

# The Insurrectionary Movement in India

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THE pace of the revolutionary development in India has greatly increased during the last few days. We can almost speak of the beginning of a new turn, of the going over of the masses to insurrectionary action. That which happened in Calcutta was much more than a sharp protest against British imperialism. It was a collision, the first bloody battle between the revolutionary masses and British imperialism. The tenacity, the resoluteness with which the masses, who were repeatedly attacked, again formed their ranks and went over to the counter-attack, is the outstanding characteristic of these street fights in Calcutta. Far from following the slogans of "passive resistance" (or as the newest formulation of Gandhi, issued under the pressure of mass upheaval, is called: "aggressive-passive resistance,") the masses are expressing their indignation at the uninterrupted provocations of the MacDonald government in their own manner.

The struggles are rapidly extending. The whole province of Bengal is actually in revolt. The events in Chittagong (Bengal) where the insurgents inflicted serious losses on the English, and where they also succeeded in spite of all the efforts of the British troops, in holding up all traffic and transport, show the strength of the revolutionaries. The spirit with which the insurgents are inspired is best characterized by the English conservative paper, the "Observer," which compares the present movement with the first wave of revolts and comes to the following conclusion: "There is to be seen a bitter hostility on the part of the crowd towards the English which far exceeds the degree of hatred existing ten years ago."

The extraordinary means to which the British authorities in India are now resorting, the mobilization of troops for the direct fight against the insurgents, show how seriously the situation in India is regarded by the British.

The movement is already spreading to the peasant masses, and this by no means in the passive form of boycott, but in active attacks on British troops, in fact one can even speak of the formation of insurgent peasant detachments.

It is thoroughly characteristic that the fiercest fights are taking place precisely in Calcutta, the big proletarian centre; that the working class is playing its role as the advance-guard of the movement and stands in the front ranks of the fight against the "Labor Government" of British imperialism. All hopes of a peaceful settlement with India, now that blood has flowed in the streets of Calcutta, have vanished, and the efforts of the petty-bourgeois elements of the type of Nehru, Gandhi, and Gupta to hold back the movement will likewise be in vain.

The insurrectionary movement in India—which has been provoked by MacDonald—is now being attacked with the sharpest means by MacDonald's police. A state of emergency has been proclaimed over the whole of Bengal. Hundreds of arrests without warrant are taking place. The troops and the police are firing on insurgent workers and peasants; the careful distinction which is being made by the authorities between the advocates of "passive resistance," who are receiving milder treatment, and the "terrorists," against whom all means are ruthlessly employed, plainly shows the determination of the social imperialists before all to crush the revolutionary movement.

The social imperialist labor leaders, and also the Second International, are applauding MacDonald's policy: Lansbury declares that the two men who cherish the best, most noble and honest feelings towards India are Mr. Wedgwood Benn, the Labor Secretary of India, and Lord Irwin—that is to say, the two men who are endeavoring to solve the Indian

question by means of armored cars and bombing planes.

Every day brings fresh news of the development of the revolt in India. In such circumstances it is impossible to overemphasize the importance of active support of the Indian fight for freedom by the European proletariat. Proletarian solidarity in England and in the

other imperialist countries, proletarian mass actions for India are the immediate duty of the workers' organizations, and before all of the Communist Parties. The Indian movement is entering on an acute stage. Here it no longer suffices to give good advice, but it is necessary to prove the unity of the revolutionary fight by deeds.

