



(Above) : Scenes from the 1943 "famine in Bengal.

... OR ... FOOD FOR ALL?

"The plain question before India is: Are we to enter a period of permanent famine by leaving the toiling peasantry—which forms the backbone of our people—in the enslaving grip of the rapacious feudal landlords, usurers and the moneyed-hoarders; or are we to radically reorganise land relations on a democratic basis, so that the liberated peasantry with the help of a people's government developing industries, may be able to organise the production and distribution of food on a co-operative basis and by modern methods—banishing famine for ever and ensuring food for all—[From Communist election pamphlet, "FOOD FOR ALL," by G. Adhikari].

(See Article: Pages 6-7)



(Above) : A Punjabi Kisan—self-reliant and hardworking.



(Above) : Ricefields in Tamilnad—peasants at work.

[Photos: Madanjeet].

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Election Supplement

Campaigns In U.P., Bengal, Bihar

UNITE! FIGHT!

India's Youth In The Midst Of Battles

It was a conference in the midst of battle. The delegates from Calcutta brought with them the atmosphere of those heroic days—Nov. 21 and 22. Nay, they brought with them even the scars of that courageous battle in which students defied Police terror. Tumultuous cheers from the gathering of 30,000 at the 9th All-India Students' Federation (AISF) Conference (Jan. 20) at Guntur (Andhra), greeted ARUN SEN when he was introduced by our General Secretary in these words:

"During the demonstration of Calcutta students on the 21st November, Arun was struck by a Police lathi and fell with the cry 'Down with Police zoolum'! A Police sergeant could not tolerate such a spirit of defiance and shot him in the abdomen. Seriously wounded, Arun was in hospital for 37 days. Though he has still not recovered, he has come to greet the conference in the name of the Calcutta martyrs."

There were delegates fresh from similar brave battles in other cities—students who had faced Police lathi charges in Lahore and Lucknow; student; yet on ball from Lucknow and Travancore; students from Gwalior who had led a massive procession in defiance of the Police, two days after 200 had been injured as a result of firing on a workers' demonstration.

The spirit of this heroic upsurge among students everywhere and the experience of unity between all sections of students forged in struggle—left their bold imprint on the Conference. They coloured every speech and every resolution. They filled all the delegates with a new courage, gave them new confidence as to how students can unite and prepared them for fresh battles.

Three days after the Conference ended—on January 23—delegates who had come from Bombay "faced brutal Police terror, together with their comrades in the Students' Congress (SC), while celebrating Subhas Day.

Delegates who had come from Madras were in the forefront of a united demonstration, on January 24 (in which the Students' Congress too participated), to protest against Police firing in Bombay. When tear-gas squads and armed Police were brought to stop them as in Calcutta they squatted on the streets undaunted and finally forced the Police cordon to give way.

It was indeed a Conference in the midst of battle, glorifying the courage and unity students had already shown, inspiring them to new deeds of heroism in the fight for freedom.

Inauguration

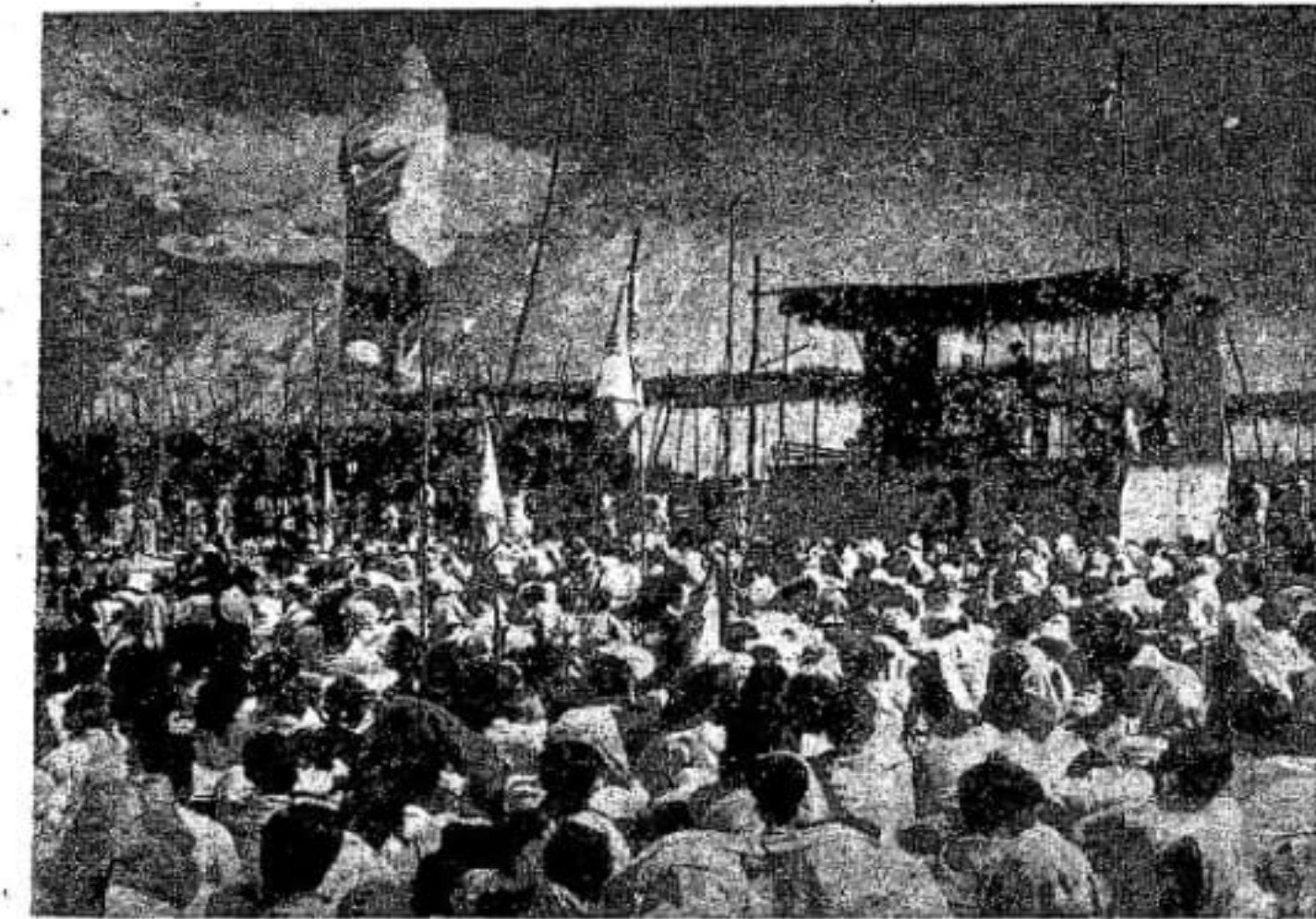
The Conference was inaugurated by Sjt. SATYEN MAZUMDAR, an ex-terrorist, who had just been released after 12 years in jail. His speech recalled the militant traditions of the terrorist youth, the great struggle of the Indian students in 1937 to repatriate the Andamans prisoners and praised the new united upsurge of students recently seen. Two thousand two hundred and eighteen delegates, fraternal delegates and visitors from all over India attended the Conference, of whom 571 were delegates representing the A.I.S.F. membership of 60,598 students. Everyone of them was inspired by the new struggles of our people that were breaking out but they were also keenly aware of the terrible danger facing our country as a result of the growing bitterness between our major parties.

Resist Imperialist Intrigues

Moving the political resolution, SATPAL DANG—who was re-elected General Secretary of the AISF—said:

"In the last few months we have seen the most heroic struggles of workers, peasants and students. But we must remember that Imperialism is hatching a devilish plan—based on the disunity of our great parties to perpetuate its rule.

"Imperialism hopes that the elections will only intensify the rivalries between our parties and prevent them from presenting a united demand to the British in the 'Con-



In typical rural surroundings, a view of the open rally at the AISF Conference.

stituent Assembly' which Wavell proposes to call after the election.

"In this Assembly the majority of the Indian people will have no voice since the vote is so limited.

"On the contrary, the loyal allies of Imperialism—the nominees of the Princes—will be there in large numbers.

"With their help and relying on the disunity of our political parties Imperialism hopes to impose on us a British-made constitution.

"Our resolution demands that every party must resist the imposition of a British-made constitution.

"Let every party strengthen the struggles of the people which are breaking out, for through them lies the hope of our unity. We have seen how in Calcutta, in Chittagong, in Gwalior all parties fought together against the common enemy. Through these struggles people will see the strength that lies in unity and the desire will grow to come to an agreement among our parties so that we may launch the final united struggle for liberation. . . ."

The resolution on "Elections" also underlined how our disunity was playing into the hands of the enemy. Moving it, ANNADASHANKAR BHATTACHARYA, General Secretary of the Bengal SF, gave this example:

"We have seen the shameful spectacle in Mysore and elsewhere of our political parties actually coming to blows and then appealing to the Police for protection—all in the name of freedom!

"Let every party seek the votes of the people but not by

suppressing its opponents. Just by winning the elections no party will win freedom for India. So those who stab their opponents to get a seat in the Assembly stab the future of all youth, for they make impossible that united struggle of 400 millions which alone will win freedom."

Warning Against Communal Riots

The grimness of the situation was driven home by GOPAL BAHADUR from Agra who recounted the story of how the recent elections in Agra led to a communal riot, how a Muslim mob attacked a hostel, how the belongings of four Muslim students staying in the hostel were burnt by their Hindu fellow-hostellers.

Because he, as an SF worker,

For A Democratic Students' Movement

"The AISF aims at a single united student organisation including students of different political views," said A. B. BARDHAN of Nagpur proposing the "Students' Unity" resolution:

"Naturally such an organisation will not blindly support any single political party, but will decide its policy in a democratic way with every section having the fullest right to put forward its own policy. What is the alternative? If you exclude any section because of its political views you will split up the student movement into as many parts as there are parties."

The resolution declared:

"This Conference firmly believes that attempts to build students' organisations pledg-

ed to blind loyalty to the programme and leadership of any political organisation, however great, and seeking to crush all other sections of students and student organisations will do incalculable harm to the student movement in India."

Students' Charter Of Rights

It is at such a stage—after discussing our role as fighters for freedom—that most student conferences practically end. The delegates to this AISF Conference, however, were equally serious about their role as future builders of a free India—as doctors, teachers, engineers, scientists. A long and most useful discussion took place on "The Students' Charter of Fundamental Rights."

The introduction to the Charter showed how the foreign Government has put the Imperialist stamp on our education in a hundred ways and how "India under Imperialist domination has nothing to offer us except a black future of unemployment."

The Charter criticised the serious defects in the Sargent Scheme as well as the Educational Plans of Provincial Governments and outlined the fundamental demands of students in a free India. It also called on student organisations to fight for immediate measures to check the sharp decline in our educational standards.

As many as ELEVEN amendments came in. They were brought forward by research scholars, engineering students

GREETINGS

"I AM GLAD TO NOTE THAT THE ALL-INDIA STUDENTS' FEDERATION HAS RECOGNISED THE RIGHT OF FREE DISCUSSIONS AMONG STUDENTS OF DIVERSE POINTS OF VIEW AND FREEDOM TO VOTE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE AND CONNECTIONS."

This is what Dr. H. J. BHABHA, F.R.S., Director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and one of the most brilliant Indian scientists wrote in the course of his message to the 9th AISF. Conference.

The Conference was greeted by eminent poets, intellectuals, scientists, professors and teachers from all over India. Many Congress and League leaders also sent their messages wishing the Conference every success. Here are a few names:—

Poets, Intellectuals, Scientists And Professors

Josh Malihabadi, the greatest living Urdu Poet; Yashpal, one of the greatest Hindi short story writers; poet Vallathol of Kerala; Dr. Tarachand of the Allahabad University, an authority on Indian history; Prof. Gyanehand of Patna; Prof. Kosambi of Poona; Prof. D. P. Mukherji of Lucknow; Principals Donda and Teja Singh of Bombay; Prof. T. Sen; Principal P. K. Bose of Calcutta; Mrinal Kanti Bose, President All-India Trade Union Congress; Mr. Vivekananda Mukherji (Editor, "Jugantar" Calcutta); Dr. Dhiren Sen (Associate Editor—Amrita Bazar Patrika); Prof. Wadia and Pratappiri of Bombay; Adisheshiah of Madras; Mr. Beelvi (Editor—Bombay Chronicle).

Congress-League Leaders

Rajaji, Dr. Rajan, Syed Mahmud, Sri Prakash; the President of the All-India States Muslim League; Mr. G. M. Syed; Prof. R. K. Chakravarty, the Secretary of the Bengal Medical Relief Co-ordination Committee; and Mumtaz Daultana, General Secretary of the Punjab Muslim League.

Friends Abroad

Major-General Aung San, President Burma National Congress; D. N. Pritt; Rajani Palme Dutt; the World Federation of Democratic Youth; Prof. J. B. S. Haldane; Youth Organisations of Liberated North China, Ceylon, Cyprus and Czechoslovakia; World Youth Council.

ILYA EHRENBURG — THE FAMOUS SOVIET WRITER IN A MESSAGE SAID — "MY HEART IS WITH YOU ALL. I WISH THE INDIAN YOUTH EVERY LUCK IN THEIR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM."

and others, helping to make the Charter more specific and forceful.

It was a document the whole Conference felt proud of; it spoke as much of the earnestness with which the AISF regards our duty as future nation-builders, as of the wide experience of educational problems gained by the AISF in its last year's work.

Other educational resolutions passed by the Conference dealt with demands of teachers, of engineering, science, medical and commerce students.

The Conference adopted resolutions on the INA and Indonesia; greeted the workers' and peasants' struggles and the World Federation of Democratic Youth and demanded the release of the 110 arrested students in Calcutta, the immediate reopening of the Agricultural College, Cawnpore, and the withdrawal of expulsion orders, etc., on students.

Rousing Slogan For Youth

Daily 6,000 visitors—apart from the delegates—attended the sessions and on the 20th January, 30,000 came to the open rally. They were students, intellectuals and common people, workers and kisans.

The President of the Conference—Prof. K. P. CHATTOPADHYAY, Head of the Anthropology Dept., Calcutta University and a Congress leader—described what a national system of education should really mean. (Continued on Page 8, Col. 5.)

Bombay Primary Elections For Railway Labour Seats

COMMUNISTS TOP POLL

As Many Representatives As Congress And Royists Together
Rly. Authorities Interference Against Red Flag

The results of the primary elections for the Railway Labour seats in the Bombay Legislative Assembly have given a resounding victory to the Communist representatives. The Congress, Communists and Royists were the three political groups contesting. The Communists have secured almost as many representatives as the Congress and the Royists put together. And this when the whole might of the Congress dailies and leaders was pitted against the Communist Party.

THE membership of the four Unions in this province, the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, the B.B. & C.I. Railwaymen's Union, the B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union (Royist), and the M. S. M. Railway Employees' Union, had among themselves to elect 73 representatives to form an Electoral College.

The primary elections for this were held on February 8. Out of 73 representatives elected, the Communists have the support of 35, the Congress of 23 and the Royists of 14. One is independent.

This College would next elect two members to represent them in the Legislative Assembly.

These elections, notably on the G.I.P. Railway, were a test of working class unity. The Union here was entitled to send 24 representatives out of the 73. After struggles extending over eight years, the Union has been built up into a united organisation where the Communists, Congressmen and Royists work together.

Against the grave peril of mass retrenchment facing the Indian Railway workers, it is of paramount importance that this unity be preserved and carried forward in the Legislative Assembly. The Union tried its best for this. But Sjt. Khedgikar, President of the Union (Congressman), and the Congress bosses who backed him, foiled these efforts.

Disruption Of Workers' Unity From Congress Side

For them the issue of unemployment and unity to fight it was not very important. The Union's proposal was to allot eight seats each to the three groups working in the Union. The Standing Committee of the Union, by 10 votes to 2, had approved of this suggestion. The Managing Committee of the Union confirmed this decision.

But Sjt. Khedgikar, the President of the Union, flouted it and put up 18 rival candidates in the name of the Congress.

It is interesting to note that it was Sjt. Khedgikar who, only eight months ago, had said when he returned from the Conference of World Trade Unions: "One thing I learnt while abroad. It is that the working class must march unitedly in one direction, irrespective of political differences. They must march under their Red Flag."

To-day Sjt. Khedgikar has forgotten this lesson, taught to him by the workers abroad. But the workers of the G.I.P. had

learnt it from their own struggles. They foiled Sjt. Khedgikar's game.

In the elections Khedgikar's candidates, put up in the name of the Congress and in defiance of the Union, got on an average 60 votes, the Royists got 59 and the Communists 76. Only 50 per cent of the Congress candidates were elected; 55 per cent of those those put up by the Royists (on the Union ticket) and 90 per cent of those put up by the Communists (on the Union ticket).

Dr. Ambedkar's Support To Royists

The apparent success of the Royists has to be seen in the background of their eleventh hour 'scoop' at disruption.

On February 7, i.e., twenty-four hours before the elections, they got Dr. Ambedkar, the leader of the Scheduled Castes' Federation (SCF), to issue instructions to the Bombay Provincial SCF calling upon the SCF voters to support, "under orders from Babasaheb (Ambedkar)" only the Royist candidates.

The 'scoop' did help the Royists to create some disruption in their favour.

In the B.B. & C.I. Railwaymen's Union, Sjt. Khedgikar got only two representatives elected as against 18 for the Communists. One is independent.

The elections were, as is usual these days, preceded by a campaign of calumnies against the Communists.

On the polling day itself some of Khedgikar's supporters, feeling themselves secure at the Parel booth, raised the slogan "G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union Murdabad."

At Bhusaval, however, their insecurity led them to parade with the Flag of the Union in an attempt to confuse the voters.

Officials Take A Hand Against The Red Flag

Some Railway officials, as at Kalyan, Sawda, etc., did their worst to prevent the workers from exercising their vote. At Sawda about 50 voters (gangmen) were not granted leave. At Kalyan (Chola Power House) the officials had to be forced to grant leave to the workers at 1 p.m. They just did not issue the circular till Parab, the Union candidate, intervened.

Some officers even tried to confuse the workers by putting out that Parab was not standing on the Union ticket, and that he was a Communist, etc.

The Returning Officer at Kalyan refused to allow normal

election propaganda to be done near the booth. He forced the Union representatives to leave the place. He got the order of the candidates' boxes changed to confuse the workers (and there were more than 40 boxes.)

But this game was smashed by the workers who returned the Communist representative, put up by the Union, by a comfortable margin.

On the B.B. & C.I., the officials of the Dohad workshop prevented a number of workers from coming to the booth. At Ahmedabad, a hired band tried to attack the Red Flag voters in the name of the Congress. The workers foiled their game by simply coming to the booth in processions.

The Congress claim for the monopoly of patriotism has sown the seeds of disruption in the largest united Railway Union in the province—the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union—just at a time when the Railway Board is preparing for its retrenchment offensive.

Workers Rally Behind Red Flag Lead

Through the election, the workers have firmly expressed themselves in favour of the Red Flag and its policy of united struggle. It has been their first warning against attempts at disruption in the name of the Congress. It will serve working-class interests best if this warning is taken seriously by all concerned.

Railway Workers' Battle Against Mass Dismissals

AIRF VICE-PRESIDENT GIVES THE LIE TO NEW DELHI BOSSES

M. Kalyansundaram's Statement On Central Assembly Debate

[Railway workers all over the country are fighting back the predatory move of the Railway Board to retrench more than three lakh men and cut the wages and Dearness Allowance of the rest. The All-India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) has put forward concrete proposals to avert this retrenchment, improve Railway travelling conditions in the country and the lot of the Railway workers.]

News has come from Delhi (February 13) that negotiations between the A.I.R.F. and the Railway Board on this issue have finally broken down. The A.I.R.F. has now asked the Government to appoint an Adjudicator before March 1. Failing adjudication, the A.I.R.F. will proceed to take a ballot for strike of Railway workers all over the country (to be complete before April 25) on the following issues: revision of scales of pay; retrenchment; hours of employment and leave rules; adequate dearness allowance.

The issue came up for discussion before the Central Assembly recently. Here we give an important statement on the Assembly debate issued to the press, by M. Kalyansundaram, President, of the South Indian Railway Labour Union (the biggest and most powerful Union on the Railways) and Vice-President of the A.I.R.F.]

RETRENCHMENT on the Railways was the subject of an adjournment motion which was discussed in the Central Assembly on the second day of its session. Although it is a matter for gratification to all Railwaymen that their country-wide agitation has received the attention of the Assembly, the fate of the motion has caused widespread disappointment and dissatisfaction.

Both the Labour Member, Dr. Ambedkar, and the War Transport Member, Sir Edward Benthall, tried to hoodwink the public and the members of the House. Dr. Ambedkar said: "The fundamental demand put forward was that not a single workman should be re-

duced. Hours of work and wages were only tacked on to the fundamental demand. How many men a department decided to employ was not a justifiable issue which could be decided by Arbitration, and therefore, it was not a matter worth the Labour Department's intervention."

Misleading The Public

This reply may befit a clever lawyer but it certainly does not a responsible Administrator. If the Labour Member wants facts, I would once again invite his attention to the 16-point resolution of the A.I.R.F.

The fight for security of service by the Railway worker has been characterised both by the

Labour Member and the War Transport Member as a 'fundamental demand', which is not a 'justifiable issue' for Adjudication. Sir Edward Benthall says that the 16 points put forward by the Federation had been adopted, or, in any case, were 'receiving the most careful attention.'

I do not know if this is meant for public consumption. But no Railwayman or, as a matter of fact, anyone who has any knowledge of Railway services, can accept this as correct.

Sir Edward Benthall wanted the House to believe that only men who were employed in war work had been discharged but he kept silent about the number of regular Railwaymen who had been retrenched on many Railways. The total number discharged on the S. I. Railway alone comes to more than 2,000 and only half of them belong to the categories described by Sir Edward Benthall as war work.

Both the A.I.R.F. and its affiliated Unions are aware that the present bureaucracy does not want to tackle the so-called 'fundamental demand' about retrenchment.

The 16 points put forward by the A.I.R.F. are not merely suggestions for the future, but they also expose the present attitude of the Railway Administrations towards their staff.

Retrenchment Not Necessary

The Federation believes that no retrenchment is necessary, that there are no surplus men employed on the Railways. This is so because even the present

Kolar Gold Miners' Strike

Continues

Starving Workers Give Cash To Communist Party Fighting Fund

15,000 March 7 Miles For Rally

TWENTY-THOUSAND MINERS of the Kolar Gold Field (Mysore State) have been on strike since January 17. Their demand is extremely reasonable—a minimum basic wage of fourteen annas a day for every underground worker. The British bosses of the mines, backed by the Indian State Administration, refused this and offered eleven annas a day instead.

The miners are continuing their fight with grim determination. On January 17, a complete hartal was organised by the people in sympathy with the miners. Students, traders, merchants, workers, including jukka drivers, all co-operated and stopped work.

Protest Rally Against Attack On P. H. Q.

The dastardly attack on the Communist Party headquarters at Bombay has roused the miners. On January 25, groups of them thronged to the Union Office and demanded the condemnation of hooliganism. This manifested itself in their spontaneous demand for official condemnation of the attack at the meeting of 5,000 workers on January 26, where the workers' leaders VASAN and GOVINDAN spoke.

Though the workers' had been on strike for several days and were undergoing severe hardships, that did not stop them from paying their mite to make up for the losses suffered by the Communist Party. A hundred and ninety-five rupees and a wrist watch were collected on the spot. A wrist watch, a timepiece and a fancy clock were promised.

Mass March To Hear Red Flag Leader

The Mysore Government had banned Ramamurti, the Tamilnad Communist leader, from addressing a meeting of the strikers on January 21 at Kolar Gold Fields. Therefore, 15,000 workers—including 1,000 women marched seven miles to Boothasuram in British Chittoor district on January 30 to hear Ramamurti. The funds collected were presented to him. Ramamurti exhorted the workers to stand firm until their demands were conceded.

The workers are determined to continue the fight to a finish. Public interest and sympathy for them is growing. The local press is taking keen interest and the demand for justice to the workers is on the increase.

Hours of Employment Regulations, which themselves require a lot of improvement, are not being adhered to fully. They have remained on paper. Thus, many of the departments are understaffed, which leads to extraction of unpaid labour. Leave rules, defectives as they are, do not allow the staff to avail themselves even of the little leave to their credit.

A careful examination will show that the method by which figures of the temporary staff were arrived at were altogether wrong; practical needs do not warrant any retrenchment, there is enough work to absorb all temporary hands.

With regard to the scales of pay also, there is much discontent amongst all sections of the employees. The public will be surprised to know that there are a number of men working on Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 per mensem on the S.I. Railway. Here are the facts which speak for themselves:

(Continued on page 2, col. 5.)

Results At A Glance

The primary elections for the two seats for Railway Labour in the Bombay Legislative Assembly were held on Feb. 8. The following table shows the position of the various parties in the Electoral College. These seventy-three will elect two members to represent them in the Legislative Assembly.

	Com.	Cong.	Royist
GIP Rly. men's Union	10	8	6
BBCI Rly. men's Union	18	2	—
BBCI Rly. Employees Union	3	3	8
MSM Rly. Employees' Union	4	10	—
Total	35	23	14

*One Independent has been elected.

by
V. V. Sastry

ANDHRA CONFERENCE LEADERS INTERNED ON FALSE CHARGES

Police Torture Campaign Against Prajamandal Workers

Bezwada, Feb. 12.

During the last week, the autocratic Government of the Nizam of Hyderabad launched a widespread offensive against the Andhra Conference, the premier political organisation of the State. The Conference (Praja Mandal of the Andhras in Hyderabad) is the undisputed leader of the 90 lakhs of Andhra people in Hyderabad—who altogether cover more than half the area of the State. Its membership is over a lakh.

THE offensive reached its maximum intensity last week. A number of leaders of the Andhra Conference have been interned in their villages.

Among them are:
* (1) B. ELLA REDDY, the General Secretary of the Andhra Conference, and one of the foremost leaders of the State;
* (2) A. PRABHAKAR RAO, leader of Karim Nagar district, and a member of the Working Committee of the Andhra Conference.
* (3) N. SANKASIAH, Secretary of Peddapalli Taluk Committee of Karim Nagar district;
* (4) MURALIDHAR, Taluk organiser of Peddapalli Andhra Conference.

Inspired By Landlords And Corrupt Officials

The State Government charged them with attempting to obstruct it in its work of procuring foodgrains from the peasants and has asked them to remain in their villages and not to issue any statement or make any speech criticising the food policy of the Government.

The Andhra Conference has never opposed the Nizam Government's policy of procuring surplus food grain from the peasants through its monopoly grain levy scheme.

But it has always insisted that Government's order of exemptions to poor peasants must be strictly enforced and that the stocks from big feudal landlords who own thousands and lakhs of acres should be commandeered.

The truth is that the internments have come because the local corrupt officials, big landlords and blackmarketeers, apprehending that the growing strength of the Andhra Conference would put an end to their own exploitation of the people, brought pressure on the Nizam's Government to put through these internments; naturally the Nizam's Government, one of the most autocratic Governments in Princely India, was only too pleased to have an excuse to attack the spearhead of the democratic movement in Hyderabad.

Began Six Months Ago

During the last six months the Government and its local officials had launched a big campaign of repression. First it began in one or two taluks and now it has spread to eight districts of Telangana, where the Andhra Conference is working.

Cases today are proceeding in courts against nearly 200 persons, most of whom are important leaders and local workers of the Andhra Conference. Internees, including the latest, now number eight, of whom one died in internment due to lack of proper treatment for T.B.

Those interned include B. ELLA REDDY, the present General Secretary and President-elect of the coming 13th Session of the Andhra Conference; A. RAMACHANDRA REDDY, hero of the Jangam anti-feudal struggles; A. PRABHAKAR RAO, the undisputed leader of Karim Nagar district, looked upon as their best friend by masses of

the peasantry and a terror to corrupt officials.

Police Terror

Internments are not all. In addition the Police are carrying on a reign of terror and violence against the workers of the Andhra Conference. Many have been tortured in the most barbaric manner. Recently some workers of the Andhra Conference were arrested in connection with the struggle against Vishnu Deshmukh of Jangam taluk, an oppressive zemindar. The police poured urine into

their mouths, threw chilly powder into their eyes and beat them severely.

In Nallagonda town, Andhra Conference workers were beaten in the streets and for one and a half months, a regular terror campaign was conducted. Worst of all has been the beating-up and maltreatment of D. SUBBA RAO, the Secretary of the Nallagonda District Committee of the Andhra Conference (see below).

The attack on the workers of the Andhra Conference is an index of the growing fear of the Nizam's Government at the democratic upsurge inside Hyderabad.

The Conference is the strongest people's organisation in the State; with a membership of over a lakh, it has 150 whole-time workers and a budget of one lakh rupees. It has conducted mighty anti-landlord struggles—against illegal taxation and 'zigari'

(forced labour). It has been the inspirer and leader of a big campaign against corrupt officials and blackmarketeers.

The Andhra Conference is confident that it can fight back this repression, and it looks to its brothers outside Hyderabad for help in its just cause. Particularly, the Andhra Conference looks to the Praja Mandals in other States and the All-India States' Peoples' Conference and its President, Pandit Nehru, to take up its cause and defend the people's movement in the biggest Princely State in India, one of the strongholds of British Imperialism.

The Case Of Sjt. Subba Rao

For the last year, D. SUBBA RAO, Secretary of the Nallagonda District Committee of the Andhra Conference and member of its Working Committee, has been in jail, in connection with a case launched against him by an oppressive zemindar, one Vishnu Deshmukh of Jangam taluk. Along with other colleagues of his, he has not been allowed bail, but has been kept in jail.

Not long ago two High Court Judges—the Hon. Mr. Kamar Hassan and the Hon. Nawab Hasheem Ali Khan—visited the Hyderabad Central Jail to inspect it. As usual, accompanied by the Jail Superintendent, they

went round the prisoners, formally asking if there was anything wrong.

No one said anything—the Superintendent's presence silenced them—until the visitors reached D. Subba Rao. He immediately complained that 70 prisoners were crammed together in a block meant for merely 38 people and that though the matter had been brought to the notice of the Jail Superintendent, he had done nothing.

Treatment After Judges Visit

The Judges left but the Superintendent remained and that same day, Subba Rao was put into solitary confinement. And here is the treatment that he is reported to have been given:

- The Jamedar asked him threateningly why he had complained to the Judges and receiving no reply, ordered the warders Mohammed Kasim and another, to beat him.
- He was put in chains. His clothes except the dhoti and shirt were taken away, he was left with no shawl for the night.
- He was kept like this for a week, allowed no bath, no facilities of any sort.
- Even after this week, his legs were kept in fetters for another week.

This is how the Hyderabad Government treats its prisoners—political prisoners whose crime has been that they fought oppression.



Funeral procession of victims of Gwalior Police firing.

Victory For All-Parties' Joint Action In Gwalior

BIRLA MILL WORKERS WIN ALL DEMANDS

Impartial Enquiry Committee On Police Firing

THE UNPRECEDENTED WAVE OF POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS that followed the 13th January firing on unarmed strikers of the Birla-owned J. C. Mills in Gwalior and the mighty all-party unity that the people forged to back up the workers' demands, have scored resounding victories so far. THE STRIKE HAD BEEN LED BY THE RED FLAG. THE Birlas, hand in glove with the most notorious elements in the State administration, wanted to make it an opportunity to isolate and crush the Red Flag, and with it the people's democratic movement in the State. What really happened was quite the opposite.

Not only the arrested Communist leaders of the workers had to be released and warrants against the rest summarily withdrawn, but the workers have also secured all their demands on the Birlas. A Committee to enquire into the firing has been appointed. The high ranking officers responsible for the firing have been "sent on leave," out of the State.

It has been one of the mightiest victories of a united people. It will be remembered that on January 12 last, Mr. Powar, the Minister for Army and Police of the Gwalior Government, ordered firing on a mass of un-

armed strikers of the Birla-owned J. C. Mills, Gwalior. As a result it is estimated about 17 were killed and many wounded.

He thought he would drown the workers' struggle in blood. What he however succeeded in was rousing, as nothing else ever did before, all sections and all parties of the people in the State—men, women and students, belonging to Congress, League, Communist, Hindu Sabha or to no party, to fully back up the just demands of the workers.

An All-Parties' Committee of Action was formed which held mammoth demonstrations throughout the State. In the end, Mr. Powar's action had to be disowned even by his colleagues of the Council of Ministers.

Meanwhile, the All-Parties' Committee demanded the immediate settlement of the workers' demands. Talks for settlement were opened between the Commerce Minister and other Government officials, on the one side, and the All-Parties' Committee of Action, on the other, representing the workers' case.

At this stage, Mr. Mandelia, Birla's Manager, who had conspired with Mr. Powar for the firing, started to put up obstacles. But even the Government officials had to pull him up. Mr. Abdul Rashid, President of the All-Parties' Committee of Action, spoke for the people of the State when he warned Mr. Mandelia:

"Don't think that this is just a matter that concerns you and the workers. Today it has become the united demand of the entire people of Gwalior. We shall rest only when we have forced these demands through."

And the people did force the demands through.

On January 21, the Industrial Court gave its decision in favour of a Bonus and Dearness Allowance to the workers, which had been their just demand. The 27 workers of the Spinning Department who had been provocatively dismissed should be taken back. All those workers who were wounded in the firing should be reinstated. There should be no victimisation; and a Housing Committee should be appointed with two representatives each of the Mazdoor Sabha, the Owners and the Government and one Housing Expert. Such were the recommendations of the court.

Assurance has also been given that working hours would be reduced from 10 to 9, and that an Enquiry Commission will go into the problem of standardisation of wages, secret wage cuts, bonus, dearness allowance, etc. The workers will have their representatives on this Commission.

But the people would not rest on their oars. An impartial Committee to enquire into the firing and immediate suspension of Mr. Powar and his collaborators in the crime was also their demand.

And news has come that they have won this demand also. The State authorities have been forced to appoint a Committee of eight, four nominees of the Government and four members suggested by the All-Parties' Committee of Action.

An Official Communique has also been issued emphasizing the Maharaja's "determination for full justice, and for a completely impartial enquiry."

And, last but not least, Mr. Powar, Mr. Dharkar, Sardar Mohite and others responsible for the firing have been sent out of the State on 'compulsory leave' pending the results of the enquiry.

No Nationalist paper with the significant exception, of course, of the Birla-owned Galleis (and a handful of professional anti-Communist journals) supported the Birlas and the State authorities.

Among those few whose anti-Communist bile led them however to side with the Birlas and with the reactionary State officials was the Salsak of Shri S. K. D. Paliwal, President of the U.P. Provincial Congress Committee. According to it it was the State Police who were the poor victims in this affair—it was the Communist "hated of the Police" that was "responsible for the tragedy."

And Dr. Atal, specially deputed by Pandit Nehru to enquire into the matter, found time on Subhas Day to deprecate "attempts at Hindu-Muslim unity in this State"! This, when one of the mightiest demonstrations of Hindu-Muslim unity had forced the State bureaucracy to come down!

But the people's movement in Gwalior has passed beyond the stage of disruption by such gentlemen.