sympathiser of our Party; during the last fund drive, his partner, a Congressman, also gave Rs. 50 to the fund. This time finding his partner hostile, he himself has promised Rs. 350 altogether—to make up for his partner's defection is his responsibility, he told our comrade.

So we are well on—but still not fast enough. Here at Party Headquarters, our quota is one lakh rupees, we have collected nearly Rs. 10,000 and are going strong. What is your record?—as good better or worse? Write and tell me, so that I can write and tell all that our Party cannot be crushed because it is a party of the people whose rupees, annas and ples sustain it in its battle to help the cause of Indian freedom.

—S. V. Ghate

A. S. R. Chari Answers:

HAVE COMMUNISTS CHANGED THEIR ATTITUDE TO THE LEAGUE?

"I am glad that you have after all changed your attitude towards the League" said a journalist of nationalist views to me the other day.

HE had read our sharp condemnation of hooliganism by Leaguers and our criticism of their claim to six provinces for Pakistan.

I told him there was nothing new in this. We have always resolutely opposed unjust methods and unjust claims. I asked him how he liked our exposure of hooliganism organised by anti-Communist Congress leaders. Needless to say he did not like it. But he wanted me to explain what he called our new attitude to the League.

Always Against Injustice

My friend had got his facts all wrong. Our Party is always opposed to all forms of injustice. It is this that made it the first Party in India to recognise the essential justice behind the League demand. It is this that has led us for over three years to campaign among Congressmen that the League demand as laid down in the Lahore resolution, is one of freedom for Muslims in their own homelands and as such must be unequivocally conceded.

But while doing so, we have always repudiated any unjust claims to other people's homelands. As early as August 1944, on the eve of the Gandhi-Jinnah meeting, P. C. Joshi wrote an article, "They Must Not Part." In it he powerfully supported the broad aims of the Muslim League, but quite strongly repudiated the unjust claim made by the League leaders to the whole of the Punjab. He said:

"Jinnah has it that Mr. Jinnah wants the whole of the Punjab. If it is so, it will be seen not as love for Pakistan but as love for the people's land." (P. C. Joshi in "People's War", Aug. 22, 1944).

After the failure of the Gandhi-Jinnah talks I interviewed Mr. Jinnah and asked him to explain how he considered Pakistan as a demand based on justice and democracy. He did so but he also unjustly demanded all the six provinces for his Pakistan.

Again we sharply criticised this in "People's War" and said: "A just claim that founder on the rock of unjust demands."

But we did not let this blind us to what was just, holding that the more unequivocally we repudiated the unjust, the more ready would the Leaguers see for themselves the unjust claims made by their leaders.

Just And Unjust Claims

My friend, and I discuss many thousands like him, both Leaguers and Congressmen, are loyal to their own organisation, but each is prejudiced against the other. The result is that each sees only the just aim of his own organisation and the unjust claims of the other. What they do not see is that unjust claims are made by their own organisation which in turn leads to raising of unjust claims by the other.

The Congress aim is freedom of India. This is a just aim which all honest Indians support.

The League aim is freedom of Muslims in their own homelands, a just aim which no democrat who wants freedom for his country can refuse to concede.

But how is it that the two cannot come together, with such aims which are based on a common urge for freedom? It is the unjust claim of each that stands in the way.

The Congress claims to be the only freedom organisation in India, and abuses organisations outside it like the Muslim League, the Communist Party and the Scheduled Caste, as British stooges, traitors to the nation and pro-British toolies.

The League claims to be the only organisation of the Muslims, abuses all Muslims outside it as traitors to the Muslim nation, and attacks the Congress as an organisation which is trying to put Muslims under Hindu instead of British slavery.

The Congressmen, therefore, refuse even to consider the aim of the League, since only the unjust territorial claims made by it for six Provinces and says that there can be no agreement with it.

The League ignores the freedom aim and traditions of the Congress and sees in the demand for a United India, only a striving for domination by the Hindus who claim the whole of India.

It is thus that instead of the common urge bringing them together, mutual prejudice and blindness towards the justice of the other's aim, keeps them apart. Instead of coming together, they go further apart. Abuse and hooliganism take the place of brotherly discussion and understanding.

Our Party is the only Party that does not allow itself to be blinded by provocation. It stands in the middle, supports the just aims of both, rejects their unjust claims and exposes the unfair methods adopted by either. Unless all see this clearly, that the way to put a stop to unjust claims is to unequivocally accept their just aims, unity will not be achieved and freedom will recede still further.

Reactionary Alliances

The lack of this unity, the self-righteousness of both the Congress and the League leadership, and the blindness of each to its own faults is already leading these big patriotic organisations of our people into opportunist alliances.

Having rejected unity with the common people in the other organisation, the leadership is allying itself with vested interests and reactionary elements in their own camp. In order to fight the other, they rely on money and influence. Thus reactionary alliances take place.

The Congress leadership is turning towards the Shastris, the Singhans and the Birbis.

The League leadership is turning towards the foodies, the Nomas, Ghulam Hussains and loyalist Nawabs.

This policy leads the common people in both organisations to fly at each other's throats.

Common Freedom.

Our Aim

Our Party's policy is based on the common interests of all sections of our people, both Hindu and Muslim, on faith in their democratic instincts. We support their just aims, expose unfair methods and unjust claims made by the leaders either of the Congress or of the League. We ourselves are attacked both by the Congress and the League, but we do not become either anti-Congress or anti-League.

Our aim is to unite them on the basis of freedom for all, democracy in practice, and fairness in settling mutual differences between brothers. We do so, because we know how much our people have suffered and will have to suffer if our main organisations do not come together.

Maharashtra
FOR WHOLE-TIME WORK--Minus Party Wage
Veteran's Offer
To P. C. Joshi

Here is the letter of Comrade V. M. Bhaskar, written immediately after he read Joshi's appeal.

He is an old Congressman, a colleague of Shankarrao Deo.

He is the father of the Khas movement in Maharashtra, was the chief organiser of the Mulshi Satyagraha (the peasants' struggle against appropriation of land by the Tata Power Company).

He organised the Ahmednagar peasants' struggle in connection with water-logged lands (1937-38) and joined our Party at about this time. In 1940 he was jailed for a speech, then detained. He was released in 1942.

A prolific and popular Marathi writer, he has written the lives of Marx, Lenin and Stalin and translated Gorki's great book "Mother".

LATELY his health has been very bad—he has been resting, the Party has given him leave, told him to get well. But as soon as he read Joshi's appeal, he wrote:

"I cannot express how I love your writings. Your instructions to defend the Party against the tremendous efforts of the Congresswallas to put us down are highly appreciative and blameless to the core. Your appeal for the Party Fund of Five Lakhs has moved me and I have decided to stop taking the Party wage of Rs. 25 from this month.

"This is only the first step I have taken. I will continue to work as a whole-time worker. I am ill and taking full rest in order to avoid an operation for appendicitis suggested by some of the Ahmednagar Doctors. I have informed my unit of my decision and Comrade Bhayyaji, Secretary of the Maharashtra Provincial Committee of the Communist Party."

Joshi's Reply

And here is Joshi's reply:

COMRADE BHASKAR, "Your card of November 6 has reached me, it touched me very deeply; I am proud that our Party can inspire such devotion and selflessness; so long as it can, we cannot be defeated, we must win."

"But, comrade, your decision to stop taking your Party wage is WRONG—and you cannot be allowed to carry it out. We know that you will try your best to earn something by writing and your friends will help you to live. But that we cannot and shall not allow. Your first Party job is to get well quick to get back into our ranks, to serve the people and build the movement."

"You are one of our veteran comrades; what we want from you is not the Rs. 25 a month—giving which will seriously affect your health and thus keep you away from your work and your people—but we want you to get well quick to get back to work among your own people; and then collect from them who know and love you greatly, much more than Rs. 25. "I have written to Comrade Bhayyaji Kulkarni, asking him to refuse your offer—and I know you will now understand why."

Lal Salama,
P. C. JOSHI."

PEOPLE'S AGE

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★ Country-Wide Political Upsurge
★ For Defence Of Common Interests
★ Where Are The Leaders Taking It?

THE recent Calcutta demonstrations (see full story on page 8) only reveal in the sharpest manner what is happening today all over the country. The biggest political upsurge is taking place among all sections of the people, among the masses of every patriotic party. It is expressing itself on one anti-imperialist issue after another—sympathy for the freedom-struggle of the Indonesian people, demand for the release of the I.N.A. officers and men.

What is most marked in all this is the way in which common men of all patriotic parties are irresistibly coming together on occasions when common anti-imperialist feeling sweeps away mutual prejudices and brings all together.

In Calcutta, Congress, Muslim League, Communist and Hindu Mahasabha flags were seen flying together in the same mammoth demonstration.

Honest Congress boys belonging to the Students' Congress (which had so long fought the Students' Federation, calling it a "Communist-dominated" body) stood shoulder to shoulder this time with their brothers of the Students' Federation; and appealed to the Congress leaders (the last to follow up their example and lead a joint action.

Similar things are happening, though not in the same degree, in other parts of the country too.

The bureaucracy is in the worst panic. In every people's demonstration, the real issue raised is freedom of the country from Imperialist slavery. Blind to this reality, the bureaucrats think that they can "restore law and order" on every occasion with lathis and bullets.

People Stand Together Against Police Zoolum

It began in the PUNJAB where Congressmen and Muslim League, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs—all alike have been most deeply stirred by the trial of the I.N.A. men. Demonstrations calling for the release of the I.N.A. men have taken place all over the province. Students of Lahore colleges, Congress, League, Communist, Mahasabha and Akali boys, one and all, observed a one-day strike to demand the release of the I.N.A. men.

In the U.P., at LUCKNOW, on November 12, the police lathi-charged and arrested student demonstrators demanding the release of the I.N.A. men and promulgated Section 144. The next day, every political party came out in protest. All the students of Lucknow University went on a one-day protest strike. Muslim League students unanimously joined hands with the rest to condemn police zoolum.

At CAWNPORE, the Students' Union (in which Communists and non-Communist students work together—affiliated to the All-India Students' Federation) called for a one-day strike on November 12 to observe the I.N.A. and Indonesia Day. Masses of students of all colleges and schools, including many who were followers of the rival Students' Congress, participated. The Muslim Students' Federation (League boys) joined the Students' Union in common action.

In the South, after the MADURA firing, the bureaucrats promulgated Section 144 in every important patriotic centre.

Even in distant DARJEELING, the land of the Gurkhas (whom the imperialists would like to regard as their "safe preserve"), a joint procession and mass meeting was held on November 18. Gurkha Congressmen, League and Communists all rallied together under the auspices of the local branch of the All-India Gurkha League on the I.N.A. and Indonesia issues. It was the biggest demonstration Darjeeling

had ever seen; the three flags, Congress, League and Communist, flew together.

Against Calcutta Firing

In BOMBAY CITY, Congress, League, Communist and Mahasabha students came out in their thousands on the streets on November 23 and 24 to protest against the Calcutta firing. Both the Bombay Students' Union (affiliated to the All-India Students' Federation) and the Students' Congress were in action.

The mass meeting organised by the Bombay Students' Union was wholeheartedly joined in by the Muslim League students and their organisation. The police resorted to arrests, lathi-charge and firing. Congress, League and Communist boys together faced the police lathis and were arrested that day.

In PATNA, for the first time, both the student organisations, the Behar Provincial Students' Federation and the Behar Pro-

vincial Students' Congress, came together and jointly decided to boycott the convocation in protest against the Calcutta firing. The Muslim League students too held a separate meeting and condemned the police zoolum in Calcutta.

In KURIGRAM (Rangpur District, Bengal), under the united leadership of the Congress, League and the Communist Party, all the students of the town and other townfolk observed a hartal to protest against police firing in Calcutta. At a joint meeting, they decided to carry forward this united movement.

In DELHI, in ALLAHABAD, in CUTTACK—students en masse went on a one-day protest strike against the Calcutta firing. No one asked of the other or cared to know to which party he belonged!

Factional Struggle Against Each Other?

Anyone can see what is happening in the country. Among the students and patriotic youth (who are more sharply divided politically than any other section of our people), life itself and the reality of imperialist repression are making them sink old differences and spontaneously drawing them together to stand up for Indian freedom and against imperialist repression. But, tragically enough, the patriotic leaders of the top remain as blind as the bureaucrats themselves.

The bureaucrats are blind to what the common people in this country today feel and want. They think issues like the I.N.A., Indonesia, are mere election tickets of political parties and they can put them down with a few lathis and bullets.

For the Congress leadership, the new upsurge and the anti-British feeling among the people are real only in so far as it can be exploited and use them as a factional election—weapon to fight and damn the League and the Communists. Through them they seek to rouse and inflame their followers only to set them against the League and the Communists. What is common among all sections of our people, even on the simplest issue—the common fight against repression and against the common enemy, is completely forgotten.

Indonesia and the I.N.A. are issues in which the common man of all parties today feels alike and wants

to act unitedly with others. But not on the Congress leaders.

The role which Sardar Bhanu played, blinded by anti-Communist hatred, during the Calcutta incidents (story on page 8, referred to above) ought to make any honest patriot blush. Sardar Bhanu is today leader of the Bengal Congress. Does he think that his conduct was worthy of him or of the great traditions of Bengal Congress—at Chittaranjan?

On November 18, a mammoth public meeting was held at Agra by Congress leaders to observe the I.N.A. day. This is what the President of the U.P. Congress Committee, Srikrishna Dutta Pathwal, said at the meeting:

"What has the Muslim League done to do away with the case of the I.N.A. personnel? Is Captain Shah Nawaz not a Muslim? Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru donned the Bharatgarh gown after twenty-five years for the sake of the I.N.A. personnel but did anybody find Mr. Jinnah among the counsellors who are defending the case of these lovers of freedom?"

"On the other hand, it has been recently revealed that Sir Feroz Khan Noon as Defence Member to the Government of India advised the Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief to hold the Indian National Army trial."

Only the previous day, at Lucknow, Congress, Muslim League and Communist students had all stood together during the one-day

strike to observe the I.N.A. day; the police had come down on all of them alike. And on that day itself, when Pathwal was pouring out his anti-League venom, students of all parties were standing shoulder to shoulder at Lucknow to condemn police zoolum!

On November 24, Sardar Patel held a meeting at Chowpatty (Bombay) where he delivered his usual tirade against the Communists and the League. Immediately after the meeting, a gang of gundas emboldened by his words, came to our Party Headquarters, assaulted it twice, injuring our comrades and all in the name of the Congress!

And only the day before, in Bombay city itself, Congress, League and Communist students in a demonstration against police repression in Calcutta, had all unitedly stood up to arrests, police lathis and firing.

When the top leaders become factional, one can imagine what their fanatical followers among the youth will do.

Among the Youth: Sequel to Leaders' Policy

In Bombay (the day Sardar Patel spoke) both the Bombay Students' Union (affiliated to the All-India Students' Federation) and the Students' Congress observed the day to protest against the Calcutta firing; and the Congress and Communist students alike suffered arrests and police blows.

But the Students' Congress boys (dragged with anti-Communist hatred by Congress leaders) not only refused joint action with the Bombay Students' Union, but fought their brother-workers of this Union all the time and in every college.

At St. Xavier's College, where the police lathi-charged all students indiscriminately, a Students' Congress worker actually threw away the League flag which was passed on to him by a League boy when he was badly injured by the lathi-charge.

In Krishna College, leading workers of the Students' Congress actively opposed the strike on the ground that the "Communist" were in it! This disgraced honest students so much that some of them have now sent a protest to the leaders of the Students' Congress condemning this action of their College

A POINTER

ALICEA events last week mirrored the India of today and are a pointer to the shape of things to come. A great beginning, but a tragic end. The post-up fury of the Indian people against the denial of power has been advanced by the election campaign and is expressing itself in mammoth demonstrations.

The INA trial has become the focal point of expressing national feeling against the British Raj and for a Free Indian Government, that will lead India forward shoulder to shoulder with the struggling peoples of other South-East Asian countries.

The Imperialist line is simple, clear and true to tradition. Face the mass with police-squads and bullets in the firm belief that the leaders will show the very people they set into motion, again, into the unbreakable tradition of India's political leaders.

But this is not all. During the course of the mass mobilisation itself, unity of action among students was achieved and unity among the parties too would have been reached had it not been for the impossible distinction and cowardly attitude of Sjt. Khan Shokar Hay and Sardar Bhanu.

Even though the people's mass movement had not been able to go forward, at least two good results have been achieved.

First, the morale of the working-class of Calcutta is very high and they are ready, as they have shown to fight shoulder to shoulder with the rest of Calcutta's citizens against British terror, for the people's needs and the country's freedom.

Secondly, the students seem to be maintaining the unity they have built up by shedding blood together.

A meeting of the Secretaries of the College Union (whose members belong to different Students' organisations) has formulated five demands to be placed before the Government:

- (1) Immediate and unconditional release of all those arrested during the last week's incidents.
(2) A non-official inquiry to investigate into the firing on peaceful protesters.
(3) Immediate suspension and trial of those police officers who were responsible for the firing.
(4) Proper and adequate relief by the Government to the families affected by the police action.
(5) Immediate and unconditional release of the INA men.

Sjt. Sardar Bhanu washed his own hands clean by calling the Communists "provocateurs," etc., because Communist students had stood shoulder to shoulder with the Congress boys all through, because it was our Party which led the tram and bus workers of Calcutta too into the mighty people's stream through prompt strike action against police terror.

Just because Sjt. Sardar Bhanu's attitude was cold-blooded and shocking, one expected that Maulana Azad should have acted differently and supported the move for an all-Parties' united stand against police terror and for the release of the INA men. But alas, he has also gone the way of Sjt. Bhanu.

"The tragedy of Calcutta is very deplorable. I clearly see the hand of such elements in it who want to put obstacles in the way of the Congress and want to defame it. Please try to get all these irresponsible demonstrations ended so that a normal atmosphere of peace may be created as soon as possible." (U.P.I. message of November 27—Mishra's letter to Sjt. Sardar Bhanu.)

The story is simple but shameful. First the Congress leaders light the patriotic fire, and as it spreads and the police comes to trample upon it, they refuse to control it and guide it against police terror with the united strength of all political parties. Instead, they seek to use it against other parties.

If this is how things develop, then why should the people leave their houses and come into the streets at all, for will it not all end by letting the police do what it likes and the leaders abusing each other from the safety of their own houses? Will not another round of turning the people and their own political parties against one another start? This way, how will the police be made to retreat? How will freedom come? How will the movement be carried forward?

We know how it is being planned against us: We are "traitors" if we do not join up; "provocateurs" if we do and an atmosphere will be created against us even to shoot us with impunity when the Congress Ministers come and the Communist Party yet remains alive and the workers have yet the insistence to go on strike except on a Congress leader's call!

We will do our best to save our country from all this: we know that the patriotic fire burns in every heart, that our people's real interests are (Continued. It will be the endeavour of our Party always to guide us to fight on the side of the people through correct and prompt action at every moment in the forward march of the Indian people in the crucial and complex period ahead.

among the common people is to stand together.

But among the leaders, blinded by factional hatred against each other, each wants to use the upsurge among his own masses purely for election purposes against the other. Hence comes forward to jointly lead this common upsurge into disciplined and organized channels. Where this leads is clear from the case of Calcutta and Bombay.

In Calcutta, the feeling for unity among the ranks of all parties was intense and the movement had already passed beyond the limits considered "safe" by the leaders. There, Sardar Bhanu refused point blank to come forward and lead the movement.

We left the entire people to their selves, disowned Congress leadership and organised actions and refused to support a joint all-Party stand against police violence, the crying need of the hour.

The result was Chetty came out in the ultimate victory; and among the ranks themselves frustration and disintegration began setting in.

And now after the whole course the Congress leaders are waiting to cover up their own checking, unending and restless the morale of their followers by making the anti-Communist heavy once again and repeating the tale that this entire movement was the work of a "Pro-Communist agitator-provocateur."

In Bombay, or happened among the students, the common upsurge among all in spirit to be turned by the Congress leaders into a joint stand against imperialist repression, was a struggle among our own people, of our own people, for our own people. In this line, freedom is going to be won from the British!

Zemindars' Men, Blackmarketeers Rallied To Fight Communist Candidate

Voters' Enrolment in Aligarh, U. P.

COMMUNISTS' MASS CAMPAIGN

Congressmen Refuse Co-operation, Prefer

Aid Of 'Patwaris'

Six thousand new voters were enrolled from 3,000 villages in Sikandra-un-Atrauli Tehsil, Aligarh East Rural General Constituency by the Communist Party in a recent enrolment drive.

was about how he should vote and exercise his democratic rights.

Members were held—small and big—articles from the Lok Sabha were read out in villages where it does not reach and the Party's policy of unity was explained.

As in other places, the 1947 rolls have been meticulously rechecked, thousands of potential voters having been left out. A few figures will reveal how inadequate the 1947 rolls were.

In villages like Bughy Taber, the total number of voters according to those rolls are 62 while the new voters enrolled by the Communist Party are 2,100.

And we cannot entirely blame that we have been able to enrol 6000 new voters in this constituency.

But what should we do about the attitude shown by leading Congressmen of the locality?

The ballot was set rolling by Sir Shrikanth Singh, a well-known Congress leader and President of the District Congress Committee.

In this connection you are concerned about the attitude of Congressmen against voters.

The ballot was set rolling by Sir Shrikanth Singh, a well-known Congress leader and President of the District Congress Committee.

Our friends in the other hand do not do it voluntarily, they are forced to do it by the Government.

What such was the counter-attack by the President of the Congress Committee in the constituency?

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Our movement campaign was a direct outgrowth of the people's own mass organisations.

Our anti-Communist himself, Mr. Shrikanth Singh, the Communist leader, that he was not an anti-Communist.

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How Honest Congress Workers Look At It

In a meeting held in BANUR which Karyanand addressed, there were 1,000 people, many of them presenters from the very villages of Banur, Bihar.

As an election campaign ground, Banur is a typical one.

And we cannot entirely blame that we have been able to enrol 6000 new voters in this constituency.

Dist. Congress Leader's Girouffe

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Everywhere we go the response from the peasants is immense. In BANUR twenty-one young peasants have come forward to write a letter to the Party.

As an election campaign ground, Banur is a typical one.

And we cannot entirely blame that we have been able to enrol 6000 new voters in this constituency.

Kisans Undaunted: Their Response

But despite all this, the peasants are rallying round the Red Flag and the Party all the more ardently.

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Peasant Masses' Support For Karyanand Sharma

Lal Bahadur in Monghyr district where KARYANAND SHARMA, one of the foremost Kisan leaders of Bihar is contesting the Assembly election as a Communist Party candidate has witnessed strange scenes within two weeks of the launching of the Election Campaign.

Treat Communists Like Chandalis

The story begins in October 1947 when a Congress meeting of 300 persons was held in connection with the Lok Sabha.

Local Profiteers

Not only did the profiteers stand on the side of the local Congressmen and village leaders.

Fall Of Choke

Not only did the profiteers stand on the side of the local Congressmen and village leaders.

Kisans March Across The River

But the worst was yet to come. On 12th November, four days after Sir Krishna Babu's visit, Lok Sabha members held a meeting at Banur.

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Confession in the way of the Communist Party which had been in power since 1947.

Their 'Election Tactics'

Members from Lal Bahadur's former constituency, Banur, Bihar, are contesting the election as a Communist Party candidate.

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Karyanand Sharma

Communist Candidate From Monghyr, Bihar VETERAN OF 25 YEARS OF CONGRESS, KISAN STRUGGLES

MONGHYR District is the strongest Congress base in Bihar, which as a whole is a Congress majority Province.

Struggles Of The 1930s At this time, the peasantry of the Chhota Nagpur in Chhota Nagpur was in a state of anarchy.

Forward To Communism The peasants of Banur are in a state of anarchy.

Example To All Banur is not only a strong base of the Communist Party in Bihar.

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PEOPLES PAGE ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

UNITED ANTI-IMPERIALIST DEMONSTRATION

CALCUTTA has been the scene of the most terrible blood bath in our country since the August 1942 days. Also, it has seen one of the mightiest united anti-imperialist people's demonstrations of recent years.

21st November

On November 21 the students of Calcutta observed the INA Day. Both the Students' Federation (in which both Communist and non-Communist students work together) and the Students' Congress (sponsored by Congress leaders as against the Students' Federation), had given the call. A mass meeting was held in the Wellington Square after which a procession of 3,000 marched along Dharamtalla Street.

When they reached the Madan Street corner, near the Esplanade, they were stopped by the police. From 3-30 to 7 p.m., they remained squatting peacefully on the road, refusing to fall victim to police provocation but also refusing to budge.

Their number swelled as more and more students and others joined them, but they remained calm and disciplined till at about 7 when the Police made a brutal lathi charge and simultaneously there appeared on the scene a posse of mounted police that attacked the crowd. This was followed by indiscriminate firing which killed one and wounded over sixty. Two more of the injured died later.

Charged Atmosphere

The use of Indian troops in Indonesia, the launching of the trial against INA officers in defiance of public opinion, the lathi charges on students at Lahore, Lucknow and other places—all these had created an explosive situation. This unwarranted firing acted as the spark.

The reaction on the crowd was not what the Police had expected. Even those who had started dispersing after the lathi charge veered round as they heard the rifles crack. They reformed their ranks and refused to disperse.

From 3-30 p.m. when the procession had been first stopped by the Police till 7 p.m. when the lathi charge took place—an interval of three hours and a half during which thanks to Police provocation the situation was growing more and more menacing—not one prominent Congress leader was present on the spot. Sjt. Kiron Shankar Roy, who came there after the first lathi charge soon vanished and reappeared only when the firing was over.

Conspicuous Absence

A number of leaders now came, among them Dr. Shyamaprosad, Mr. Pal, Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, Sita, Bina Das (Secretary of the South Calcutta Congress), a number of official Congress leaders, Sachin Mitra, Sukumar Dutta and Communist leaders. But the one man who could have exercised the greatest restraining influence on the crowd—Sjt. Sarat Bose—was conspicuous by his absence.

For weeks Sarat Babu and his fire-eating son Amiya Bose, who has overnight blossomed into a leader, and their lieutenants had been making hot speeches. An issue like the defence of the INA Officers and men on which the entire country was united had been turned by him into a weapon of factional struggle against the League and the Communists.

One of the main points of the "four-point" programme given by him in a speech made on 8th November was, "to wipe out Communist traitors," a task which was to be carried out by the "youth of Bengal." What this great leader did now came as a shock to his admirers.

"You've Broken My Heart"

Repeated requests made by Congress leaders failed to bring him to the spot. All that he did in the end was to send a "message" at 10-30 in the night, full three hours after the firing. That message ran, "Students, you have broken my heart by your indiscipline. I sent Sjt. Kiron Shankar Roy, Atul Kumar and others to convey my message to you. They appealed to you in the name of the Congress, in

and the Red Flag. Speeches were made by Jyotirmoyee Gangulee, Mira Das Gupta and others, but as there were no microphones, their words reached only a handful.

Sarat Babu who was till now nowhere to be seen at last made his appearance at 2 p.m. after his followers had pleaded and argued with him for hours together. It was an amazing speech that he made. He attacked the students for not consulting the Congress leaders before they decided to have a demonstration. He blamed "mischievous-makers" for all that had taken place and reminded the audience how Mahatma Gandhi after Chauri-Chaura had called off the non-cooperation movement!

Any Explanation?

Explaining why he had not turned up the night before, Sarat Babu said: "apparently the students did not realise at the moment what forces were at work in order to destroy the hold that the Congress had over the people." (A. B. Patrika). This was a dig at the Communists.

Realising, however, that this defence of his conduct was ridiculous for it might evoke the retort that if such "forces" were at work, it was all the more incumbent on him to rush to the spot, he thundered: "You ought not to expect me to appear on the same platform with Governors and agents of British Imperialism however highly placed they may be in official circles."

What he refused to see was that despite their different organisations, the students were disciplined, peaceful and united and hence his reference to spies and provocateurs was completely un-

avoidable ensuing demoralisation. The situation was too serious to be controlled by any single party. A number of military trucks were attacked and set fire to by angry crowds.

But although every leader realised how things were getting out of control, none was ready to do anything to bring all parties together. They stood helpless, demoralised. Kiron Babu whom the Communists approached said he favoured joint action, but did nothing except to issue a statement. The main reason why no unity was achieved between leaders even at this grave hour and despite the inspiring unity that had been achieved in the field of action by the people, was mutual jealousy, factional outlook and lack of confidence in themselves and in the people. Besides Sarat Babu alone could have brought them together, but he was standing aside and refusing to take any step.

Press Attacks Sarat

This was eloquently revealed by the reviews of the previous day's happenings that appeared in the press. The Jugantar (Congress), criticised Sarat Babu sharply.

"We had expected he would take the leadership of students... but instead he has only rebuked and warned them. Does this behave a respected leader like him?" Krimati, Hindu Nationalist, but non-Mahatmistic commented—

"This national leader who ceaselessly emits revolutionary fire... does not seem to know that leadership of revolution cannot be conducted from the safety of the balcony."

The League's Morning News said: "Why he (Sarat Bose) failed to respond to the demand of students for his personal appearance is best known to him, but for him to have assumed an Olympian attitude is not only callous but utterly disgusting."

Shyamaprosad, as usual, tried to steal the thunder and win for himself Sarat Bose's lost popularity. His paper, Nationalist, came out under the caption, "Dr. Mulgort leads the procession...." Not content with this boasting, the Nationalist in its special evening edition of 22nd wrote: "BY AN EYE WITNESS—HIDDEN HAND OF COMMUNISM."

"It was Communists who engineered this clash with the police...." But they had not the courage to publish this in their usual morning edition.

In this situation unity was hard to achieve, but as subsequent events showed it was realisable if even now the leaders had woken up to their responsibilities. But they did not.

23rd November

On the morning of the 23rd Dr. B. C. Roy took the initiative to contact the leaders of all parties. A meeting was called at 7 in the evening—it could not be earlier because Sarat Babu had to attend to his professional job in some court. Meanwhile Congress leaders like Bipupati Majumdar—the Vice-President of the BPCC—the President, Surendra Ghose was out of the town, Dr. Nalinikshya Sanyal, Bina Das and others strained every nerve to calm the people. Communist workers moved in the working-class areas. The Students' Federation and Students' Congress co-operated in maintaining peace.

But disturbances continued in some areas and also firing. More military trucks were set fire to—though mostly by non-political elements.

Casey Seizes Initiative

The failure of the popular leaders to seize the initiative and call an all-party meeting, in time gave Governor Casey his opportunity. He called Sarat Babu, Kiron Shankar Roy, Ishapant, Siddiqui and the Mayor of Calcutta. What transpired in the meeting nobody knows.

But Casey in his broadcast that night cleverly, linked the disturbances with the strike of Corporation workers that had begun that very day after months of refusal by the Corporation to meet the workers' demands and for which notice had been given 15 days ago.

Casey emphasised that the leaders had all dissociated themselves from what had happened and used this to justify the use of military personnel to run the Corporation services!

In the evening representatives of the Congress, Muslim League, AITUC, Communist Party and the two student organisations (Students' Federation and Students' Congress) met at Sarat Bose's place. Dr. Shyamaprosad was away but had sent word that he had no objection to a joint move for peace and against shooting.

What happened at the meeting is a sad story. Dr. B. C. Roy proposed a joint statement by the Congress, League, Communist Party and Mahasabha appealing for peace and demanding release of those arrested, enquiry into the firing and punishment of those responsible. Kiron Shankar Roy vehemently opposed this on the plea that the Congress could not sign along with other organisations.

And if Sarat Babu listens to any street-courier talk, he can find out for himself what his own lieutenants are saying about him today. Communist students not only kept themselves together with their comrades of other student bodies and faced police bullets, but one of our fine student Party members, Arun Sen is now lying in precarious condition with a bullet wound in the abdomen, while many Communist students have been injured. And to-day, Communist boys and workers are going round the city trying to maintain peace, with good Congress workers.

The common people from below are surging forward, people of every patriotic party and creed; but the leaders at the top are more anxious to fight and demand each other and their followers against each other, than to unite them against the common enemy.

my name, but you refused to listen. You allowed yourself to be influenced and guided by agent provocateurs... Still I would appeal to you for the last time to disperse peacefully.... May you have the good sense and wisdom to accept my advice"

No Word Of Protest

Not one word in condemnation of police firing, not one word paying homage to those who had died, not one word on the brave and disciplined stand of the students, not even the vaguest hint that their cause would be taken up by the Congress and peaceful protest action organised by the entire city.

At the end of the reading of the message by Mr. Atul Kumar, the students shouted,

"We want to see Sarat Babu personally. If after coming here, he had made the request to disperse, we were prepared to do so." So indignant they were that "the message which Mr. Kumar was reading was snatched away by the processionists and torn to pieces." (Amrita Bazar Patrika.)

The Governor, Mr. Casey, reached the place to supervise the police "bandobast". He had a talk with Shyamaprosad and other leaders.

SARAT BOSE'S UNWORTHY ROLE

At 11-30 in the night Miss Jyotirmoyee Gangulee who had been to Sarat Babu's place returned with the news that "Mr. Bose had expressed his unwillingness to come to the spot." (A. B. Patrika.)

22nd November

The whole night the demonstrators stayed there. At 4-30 on the morning of the 22nd the crowd observed a one-minute silence in memory of those who had fallen.

Workers' Declare Strike

The morning of the 22nd found the whole city in a state of turmoil. What had begun as a student demonstration had now affected every section. Meanwhile the Tram and Bus workers went on strike under the leadership of the Red Flag and the Communist Party as a protest against police firing. Shoulder to shoulder the workers and students of Calcutta stood against the police terror.

Transport was at a standstill, shops, schools and colleges closed. The burial was complete, all communities joining in it. Numerous processions spontaneously formed, paraded different parts of the city from early morning.

Firing to-day was even more indiscriminate. Repeatedly the police lathi-charged and poured bullets on the processionists. But every attempt to disperse them failed. Their patience exhausted, the people started hitting back. The situation grew graver every hour.

All Parties—All Fingers

From all parts of the city people poured into the Wellington Square where at about 1 p.m. a rally estimated at two lakhs was held. There were Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and members of every other community. Tremendous was the ovation that greeted the Muslim students of the Islamic College who arrived there under the banner of the League.

Over the vast gathering stood side by side the flags of the Congress, the Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha, the Khakars

real. While the Rally was on, news reached that the police had fired again on a crowd in Dharamtalla Street. Already Sarat's speech had disgusted the people and now, while he was yet speaking, they melted away and made for the scene of firing.

The Police Give Way

The whole of Dharamtalla Street was now a seething mass of humanity. The same story was repeated again—violent lathi charge and then bullets. Undaunted, the crowd surged forward, the police by now nervous and conscious of the gravity of the situation, and completely surrounded by crowds that closed in from all sides—yielded.

The demonstrators numbering over a lakh moved on and entered what is called the prohibited area, the very area they had been denied entry the day before. After marching round the Dalhousie Square, they returned.

In the evening an impressive two-mile long procession with all flags—Congress, League, Communist and Mahasabha—followed the bier of Rameshwar Banerji, the first victim of the police firing of the day before. Dr. B. C. Roy, Dr. Shyamaprosad, Prof. K. P. Chattopadhyaya, Dr. Nalinikshya Sanyal, Mira Dutta Gupta and others including Communist leaders joined the procession, but once again Sarat Babu was nowhere to be seen. Miss Jyotirmoyee Gangulee met a tragic end when proceeding to the crematorium and as her car collided with a military truck.

In the meantime, a huge protest meeting of 40,000 workers was held at Mohammad Ali Park under the auspices of the Communist Party. Police action was condemned, the unity achieved was welcomed, and the call was given for an all-party council to maintain peace, to organise disciplined protest against police terror.

A Grave Situation

This was the urgent need of the hour, if the people were to be saved from wanton bloodshed and the in-

Dr. B. C. Roy pressed for joint appeal as he thought that would be most effective and would not harm Congress prestige in the least. But Kiron Babu was adamant. Sarat Babu who found Kiron Shankar's stand very helpful explained that he himself was only a four-anna member of the Congress and nothing more!

Naren Biswas, Congress M.L.A. from Fardapore, gave the grave warning that such incidents as had taken place in Calcutta were likely to happen in the districts too and there no single Party was strong enough to deal with them on its own. Co-operation with the League, the Communist Party and the Mahasabha was absolutely necessary. He also emphasised that even Governor Casey would find it difficult to ignore a joint demand by all patriotic parties. Sjt. Meinal Kanti Bose, President, AITUC, supported the idea of a joint statement.

Mr. Ishapant and Mr. Siddiqui on behalf of the League agreed to sign the joint appeal. But they were more concerned with the Corporation strike and spoke against the strikers. Sarat Babu too spoke against the strike and wanted to invite all present to declare against the strikers, but others pointed out to him that they were discussing something else and not the Corporation strike.

Such was the atmosphere in the meeting—unreal, stalling.

Sorenath Lahiri and Bankim Mukherjee, the Communist representatives tried their utmost to make Sarat Babu and Kiron Babu see the need for joint action. Dutt Majumdar, expelled some years ago from the Communist Party, and who has now become Sarat Bose's lieutenant made a frivolous attack on the Communists for not being with the Congress.

Lahiri scolded him by stating that the Communists were prepared to work jointly even if the name of the Party did not appear in the joint appeal.

Students Stand United

The most impressive and heartening feature of the meeting was the stand taken by the representatives of both the student organisations—one affiliated to the Students' Congress, the other to the Students' Federation—who told the leaders that all students stood united on the issue.

Students' Congress leaders feelingly referred to the unique sight of Wellington Square the previous day when all had rallied unitedly and with unprecedented enthusiasm under the banner of the Congress, the Muslim League, the Communist Party and others. They came away from the meeting shocked, and amazed that the leaders were not ready even to issue a joint appeal.

All this failed to move Sarat Babu and Sjt. Kiron Shankar. The meeting ended in failure. An Mr. Ishapant was coming out of Sarat Babu's place, he was heard to say, "there was a great opportunity for them to unite all but they went for it. The Congress by itself is not strong enough to deal with the situation."

The next morning the Press briefly mentioned the meeting at Sarat Babu's place. The people who had jointly faced police bullets and mingled their blood stained the report in vain. There was not a sign that their leaders felt as they did.

Disruption Sets In

This produced its inevitable reaction within the League circles. League students had come out on strike on the second day. League papers had condemned police firing. But now seeing that the Congress was not ready for any form of united action, the Leaguers also stiffened their attitude. As others were dissociating themselves and their organisations from the "disturbances" of the Calcutta League Secretary, Mr. Urman, not only followed suit but pointing trouble elsewhere even the League flags in the first two days' demonstrations!

The Nationalist, on Saturday 22, editorially attacked Sarat Babu and berated Dr. Shyamaprosad. As for Sarat Babu, he tried to cover up his shaming attitude so far by the old tactics of roasting anti-Communist hatred "false rumours" are being spread," he said "by people who proudly declare themselves to be revolutionaries, but who do not hesitate to become the allies of imperialism when it suits them." What he meant not to realise is that no "false rumours" were needed to make people speak up against his callous attitude. The truth was itself sufficiently damning.

And if Sarat Babu listens to any street-courier talk, he can find out for himself what his own lieutenants are saying about him today. Communist students not only kept themselves together with their comrades of other student bodies and faced police bullets, but one of our fine student Party members, Arun Sen is now lying in precarious condition with a bullet wound in the abdomen, while many Communist students have been injured. And to-day, Communist boys and workers are going round the city trying to maintain peace, with good Congress workers.

The common people from below are surging forward, people of every patriotic party and creed; but the leaders at the top are more anxious to fight and demand each other and their followers against each other, than to unite them against the common enemy.

by Our Correspondent

WHO VOTES And How?

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST POST-WAR ELECTION to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR have begun. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet has fixed Sunday, February 10, 1946 as the day for the election.

THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION IN THE USSR WAS held in December, 1937. As the Soviet Parliament is elected for a term of four years, the next elections were due in December, 1941, that is, at the time when fierce battles raged on the approaches to Moscow. The elections were, therefore, postponed for twelve months.

But the war situation, the occupation of a part of Soviet territory and the need to concentrate all the efforts and energy of the State and the people on the war, made it impossible to hold elections in any of the war-years which followed.

Universal Suffrage

The Soviet people attach special significance to the elections in as much as they express the will of the people. That was why elections were put off until such time as would enable all the preliminaries to be completed for them.

The present Soviet electoral system was instituted in 1936 when the new Constitution of the USSR was adopted upon which the present regulations concerning elections to the Supreme Soviet, published on October 11, 1945, are based.

This law is imbued with the spirit of Soviet democracy. Elections in the Soviet are universal and direct: All citizens of the USSR, who have reached the age of eighteen, irrespective of race or nationality, education and residential qualifications, social origin, property, status or past activities, have the right to vote, with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentence includes deprivation of their electoral rights.

In both the cases the disqualifications are temporary: until recovery in the first instance and until the time set by the court expires in the second. I need hardly say that the number of disqualified persons is very insignificant.

Citizens serving in the Red Army or Navy have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens. All Soviet troops stationed abroad will take part in the 1946 election.

Every Soviet citizen, on reaching the age of 23, has the right to be elected Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Universal Participation

The election is so organised as to secure universal participation of all voters. Not later than a month before the election the local Soviets must draw up and display for general inspection a complete list of voters in their districts.

Anyone excluded from the list, or disagreeing with one or other item, may lodge a complaint with the local Soviet. If he is dissatisfied with the decision of the Soviet he may appeal to the court which announces its verdict in an open trial in the presence of the complainant.

If, after the lists have been drawn up, a voter changes his place of residence, or if on the day of the election, he is travelling, he still retains his right to vote. Before leaving he has to obtain a certificate from the local Soviet to the effect that he was qualified to vote and that, in view of departure or change of abode, he was marked off from the list (this is necessary so that none can vote twice).

The certificate gives the voter the right to vote in his new electoral district, in town or on board ship.

The electoral districts are so organised as to ensure universal participation in the election. In towns and large villages polling stations are set up for every 1000 voters; that is to say, in every street or in every village with 500

Union is elected by citizens of the USSR, according to electoral areas, on the basis of one Deputy for every 300,000 of the population.

In the election to the Soviet of Nationalities each of the sixteen republics forming the Union is divided into twenty-five electoral areas proportionate to the population; the territory of each of the Autonomous Republics constituting the Russian, Azerbaijan, Georgian and Uzbek republics into eleven equal electoral areas, the territory of each of the Autonomous Regions of Russian, Azerbaijan, Georgian and Tajik republics into five equal electoral areas; the territory of each of the National Regions of the Russian republic form one electoral area.

Every electoral area elects one Deputy, and to be elected the nominated candidate has to obtain a majority vote. If none of the candidates gets a majority, the voting is held again.

Direct And Secret

Elections in the USSR are direct: the electors themselves elect Deputies to the Supreme Soviet.

Voting is secret. Secrecy is guaranteed by the electoral system. The voter is given a card at the booth which he fills in an isolated cabin. Only a cripple who cannot fill in the card himself, or an illiterate person (of whom there are now very few) may come with a trusted companion who fills in the card for him. The voter leaves the cabin after recording his vote on the card and drops it into the ballot box.

The elections are organised and conducted under the supervision of electoral committees formed from public organizations, trade unions, etc.

by
Prof. I. Lenin

inhabitants, and, if necessary, in villages with 300 inhabitants.

In the northern and eastern districts where the population is scattered the electoral areas are organised for even a hundred inhabitants and in the mountain and nomad areas and districts of the northern nationalities for fifty people.

Ballot boxes are also placed in hospitals (except in wards accommodating infectious cases), lying-in homes, sanatoria, homes for invalids, on board ships and trains, if a trip is scheduled for more than four hours. Polling booths are also provided for army units. The elections are always held on Sundays to ensure universal participation of the population. In the 1937 election 97% of the population voted.

The principle of equal suffrage is guaranteed by the system of equal electoral districts.

Two Chambers

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR consists, as is well-known, of two chambers—the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. The Soviet of the

Life And Work Of Chimnaz Aslanova

by J. Gik

Woman Deputy From Soviet East

CHIMNAZ ASLANOVA is one of the most popular figures in Azerbaijan. Every day the mail brings scores of letters to Baku addressed to Aslanova—her mail bag is known to have reached 285 letters in one day as Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, or as Vice-Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities (one of the two Chambers of the Supreme Soviet) or simply as Chimnaz Aslanova, Baku. However, whatever the form of address, the letters reach their destination.

Chimnaz Aslanova may be regarded as a representative type of Soviet public figure; at the same time, she possesses the finest traits of the emancipated woman of the east. Her early biography is typical of the average Azerbaijanian woman.

Early Life

Born in Baku forty years ago, she spent her childhood, adolescence and youth in darkness in the literal sense of the word, for, until the age of seventeen, she wore a veil. But, having discarded it once, she beheld the beautiful world in its full splendour and realised that, henceforth, this world belonged to her. With the eagerness of a person who had wrestled herself free from old spiritual fetters, Chimnaz hastened to make up for her wasted years; she devoted all her time to study and graduated from the teachers' training school and later from the teachers' institute. She became a public school teacher,

Thus a dream, considered bold for Azerbaijanian women at that time, came true.

But the energy of Aslanova sought an outlet beyond the classroom. Having tasted freedom, Chimnaz Aslanova wanted to win it for thousands of other women. Her inspired words were heard in the cities and villages of Azerbaijan. People wrote to her and called personally for advice. Every Azerbaijanian woman could count on her help in difficult moments of life.

Her Fame

Aslanova became very popular among the people. She was elected to the district councils, to the membership of the Central Executive Committee of the Transcaucasian Federation and, during the first elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (1937), the people of Baku elected her their Deputy. The Soviet of Nationalities honoured her by electing her to a Vice-Chairmanship. Since then the fame of Aslanova has spread far beyond Azerbaijan. Soviet people have grown accustomed to seeing her simple face, straight hair and calm attentive eyes in the portraits published during the elections.

Interview

I called on Aslanova in her small office. She directs the work of the educational institutions of Azerbaijan. But this is only the chief of her occupations. Actually, the scope of her activities is far wider. As a deputy elected by the people, Aslanova considers it her paramount duty to respond to all demands of her constituents.

She showed me scores of folders with neatly filed letters, petitions, requests and replies. I opened the

heaviest folder. It contained material reflecting Aslanova's care of children of frontline fighters. The aid given is expressed in imposing figures—thousands of pairs of shoes, tens of thousands of dresses, suits, coats, tons of various products have been distributed to needy children of servicemen directly by Aslanova or on her insistence, Aslanova reads every letter with the same attention as if it had come from an old friend. These are people of whom it is said that their eyes shine with kindness. I could feel so much warmth and compassion in the words of Aslanova when she spoke of children who needed timely aid.

People's Service

Every folder is the story of her manifold activities. The file of letters from Red Army men contains questions about the condition of their families, requests for aid to wife or sick mother. A special file is devoted to kindergartens and creches. Aslanova is chairman of the Republic's Committee for the Care of Orphans. Another file deals with hospital affairs—she is one of the most active members of the Republic's Hospital Committee. Hundreds of documents illustrate her participation in drives for warm clothing and presents for Red Army men.

Aslanova does not like to speak of herself. But one case left such a strong impression on her that she could not resist telling me of it.

A woman frontline doctor lost trace of her little daughter who lived on German-occupied territory. According to unverified information, the girl was picked up and taken somewhere to the Caucasus. The

struggle with the fascist invader, maintained their independence, their Soviet democratic institutions, their democratic order and their right to express the sovereign will of a victorious people.

Some time ago the mother had heard about Chimnaz Aslanova of Baku who was said to be very sensitive to the sorrow of every mother. She wrote a letter to her. Since then whenever Aslanova visited a children's home, whenever she received any information about orphans, she sought for clues of that missing child. Finally, in a far off village in the Karakish highlands, she located an unidentified little girl adopted by a collective farmer. She found the daughter of the army doctor!

"This was perhaps the happiest day in my life!" Aslanova told me. "You realise what it means for a mother to find her missing child!"

Testimony

Aslanova is a widow. During the war she lost the man who was both her husband and friend, who shared in all her spiritual interests. Her daughter is attending the medical institute and her son is studying in the army school.

My curiosity was aroused by a folder which Aslanova had put aside at the beginning of our conversation. Seeking her permission now, I opened the folder. It was filled with letters of appreciation from Red Army men for the aid given to their families and from mothers. Official letters from unit commanders alternated with letters written by the unsteady hand of a child. This folder alone affords a striking illustration of the fervour with which Aslanova devotes herself to service of the people, for, above all, she considers herself a servant of the people.

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Such, in brief, are the main features of the electoral system in the USSR.

The election to the Supreme Soviet in 1946 will be a great triumph for the Soviet people who, in the heroic

SOVIET-SPONSORED "REBELLION"—OR BIGGEST DEMOCRATIC UPSURGE?

Aims Of National Congress Of Azerbaijan

LAST week saw the biggest campaign of anti-Soviet lies that has yet been put across by lie-expert No. 1, imperialist Reuter.

The first bomb burst on November 23. Here are headlines from the Bombay Chronicle:

"ARMED INSURGENTS MARCHING ON TEHRAN. REBELLION IN NORTH PERSIA TAKES GRAVE TURN. ALLIES PERTURBED OVER DEVELOPMENTS. RUSSIAN HAND IN TROUBLE SUSPECTED."

Below came the news, which can be summed up thus:

(1) A Soviet-inspired "rebellion" has taken place in Northern Iran; "Russian Marxists" have distributed "machine-guns."

(2) These armed bands are now marching on Teheran.

(3) These bands are sponsored by Democrats who belong to an "openly separatist" movement.

This sounded pretty "bad"—and for the next three days Reuter inundated the press with reports of "Soviet interference," "Iran's troops not allowed to move north" and so on.

The total picture was that the Soviet was arming a small section of Iranians ("official Persian circles" we were told on November 24, "held that the 2,000,000 Azerbaijanians were strong Iranian nationalists") so that they could disrupt the Iranian State.

What Is The Reality?

The truth of the events in Iran is given in *Izvestia's* editorial which we reprint on this page—and of which, by the way, only the most garbled extracts were given by Reuter. And that this is the truth has been shown by subsequent events.

(1) Since the first day's "alarming" report, nothing more has been heard of "insurgents marching on Teheran." In fact, this is a pure invention of Reuter.

(2) The Persian Government's complaint is NOT that a rebellion aimed at taking over the whole country has taken place—but that it is not being allowed to send troops to the north to quell the "lawlessness" in Northern Iran.

(3) The movement is not "openly separatist" but aims at the establishment of a democratic Iran, in which Northern Iran inhabited predominantly by Azerbaijanians who speak a different language and have a different culture, will have autonomy. (Decision of National Congress of Azerbaijan of November 20).

The fact is that the entire incident has been worked up by the reactionary pro-British Government of Iran in an attempt to destroy the rising democratic movement in North Iran.

The biggest villain of all is the "power" behind the present ministry, Syed Zia-ed-din, former Prime Minister in the 1920s, exiled by Reza Shah

for his pro-British and bitterly anti-Soviet views and whose return to Iran as late as in 1943 "was facilitated by the British." (Statesman—May 28, 1945).

This man, and his allies in the present government are the direct agents of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company; they are carrying forward the traditions of Reza Shah, who was described in 1939 by the Chief British Imperialist historian of Iran—Brigadier General Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.B., C.B., C.M.G.—thus:

"Persia is now ruled by a resolute and patriotic Shah, and her many friends will wish His Majesty a long life in which to continue his beneficent activities." (A History of Persia, Vol. II, p. 982).

Democracy On The March

The events in North Iran are a direct outcome of a new democratic upsurge among the Iranian people, directed against the present anti-democratic pro-British Iranian Government.

It is natural that this should reach its height in Northern Iran for two reasons:

(1) Northern Iran has been the centre of the national and democratic awakening of modern times. It is from here that the wave of this awakening spread to the other parts of Iran. Iranian Azerbaijan and Tabriz, its chief city, like Bengal and Calcutta in our country, were the centres where the movement for modern education and later for modern democratic government originated.

The first Press and the first modern school in Iran were opened in Tabriz in 1812 and 1816 respectively, about the same time as our Ram Mohan Roy. The most important newspapers *Mabul Matsen* and *Hakrattail Akh* were brought out from Tabriz in the beginning of this century.

The great patriotic epic of Modern Iran, *Naa-Nashar* (New Spring), which was the beginning of Iran's progressive and patriotic literature was written by Mirza Aga Khan in 1855 in Azebil prison in Azerbaijan.

Parallel With Our Own

The first great National democratic movement of Iran, which corresponds with our swadeshi and boycott movements began in 1906 and rose to its height in 1907, i.e. about the same time, Tabriz was the headquarters of the movement and it was in Tabriz that the great revolt of 1908 broke out and spread to other Azerbaijanian towns like Nisht, Ighahan and Lar. The insurgents of Tabriz had expelled the agents of the tyrant Shah and ruled the city for a short while in the name of Mashroohiat (the movement for a democratic constitution). The Czar of Russia, as well as the King of Britain helped the Shah to put down the rebellion.

Lenin in a contemporary article had condemned the conspiracy of the Anglo-Russian reaction against the

dices, were unmasked.

To all honest Congress workers, I would make an appeal to learn a lesson from Mr. Kanhaiyalal Vaidya's story: anti-Communism to-day is becoming a cover for the worst reactionaries, for the most opportunist scoundrels, to gain entry into the democratic people's movement and entrench themselves in it. In most cases, they shout louder than anybody else against the Communists—in order to "prove" their "bona fides." We should be on guard against such enemies of the people.

I am reliably informed that this document has been brought to the notice of some important leaders of the All-India States' People's Conference, including Pandit Nehru, who are contemplating early action against Mr. Vaidya. I hope the publication of this document will help them and the States' people to come to an early decision about him; and that it will be welcomed by every honest worker in the States' People's movement.

Iranian revolutionaries and had foretold a new upsurge.

It was this new upsurge which led to a new constitutional advance and brought Reza Shah Pahlavi to power in 1925. It was the same Reza Shah who later betrayed the movement, and began suppressing the further rise of the democratic movement in Azerbaijan, in the interests of Iranian oligarchy. The present Shah and Government are only continuing the old tradition of Reza Shah.

Thus, Iranian Azerbaijan has great democratic traditions. It is not the first time it has headed a democratic upsurge in Iran.

Soviet Example

The second reason is the tremendous influence of the rapid advance of Azerbaijanians inside the Soviet. Up in North Iran, 30 lakhs are Azerbaijanians, they are Turks, speak a different language (Turkish), have a different culture, traditions and so on; across the border in Soviet Azerbaijan are their own brothers with a similar language etc.

Before the October Revolution both were backward semi-colonial territories; but after the revolution Soviet Azerbaijan advanced fast; for instance, by 1937 the number of secondary school students had been increased 25 times, there were 3,000 Azerbaijan engineers, instead of twelve, 100 newspapers instead of two.

Equally striking was the industrial advance; by 1937 gross output had increased six fold; in agriculture huge new canals were built; collective farms organised, production stepped up.

Naturally, this roused the Azerbaijanians across the border in backward feudal Iran; the democratic

movement aimed at winning for Iranian Azerbaijan some of the benefits enjoyed by their brothers across the frontier, grew apace while numerous 'punitive' expeditions were sent out by the Shah.

Reza Shah also used the usual imperialist policy of "divide and rule". Gustav Krist, himself a bitterly anti-Soviet and pro-imperialist writer, wrote in 1936 that:

"The Kurds (another minority in Iran—M.K.) had responded only too gladly to the invitations of the Shah . . . to pursue the feud against their hereditary foes (the Azerbaijanians) under the guise of legitimate warfare" (Through the Forbidden Land).

But the movement was never suppressed, it grew stronger as every people's movement does.

After Soviet Entry

Soviet entry into North Iran marked a new stage. Many reactionaries fled (like the Committee of Exiles mentioned above), new political parties were formed, particularly the Tudeh Party and the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan.

But over all Iran, the Government's policy, backed by its British sponsors and agents, remained the same old, autocratic reactionary policy with all the sufferings it meant for the people—as described most pungently by Aga Abul Qasim, Director of Public Instruction in the Iranian Education Department in an official publication of the Government (1944):

"In spite of these vast natural resources" he wrote, "the majority of the people spend a very hard life—half-starved and ill and without any assistance and guidance. They roam from one village to another or assemble in large crowds in towns, catch all sorts of diseases, start banding and thus die.

"Due to lack of stability in land

tenure and of facilities for tilling land, indifference and callousness of landlords, lust and grabbing on the part of merchants, dominance and oppression of bonders for the exploitation of the people, manoeuvres of the monopolists and their cooperation with the rich and idle class, the middlemen's corruption in collecting taxes and the indifference of State Officials towards these problems, the State has been weakened and is in great danger of economic crisis."

National Congress Meets

Particularly in Northern Iran, however, the people fought back against this regime—and made big advances.

"In Northern Iran" wrote The Statesman's correspondent in May this year, "there has been striking development in the last few years. Many landowners have left and there is little doubt that the peasants, encouraged by considerable propaganda, are happier...."

It is this movement which a fortnight ago forced democratic elections and elected the National Congress of Azerbaijan whose objective is autonomy for Azerbaijanians inside the Persian State—an objective that long ago has been proclaimed by our Congress for our many peoples.

Naturally reaction in Iran—both Iranian landlords and British oil magnates—was scared and angry. Afraid that such ideas might spread, the Government provoked clashes with the people so that on the pretext of preserving law and order, it could send troops to North Iran and crush the democratic movement. Simultaneously its boss's radio, the B.B.C. and press-agency, Reuters, did their part of the job by launching the lie-campaign.

But their plans have misfired. The Soviet whose troops still occupy North Iran (they leave next March) said quite sharply that so long as Red Army is there, no armed suppression of the people will be allowed. This is why Persian troops have been held up and cannot carry out the plans to crush the people.

In Iran, democracy is rising to its feet. Let us see it for what it is, study the facts as they are, and not be tricked by Reuter and British oil magnates into echoing all the stale old imperialist slanders; they are cooked up to damn any democratic movement.

—Mohan Kumaramangalam

WHY DO REUTERS AND LONDON RADIO LIE ABOUT IRAN? Soviet Paper "Izvestia" Gives Full Story

From Michael Carritt

London, Nov. 23, 1945.

IZVESTIA, organ of the Soviet Government, in an editorial, which is given below, describes the recent events in North Iran (Azerbaijan) and nails down the issue as it really faces the people of Iran today in their struggle for democracy and not as it has been presented by the reactionary press.—Editor.

DURING the past few weeks the election of delegates for the local self-government bodies have been held in Tabriz, Ardebil, Bezyah, Maku and other towns and rural localities of North Iran. The broad masses of the urban and rural population have taken part in these elections accompanied by many meetings attended by a great number of people from the various sections of Iranian society.

No Separatism

It is well known that the majority of the North Iranian population is formed of Azerbaijanians who until recently were not allowed to have their schools in their own language, issue their own books, newspapers, etc.

Naturally during the elections for the local self-government bodies there was especially popular response to the demands which meet the national aspirations of the local Azerbaijanian population: the opening of schools with tuition in the native Azerbaijanian language along with Persian (which is the State language); for the establishment of local courts with legal procedure also in the Azerbaijanian language, for the elections to regional and city self-government bodies (Anjuman) and other democratic demands which meet the national aspirations of the local Azerbaijanian population.

All the social strata of the local population—peasants and workers, merchants, intellectuals, landowners, the officials and the clergy—take part in this democratic movement. Great popularity is enjoyed by the Democratic Party of Iranian Azerbaijan, which is supported by the greater part of the local population, seeking to ensure elementary democratic rights as a necessary prerequisite for national development and progress of the local Azerbaijanian population **WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IRANIAN STATE.**

Govt.'s Violence

Despite the fact that this movement is free from all separatist aims, on some occasions the local gendarmerie have resorted to abominable measures of violence and reprisals against the population on the pretext of struggle against anti-separatism among the Iranian Azerbaijanians. The local gendarmerie are supported by some of the most reactionary big landowners.

The democratic movement of Azerbaijanians in North Iran has encouraged furious resistance from the reactionary and anti-democratic forces who see in this movement a menace to their domination and privileges. In some districts, for instance, Sorab and Mianeh, the most active participants in the democratic movement have even been openly at-

tacked by armed gendarmerie and Blackshud groups organised by the reactionary landowners which led to a number of incidents.

Diverting Attention

This has been sufficient for some organs of the foreign press, particularly Reuter, to give an utterly distorted picture of the present events in North Iran. Lately the London Radio has repeatedly stated that a "separatist uprising" has broken out in North Iran and "engagements" with the police have taken place here and there. This is accompanied by various slanderous stories and fabrications about "Russian lorries" supplying the population with "rifles and machine-guns" and various other lies are being circulated for the purpose of disguising the real nature of the democratic elections to the local self-government bodies in North Iran and foisting responsibility for the incidents upon "Russians," etc.

The London Radio evidently resorted to this in order to divert attention from the disorders on a really big scale which have recently taken place in Palestine and Egypt, the responsibility for which is borne by the British authorities. The London Radio also tries to give as little information as possible of the developments in Indonesia where the popular uprisings against colonial oppression have now assumed such a great scale.

In order to divert attention from these unpleasant events in Egypt, Palestine and Indonesia these broadsheets artificially inflate some incidents in North Iran, unscrupulously distorting the real democratic nature of the developments in Iranian Azerbaijan.

AGENT OF GWALIOR STATE

(Continued from Page 3.)

It is, therefore, natural that under the leadership of such a man, the Central Indian States' People's Conference has remained a still-born child. It never functioned. And the blatant misuse of its name by Mr. Vaidya enraged the workers of the Central Indian States so much that both the Gwalior and Indore States' People's Conferences have passed a vote of no confidence and turned all honest people against him.

The present document exposes Mr. Kanhaiyalal Vaidya thoroughly. It has fallen into public hands at the right time. Like the rest of the country, the States' People's movement is also re-awakening to a new consciousness, deeper and broader than ever before. People are giving up their age-long slumber even in the remotest and most backward States. And it is time that such imposters and people's enemies, who gain entry into people's movements under cover of current anti-Communist preju-

BRITISH IMPERIALISTS' HATRED OF SOVIET UNLEASHED WORLD WAR II



Hitler, Powerless Without Munich Agreement

In **PEOPLE'S WAR VOL. IV**, No. 20 Nov. 11, 1940, we gave an account of British Communist paper's ace reporter, Frank Pitterson, of the evidence given to allied interrogators by General von Halder, one of the leading German militarists. Halder's statements showed clearly that Hitler could not have survived to menace the world without Chamberlain's aid, that at the time of Munich in 1938, he would have been overthrown by the German Generals themselves, but Chamberlain's policy saved him.

Here we give a post-script to the Halder interview, an account (also taken from the **DAILY WORKER**) of the interrogation of Field Marshal Wilhelm Von Keitel, former Chief of Staff of the German High Command and today standing trial at Nuremberg with Goering, Ribbentrop and the rest of the Nazi gang. And what Keitel says only goes to confirm and reinforce what Halder had already revealed.—Editor.

WHEN the trial of the German war criminals opens in Nuremberg on November 20 among the prisoners in the dock will be Field-Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, former Chief of Staff of the German High Command.

KEITEL is a military administrator, a desk general, not a field soldier. He became adviser to Hitler in February, 1938. Keitel knows a lot and has already spilled some of it.

What further revelations will be made at Nuremberg? It is an interesting question and it concerns not Keitel alone, but Goering, Ribbentrop, von Papen and the rest of the gang.

If the trial is conducted as an historic world indictment of Nazism, the peoples of all lands will be educated and steered. They will learn much from what is revealed about the world events which led up to the outbreak of the war in September 1939.

Keitel Interrogated

Last month, the **Daily Worker** published a report of the interrogation of General Halder by Allied representatives.

According to this remarkable document, Halder stated that Germany was unprepared for war in the autumn of 1938 and that Hitler's Munich policy was based on bluff.

Halder added that he himself was party to a military plot to seize the Fuehrer and that only the decision of Chamberlain to try to Berchtesgaden prevented this action from being taken.

The **Daily Worker** has now received the report of the official interrogation of Marshal Keitel which strikingly confirms the statements made by Halder.

It should be noted that Keitel and Halder were in different camps: the former was a lackey of Hitler and the latter belonged

by
William Rust

to the military clique that was plotting against him.

The following is taken from the official report:

QUESTION: Was Germany prepared for a world war at the time of the Munich crisis?

KEITEL: No, since at that time we had made no preparations at all, either strategic or operative.

QUESTION: If France and Britain had not agreed to the Munich proposals, would Germany have struck a military blow?

KEITEL: In my view, hardly, since, as I have already said, we were not prepared for war at that time, particularly if France had kept its obligations of assistance to Czechoslovakia.

Germany Was Not Ready

Keitel went on to say that when the German troops occupied Austria in March, 1938, the danger of Czech mobilisation was discussed, and he himself informed the Fuehrer that if Czechoslovakia were to mobilise, Germany would not be able to meet it, nor to occupy Austria.

Keitel was present at Berchtesgaden, Godesberg and Munich when Chamberlain met Hitler, but states that he took no part in the discussions.

The report continues as follows: **QUESTION:** Did the Fuehrer consult you before the meetings with Chamberlain as to Germany's military possibilities?

KEITEL: No. He was well informed on the purely military possibilities, and he knew that at the time of the Munich crisis we were not at all prepared for war.

QUESTION: Then Adolf Hitler favoured a war at that time?

KEITEL: No, because as I said stress once more, Germany was



Field Marshal Keitel, former Chief of German General Staff

not yet ready for war.

QUESTION: What would have been the military consequences if Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union had placed them-

selves on the side of Czechoslovakia and had rejected the negotiations with Germany and Italy that led to the Munich agreement?

KEITEL: Against such a grouping the military means of the German Reich were totally inadequate. To strike at that time would have been madness.

QUESTION: Was the political purpose of the Munich agreement the elimination of the Soviet Union from European affairs?

KEITEL: Oh, yes; since Czechoslovakia was regarded as a possible military base for the Soviet Union, with the most dangerous strategic consequences.

On the following day Keitel added this:

"I wish to add to what I said yesterday about the military preparedness of Germany at that time. If instead of the Munich conference there had been established a coalition of Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union, it would have been utterly impossible for Hitler to have struck."

Such are the facts of the Keitel interrogation (**Daily Worker**, October 27, 1945).

What stands out in Keitel's answers?

Chamberlain Saved Hitler

That Hitler was on the verge of collapse and Chamberlain saved him.

The question arises—why did he save him?

Some innocents believe that Chamberlain saved Hitler without his knowing he had done so, really believing Hitler was too strong to be resisted, that time had to be won to fight Hitler.

This senseless. Is it conceivable that Chamberlain and his military advisers knew nothing about Czechoslovakia's great military and strategic position, the conflict in the German High Command, the readiness of the Soviet to fight the Nazis? Obviously not—the Chamberlain gang may have been stupid, but not as stupid as that!

The objective of the Munich agreement is, however, clearly shown by Keitel, who admitted that its purpose was the elimination of the Soviet from European affairs.

This Munich was the way by which the monster created by British imperialist Chamberlains could be preserved and tamed East.

What Of The Future?

It was this that was the guiding principle of hard-boiled Munichite imperialist foreign policy right up to June 1941; the reluctance of reactionary forces in Britain and the U.S. to smash German and Jap reaction today shows that this continues to be the guiding principle of the men who are trying to keep imperialism alive the world over, in India and Indonesia as well as Germany and Japan.

And if we are not to have another Munich, another World War, another Hitler and Tojo in Germany and Japan, it is well that we should see which way the imperialist enemy is driving us and not to be deceived by hypocritical cries about "the sufferings of the German people," "the injustice of reparations" and the rest, the slogans behind which they cover up the same reactionary anti-Soviet policy Keitel has so blatantly exposed.

Anglo-American Policy In S. E. Europe

ANXIOUS OVER DEMOCRACY, OR TO PROTECT THEIR GOLD?

THE Anglo-American reactionary press and statesmen make a lot of noise about the lack of democracy in Eastern Europe. Yet they never mention their chief interest in that area—their financial interest.

In all the countries of south-eastern Europe, foreign capital had a dominating position in industry and finance. And in all the countries of south-eastern Europe, new democratic governments have come to power and have already taken over or plan to take over the factories or mines from private ownership and operate them in the interests of the people.

This has naturally hit the pockets of the British and Americans hard—here are the facts:

Yugoslavia

According to the **Central European Observer** (a democratic weekly published in London by Czechoslovaks in close touch with the Embassy), "Yugoslav industry was almost completely in the hands of foreigners" and "the establishment of a national industry is one of the most urgent tasks of new Yugoslavia."

In fact, till 1939, £24 million of foreign capital had been invested in YUGOSLAVIA; of this 1,190 million dinars (£5 million) was the British investment; France was a close second with 1,180 million dinars. Germany third with 820 million dinars; the U.S. had invested 500 million dinars.

Britain's principal interests were in the lead and silver Trepan Mines and the Schicht-Lever Soap factory. British companies also had extensive interests in mines. Altogether so great was British economic influence that in 1937, Yugoslavia joined the Sterling Bloc!

The French had their biggest

interests in the big Mines de Bor (copper mines) as well as in the Trbovlje coal mines and cigarette paper and pulp factories.

Of Yugoslavia's total public debt of £118.6 million, \$85.4 million (about 72%) is held by foreign investors.

Romania

In ROMANIA the main industry is oil; total capital investment in it was £25 million of which the greater part was in Anglo-Dutch hands (the Royal Dutch Shell), while nearly 90% of the shares were controlled in one way or another by the British.

But this was not all. English capital was predominant in the Titan Nandrag Metal works, and the Malaxa Locomotive factory (total capital was nearly two crore rupees); so also among the foreign financiers of Rumanian banks Britain took first place with an investment of about a crore rupees. The U.S. had invested comparatively little—and that also principally in the oil industry.

Hungary

Britain's and the U.S.'s most important investment in HUNGARY was mainly in the form of loans given to Hungary. It is estimated that of the £9 million League of Nations Reconstruction Loan half was held in England while of long term private debts about £29 million was held principally by Britain and the U.S.

The two countries also had a considerable share in the capital of Hungarian banks, and the oil production of about 200 tons of crude oil a day was controlled by the mammoth Rockefeller trust in the U.S. and the Standard Oil Company.

Bulgaria

In BULGARIA the main foreign capital was Belgian and Swiss, the

United States having a sizeable share with 237 million leva, about 11% of the foreign capital.

So much for the Anglo-U.S. interests in the countries where there are new people's governments—and the extent of their interests shows clearly enough how worried the capitalists in Britain and the U.S. must be because no longer will they be allowed to make their huge ill-gotten profits out of the poverty of the Balkan peoples.

IT IS NOT THE DANGER TO DEMOCRACY, BUT THE DANGER TO GOLD THAT SITS HEAVY ON THESE HEADS TODAY.

Greece

The one Government in south-east Europe whose composition is congenial to Britain (and the U.S.) is the Greek Government—and that is just because it is a Government that will look after British troops and, therefore, a government that will look after British financial interests in Greece.

And these financial interests are quite considerable.

Twenty million pounds is the total foreign investment in Greece. Of this, about £13 million is British, over two and a half times the amount invested by the British in Yugoslavia. This money is invested in electricity and transport, mining, insurance and oil.

American capital is much less, only \$5,76,000—invested in a company that mainly dealt with water-supplies.

French interests too are quite significant—in the Bank of Athens, the port of Piraeus and the Laurium Mines—and there it is no wonder that reaction in both Britain and France, wants to get together in a Western Bloc—not for cultural contact as Brown suggested—but for defence of the economic interests of the rich men of the two countries.

POLICE ATROCITIES

(Continued from Page 2.)

chest and arms with some heavy stone-like ball. Two policemen beat me on the chest, two on the back.

"Then they forced me to double up. Kerosene was poured on my hips and it was set on fire. I screamed for pain. After a time they put out the fire. Agonising pain sent me to the ground. But they started beating me again. I became unconscious. When I regained consciousness, the police brought me back home.

"My whole body is aching. I just cannot move my limbs. I am having pain in the chest. I pass blood in the stool. I don't hope to survive long. Tell 'Dad' (Godvard Parulokar, the Communist leader of the Klean Sabha).

For eight days Vhany passed blood in his stools and urine.

Endless stories of such atrocities could be told. But what did the local Congress leaders in the Ajitwad Sava Mandal have to say to all this? Their first public statement was that the police were obliged to open fire—a complete exoneration of the police against the Warts. They made out that it was the Communists who were "inciting" the Warts and that they were responsible for everything that followed!

It was only when every honest man began to get outraged at the police rotum that the Congress leaders modified their attitude. Their only ap-

peal to the sabhans was that they must change their ideas of social justice.

They had not a word to say against the arrests and extortions of Communist and Klean Sabha workers.

If the Klean Sabha leaders were allowed to enter the areas in the end, it was in spite of the police and the sabhans. The Warts just would not listen to anyone or anything, unless it came from their leaders of the Red Flag. The Nationalist press only made itself ridiculous by abusing the Communists, decrying the great struggle of the Warts and twisting the facts to say that the strike had ended in failure!

Only the cold resolve and unity of the Warts brought them their just reward. But they were certainly not alone in the fight. Workers from Anabernath, the nearest working class centre, held a meeting in support of this great struggle. They collected Rs. 120 on the spot in their aid and offered to collect more in case of need. The Communist Party had organised them both under the same Red Flag. Other meetings also were held denouncing the police and sabhan repression and demanding inquiry.

And all is not yet over. The Klean Sabha is collecting evidence of these ghastly atrocities. They will see that justice is meted out to the Warts, drawn-out cases and victims of the worst forms of social oppression.

—by P. D. Rangnakan.

NEVER GOES CONQUER!

THE war is over. Soldiers are returning from the front. Our country is flushed with the glow of the great victory. And a stream of Soviet metal continues to flow through the country. It does not grow shallower; it does not return to its pre-war banks; on the contrary, its flood spreads wider and wider.

But it does not flow only westward now; it ramifies into countless rivulets and streams all over the boundless expanse of the Soviet Union, reassembling a great system of irrigation canals. The Soviet people have found a splendid life-giving force in their metal. Heavy industry constitutes the basis of Soviet industrial might and at the back of heavy industry are numerous branches of the socialist national economy.

That economy is not contracting but ever expanding. The war necessitated the blacking not only of our house windows but also of our plans.

We have grown accustomed to splendid music figures. The Five Year Plans were symphonies of constructive development. We were proud of them as indices of our increasing might. We made no secret of our constructive efforts. Only, we did not show our enemies everything we had and everything we were creating.

And only now, when the smoke of the war is dissipating and the windows of our houses shine again in the nights, do we see the new picture of our country. Much has been destroyed by the malicious hands of the enemy. But much has been built anew during these years by hands of the Soviet people, and much is being built and will be built.

Tuning Instruments

Again we hear the music of figures. But the instruments are only being tuned in planning bodies and in factories. Everywhere, in every corner of the country, in every big factory and in every collective farm, the Soviet people are busy planning the future.

The Soviet country not only fought to uphold its independence. Even while the war was on we were going ahead and now we are on the crest of history and boundless prospects open before our eyes. At such moments in history one can see far ahead, and outlines of the future life, which the gaze of the immortal Lenin had discerned, are now plain to the simplest.

That is why life is so interesting, that we are so impatient and knead the dough of life into ever new shapes for the happiness of the people. One hears the planning instruments being tuned for the grand symphony of the post-war Five Year Plan; one reads the preliminary data, still fragmentary and still not combined into the general picture, new plants and power-stations and from it emerges the familiar, yet seemingly new, aspect of the Soviet individual. How energetic and indefatigable he is! And what an insatiable passion for labour!

Rehabilitation is proceeding everywhere—not only in our country, but with us it is something more than rehabilitation, something more than a return of the past; it is new creative effort. We have read of the rehabilitation of Stalingrad and we know that it is not so much rehabilitation as the creation of a new city.

What's This Cynicism?

The war in Europe ended in May and everybody breathed freely. Everybody? The Englishman, Viscount Templewood, (formerly Sir Samuel Hoare, notorious pro-Francoite imperialist) at the height of the victory celebration, experienced an attack of uneasiness and alarm. He wrote in the "Contemporary Review" that Europe was confronted by the formidable danger of exhaustion and cynicism.

What moved the Viscount to tears in the days of victory? Evidently, he was badly scared by the dying threats of the Nazis. They wanted to leave behind them the destructive influences of cynicism and scepticism and Viscount Templewood got a bad fright.

What is this "cynicism" he talks about? It is the indifference of exhausted people to their fate. In such a moral state they are

unable and unwilling to work. They are corroded by scepticism.

The cynics believe nothing but rumours and calumny. They do not believe in enduring peace but do believe in the Atomic bomb as in a fetish. There are plenty of

such cynics in Europe and America. They are entrenched like regular colonies of the malignant bacilli on certain big newspapers from which they endeavour to disseminate their own cynicism, a cynicism which is so valuable to scoundrels.

Alien To Soviet People

This is a mood which is alien to the Soviet Union. We do not believe in the sincerity of these lamentations. We laughed when the Nazis cried with their dying breath that all Europe would perish with them. We knew that the end of fascism meant the beginning of Europe's renaissance.

It was no secret to us, even during the war, that certain, not very frightened politicians were banking on the inevitable exhaustion of Europe—and not so much

Europe as eastern Europe, especially Soviet Europe. We recall the parallels which certain periodicals drew between the Thirty Years' War and World War I. Some prophets even foretold a hundred years' war. A feature of these wars was that the victors were so exhausted by them that their victories were actually defeats.

Exhaustion Or Strength?

The parallel has proved unsound. The remarkable thing about the victory of the Red Army is that it is accompanied not by exhaustion but by the enhanced strength of the Soviet Union. We will leave it to the bourgeois learned men to puzzle their heads over this new miracle, this new enigma—the Soviet land.

The Nazis were convinced that our country would be so exhausted that it would be unable to recover. They wrought such devastation to our towns and villages that they boasted that they had left an eternal desert zone behind them. It was their last boast and was just as senseless as all their others.

It is true that there are victims of the war in our country—many of them. The estimated total of our losses—seven hundred billion roubles—is not complete. But

there are no cynics in our country. Never, neither in the terrible moments of the first war year, nor in the bright days of joy, did the Soviet people cease labouring. They NEVER WILL—either from indifference or laziness. The Soviet people, who have demonstrated their inexhaustible energy, are capable of healing the wounds suffered by our economy and of building anew, striding ever forward and overcoming all obstacles.

Its Source

The source of this magical energy is Soviet democracy in all its manifestations and in all spheres: in the socialist economy, in the political liberty of the people and in their high culture.

It would be wrong to say that the Soviet people got back on their feet as soon as the war ended, for both before the war and during it they stood firmly on their feet and marched confidently through their native land without stumbling or limping and, crossing their frontiers, marched through others' lands, liberating nations from the fascist yoke.

Twenty-eight years ago we began to build a new world. We built it according to the designs of Lenin and Stalin and under the guidance of the party which they created.

(From the Soviet paper *Pravda*).



Why Do They Slander The Red Army?

SOME British newspapers, as well as the radio, are raising a hue and cry about "outrages" alleged to have been perpetrated by Red Army men in Berlin and other German cities. Soviet soldiers are always drunk, they say. They assault Germans in the British zone of Berlin. They plunder. They break into houses. They rape women. They kidnap "technicians." That is what these British newspapers say.

A similar campaign of slander was launched in the American press by the London correspondents of certain big American newspapers.

"Lying To Order"

This lying-to-order does not call for any denial. One can deny invented facts. But these British newspapers have prudently refrained from quoting a single fact, a single date, a single witness. This wholesale lying-to-order needs to be exposed, not denied.

It is quite easy to trace it to its source, and to define its aim. These filthy lies originate from the Nazis, whose last hope was that the British and Americans, would, after all, quarrel with the Soviet Union—that they would not yield Berlin to the Red Army.

Pursuing these ends, the Nazi propagandists tried to blacken the moral character of the Red Army. They did their best to scare the Allies with stories of "Soviet atrocities." But their hysterical howls failed to impress. The press of the world did not believe these German tales, and declined to circulate them.

The nations of the world saw the soldiers of the Red Army in the heart of routed Fascist Germany. The poisonous fog of Fascist propaganda cleared away. The press of the world wrote enthusiastically about the discipline, culture and nobility of the Red Army. The Danish newspaper *Land og Folk* wrote in May:

"The Russian soldiers are courteous, healthy people who love cleanliness and order. . . . It is a sheer pleasure to deal with them. Soldiers and officers are models of behaviour. They wish only for what is good, and seek to achieve peace and order."

Forced To Shut Up.

The American army newspaper *Stars and Stripes* gave this summary of its observations of Soviet soldiers:

"If you know German soldiers—then the Russians are their direct opposite."

Childs, a correspondent of the *New York Post*, reported:

"Everyone I have had a chance to talk with agrees that the Red Army men behave very tactfully in liberated towns which they have entered, and treat local women in an irreproachable manner."

the war did not cease their hostile attacks on the Red Army and the Soviet Union, were forced to shut up—for a time. Not that the anti-Soviet calumniators laid down their poisoned weapons. It is merely that they were afraid, for the moment, to utter slanders, lest they be accused of being crypto-Fascists.

In July an American journalist, Frazer visited Berlin, and observed the life of the Red Army. He broadcast his impressions over the radio. He had failed to notice any outrages. But he had observed that in Berlin there were still certain Fascist elements which hoped—so he said—that friction would arise between the Russians and the Western Allies, and which were "trying to drive a wedge between east and west."

The circulation of venomous slanders about the behaviour of British, American and Russian soldiers is just one such "wedge." Frazer's conclusion was that "the attempt at provocation is hopeless."

A Stink Bomb

However, here and there Fascist and pro-fascist provocateurs have tried to revive the lies about Red Army "outrages". In August, for instance, Swedish pro-Fascist newspapers launched, to order, a slanderous fabrication about Red Army "violence" in Budapest. They were exposed as liars. *Expressen* wrote on September 6:

"It is not the Red Army, but Hungarian Nazis, supported by the Germans, who acted in this way."

on September 17, it exploded like a stink-bomb in certain big British papers.

The British imitators of the German-Fascist liars act cautiously. They fear moral and political responsibility. They are afraid of the British people. They slander on the sly, and at once make reservations.

No Facts

The *Daily Telegraph* mentions some cases of violence, but without giving names, dates, places, or times. There are "facts" you see, of which "the Russian Command is certainly unaware." The police "suspect Russian military . . ." Crimes in the British zone are "ascribed to Russians . . ." some of the crimes are committed by "deserters staying on the outskirts of Berlin."

Blackens Whom?

Certain other British newspapers also slander in the same vein. Attempts to blacken the moral character of the Red Army are, of course, futile. We are dealing here with an episode from the history—not of the Red Army, but of the British press.

The Japanese magazine *Keijei Shimpo* recently printed a slanderous report about violence and burglary committed by the American Army in Japan. No single self-respecting newspaper reposted this slander, emanating as it did from a Japanese enemy source. General MacArthur closed down the Japanese-Fascist magazine. Unlike these slanderers, their British colleagues enjoy impunity.

—D. Zaslavsky

"Instruct Muslim Tenants" To Vote For Arch-Toady Business Magnate --ELECTION CIRCULAR TO HINDU ZEMINDARS

SJT. SARAT BOSE in a press interview in Bombay on November 7 last prophesied that he would not be surprised if the League was scrapped "within the next six months."

Speaking about the Central Assembly elections in Bengal for Muslim seats, he said: "I think the contest will be a very keenly fought one. We have every hope of securing fifty per cent of the Mohammedan seats."

And how does Sarat Babu hope to win the fifty per cent of the Muslim seats? Here is an instance.

From the Dacca-Mymensingh Constituency, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi is contesting the League candidate, Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan. This is a Muslim-majority area with the peasants overwhelmingly Muslim and the zamindars mostly Hindus.

So, Sarat Babu has issued a circular to the Hindu zamindars in these districts to ensure Ghuznavi's success "by issuing instructions to your Muslim staff and your Muslim tenants to vote for him and in other ways so that his election might be made doubly sure." (see facsimile on this page).

Is it by methods like these—making the oppressive Hindu zamindars "issue instructions" to their "Muslim staff" and "Muslim tenants"—that Sarat Babu proposes to win the elections against the League?

Ghuznavi's Past

And who is this Ghuznavi on whose behalf Sarat Babu sends out his whip to his big zamindar friends, what is his past record?

* In 1921, when the Prince of Wales visited India and the Hindus and Muslims under the joint leadership of the Congress and the Khilafat staged the most successful boycott, Abdul Halim Ghuznavi organised a "mela" in Calcutta in honour of His Royal Highness.

* Throughout the Twenties, the two Ghuznavis—Abdul Halim and his elder brother Sir A. K. Ghuznavi, on every public issue, invariably took the side of the Government against Deshbandhu Das and the Congress.

* In the Central Assembly, Abdul Halim made his mark by voting with the Government for the increase of the hated Salt Tax, which evoked nation-wide condemnation.

In 1934, the Government brought the Bill for the extension of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act to stamp out terrorism in Bengal. By this measure, the Government planned to keep thousands of Bengal's patriotic sons in prison without trial.

* The whole of India, including even the Liberals, voiced their protest against such a measure. But Abdul Halim Ghuznavi voted with the Government.

* In the same year, Ghuznavi vehemently opposed the repeal of the Regulation of 1918 under which the Government has always detained the National leaders.

No wonder, therefore, that Abdul Halim was knighted in 1934, in return for such meritorious services to the British!

* During this war, he let out his premises for recruitment to war services, became a sponsor of the National War Front. He plays the host to Sir Ramswamy Mudaliar and, of course, you will often find his name in the list of callers and invitees to the Government House.

* In the Central Assembly this year, when the Congress and the League joined hands to throw out the Finance Bill, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi did not hesitate to vote with the Government.

And this is the man in whose support Sarat Babu writes: "Throughout his political career he has endeavoured his very best to bring about unity between the Hindus and the Muslims and he has retained his staunch Nationalistic point of view in all matters affecting the country"

War Rich

As a big business man, Ghuznavi deals in extensive brokerage and has got links with the biggest

magnates like Birlas, Dugas and Jaipurias. It is they who once made him the President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

No wonder to-day he has been made a member of the monopolist Cloth Distributors' Association which the Government has set up to placate the cloth kings!

Sarat Babu, in opening his election campaign at a Calcutta meeting on November 9 last, thundered against profiteers as "traitors to the country" who have "no place in the Congress," and declared that if "evidence of the dirty transactions of such persons" was produced before him, he would try to rectify them.

We would like him to examine the record of Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi and declare his verdict at a public meeting.

Against Whom?

And against whom does Sarat Babu testify that Ghuznavi has "rendered valuable services to the country"?

Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan, the League nominee, gave up his practice as a young and promising lawyer during the Non-Cooperation movement, and got two years' rigorous imprisonment: in jail, he was whipped and his arm was fractured by police violence.

On coming out of jail, he almost became a pauper, and for a time had to earn his living by peddling cloth. Disgusted with the Bengal Congress leaders when they repudiated Deshbandhu's stand in support of the Muslims, he went back to the Bar.

He returned to politics with the rise of the Muslim League, and became the Education Minister.

It is true Maulvi Tamizuddin made a bad show as a League Minister, and is fanatically anti-Hindu. But if it comes to a question of the just and present political record of the two respective candidates, you can see for yourself from the above whose is better.

Is it with men like Ghuznavi that Sarat Babu is going to fight the "pro-Imperialist" League?

Recent Hobnobbing

There was a time only recently when Sarat Babu was flirting with Big Business men inside the League too!

Soon after his release, Sarat Babu was entertained to lunch at the Calcutta Club by Mr. A. R. Siddiqui, the Muslim League business-magnate and the most reactionary spokesman in the Muslim business world.

Sarat Babu also dined with the

Ispahanis—whom his followers and Lieutenants (and friends of the Hindu hoarders) had for three years been singling out for attack as Culprit Number One responsible for the Bengal famine.

And after these dinners and lunches, he came out with a testimonial for the Ispahanis. In reply to the Corporation address only last month, referring to profiteering and blackmarketing during the "fateful years of 1943 and 1944", Sarat Babu said: "It will not do to single out one firm and throw all responsibility on it.... So, let us not throw responsibility on one and one firm alone."

All this was only two months ago and just after his release.

To-day Sarat Babu thunders against the League and backs up Ghuznavi!

Rallying The Zamindars

Sarat Babu at the same time is trying to rally the whole tribe of the Bengal zamindars behind him, the most hated and decadent men in Bengal to-day and the very people who formed Shyamprasad's main prop throughout these years.

The Maharajah of Cossimbazar, the second biggest zamindar in the province, with an annual income of nearly Rs. 33 lakhs, saw Sarat Babu and seemed very anxious to get the Congress ticket instead of the Mahasabha's.

The new Maharajah of Mymensingh, with an income of nearly 30 lakhs a year, has so long been a Mahasabha leader and President of the District Mahasabha. Sarat Babu has already approached the Mymensingh Estate, and the Maharajah is likely to get the Congress ticket for the coming elections.

Is it not strange that throughout his election campaign till now, Sarat Babu has not a word to say about the abolition of the Permanent Settlement (which even the Flood Commission recommended) or about the task of rehabilitating famine and epidemic stricken Bengal? In public, he declares:

"Village Panchayat must be and is going to be the unit on which the Constitution of India is going to be raised in future." (Oct. 4.)

Village Panchayats with the help of the Maharajahs of Cossimbazar and Mymensingh?

Sarat Babu is to-day the virtual leader of the Bengal Congress. Is he bringing credit to the great patriotic traditions of the Bengal Congress—to the memory of Chittaranjan—by backing up men like Ghuznavi and the big zamindars of Bengal, by allying himself with the profiteers and zamindars that thrived on Bengal's agony during the last three years and share responsibility for it with the bureaucrats?

(Continued from Page 6.) when many follow all over the country, saying,

"Events have convinced me that religiously it is harmful for Muslims in general and the Ulama in particular to join the Congress. It means their religious death. Hence it is necessary that they should publicly express their dislike for the Congress. The Ulama must organise Muslims separately on the basis of purely religious principles." (Mansoor, November 4.)

The League press seems to have completely forgotten the words of Mr. Jinnah spoken at a meeting in Aligarh in 1938 that,

"What the League has done is to set you free from the reactionary elements of Muslims. It has certainly freed you from that undesirable element of Maulvis and Maulanas" (Mudira India by Mohammad Noman, p. 118).

It would seem that much of "what the League has done" according to Mr. Jinnah is being undone today with the connivance of many of the League leaders themselves

FACSIMILE OF SARAT'S LETTER

1, Woodburn Park, Calcutta, 30th October, 1945.

My dear Friend

My friend Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi is standing for election to the Central Legislative Assembly from his old Constituency, Dacca-ous-Mymensingh (Muhammadan) as an Independent candidate. He has, beyond question, rendered valuable services to the country and particularly to the Muslims of Bengal as their spokesman in the said Assembly for the last 20 years, and it is desirable that his unique and varied experiences should be utilized to the fullest extent at this critical juncture. Throughout his political career he has endeavoured his very best to bring about unity between the Hindus and the Muslims and he has retained his staunch nationalistic point of view in all matters affecting the country. I would, therefore, request you to kindly lend your unstinted support to his candidature, and do all you can to ensure his success by issuing instructions to your Muslim staff and your Muslim tenants to vote for him and in other ways so that his election might be made doubly sure.

The League has set up against him Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan, a Minister of the last discredited League Ministry. He belongs to Fairdipur which is outside this Constituency. I am sure you will agree with me that Sir Abdul Halim deserves your support far more than Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan.

Yours sincerely,

PEOPLES AGE

ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

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