AT THE KING'S FEET

By JAY LOVESTONE

WHEN, at the beginning of his first week as Premier, MacDonald kissed the King's hand, we were inclined not to take the kiss seriously.

But the King of England, tho actually only a political figure head, is also Emperor of India, and is the symbol of the whole rotten and rotting British capitalist imperial empire. The Fifth George is also the very personification of all the crimes, of all the villainy, of all the plunder and imperialist highway diplomacy and politics. To kiss the King's hand is bad enough.

But to fall at the King's feet, well, that's another matter! Here the workers must sit up and take notice. This is precisely what Ramsay MacDonald did at the end of his first week as premier when he declared that India had better behave itself, and that there will be no recognition of Soviet Russia until communist activities cease on the Afghan border.

Question for English Workers

What interest have the workers on the Thames in maintaining British imperialist soldiers on the Ganges? Wherefore are the workers concerned in the British oppression and exploitation of the Afghanistan people? What light can the English working masses draw from the Black Hole of Calcutta? What inspiration can the workingmen of Manchester draw from the Armitsar massacre?

The facts are these: One of the inherent characteristics of capitalist imperialism is the condition under which a small, aristocratic section of the upper crust of the most highly skilled group of labor has become a partner with the biggest capitalists to the exploitation of the weaker colonial countries. This labor aristocracy, that shares in the spoils and plunder of imperialist aggression, is one of the integral, organic parts, one of the pillars of the whole system of capitalist imperialism.

With the broad working and farming masses, the story is altogether different. The great mass of exploited and disposed city and rural workers has everything to lose and nothing to gain from capitalist imperialism. Increased dangers of war, an accelerated rate of exploitation, and a tendency towards a lowering of the standard of living are the only fruits garnered by the working masses in the imperialist stage of capitalism.

MacDonald Speaks for Rulers

When MacDonald threatens India and warns Soviet Russia, he does not speak for the English working class. He speaks only for the British capitalist imperialists and that small section of the British working class, the labor aristocrats, who are the meek paupers at the gorgeous tables of the moneyed princes and lords of British imperialism. These labor aristocrats are waging the stubborn, desperate, rear guard fights in the reactionary battle for the perpetuation of capitalism.

Hence, it is easy to understand the recent remarks of J. L. Garvin, anent MacDonald, in the Conservative organ, The Observer, to the effect that: "This is no Socialist government. It is well designed to form, during a single interval, a ministry of national work. No wonder the forming of this 'Labor Cabinet' was followed by buoyancy on the Stock Exchange. It is already evident that the mortal danger to this Labor Government is from labor itself. There is an unmistakable threat of a general industrial upheaval.

Garvin Has His Number

In the above words, Mr. Garvin, one of the most distinguished British journalists, has brilliantly summed up the present status of the class struggle in England. He has pierced the very pith, the most sensitive spot of the whole problem of working class liberation and supremacy. Here we have the real reason for the strikingly instructive coincidence of the Conservative member of the MacDonald Labor Cabinet being the same Viscount Chelmsford, who, as Viceroy of India, prepared for the imperialistic Montagu, the present outrageous fraud on the representative nationalist government in India. Here we have the real reason for the fact that MacDonald does not fear communist agitation at home as much as in Afghanistan. At home the Socialist lackeys of the capitalists attempt to crush the communists with more prospects of success.

It has taken MacDonald but one week to declare defiantly his readiness to stoop to conquer for his imperialist masters. The Labor Premier has kissed the king's hand and has fallen at the king's feet. The London bourse is jubilant. The London Stock Exchange is buoyant. The British capitalists are reassured.

What will the great masses of English workingmen say to this tragic farce? How will the British workers answer this defiant Indian letter and this outrageous threat against Soviet Russia?

Growing Unemployment in M

By LELAND OLDS
(Federated Press Industrial Editor)

Decreased employment and continued spread of the part-time are outstanding features of the December report of the Massachusetts department of labor. The number employed by 811 manufacturing establishments fell from 215,453 to 210,567, a decrease of 2.3 per cent. This brings the number on the payrolls of these factories to a level 5 per cent below October. The department reports fewer employes on the payrolls than in December, 1922.

Railroad car shops showed the heaviest layoffs with 13 per cent of their employes dropped during the month. The boot and shoe industry and the men's clothing industry each laid off 9 per cent of their workers, the hosiery and knit goods industry 8 per cent, bakeries 7 per cent, while the producers of women's clothing, textile machinery and rubber goods laid off 6 per cent of their employes.

The report shows 45 per cent of the 811 establishments operating at less than full capacity during December. Of the 367, there were 168 operating full time, but only part capacity, and 199 operating both part time and part capacity.

The shoe industry and the textile industry employing directly or indirectly nearly half of the industrial workers of the state are operating far below capacity. Of the 146 establishments connected with the manufacturing of leather shoes, only 50, or 34 per cent, were operating at full capacity. Among the shoe towns, Haverhill has been particularly hard hit. In the course of two months, 30 per cent of the workers employed by manufacturing establishments in that town have been laid off, while only 5 out of 34 establishments are operating full time and full capacity. The average weekly earnings of those employed have dropped from $28.08, in October, to $20.79 in December, a decrease of 26 per cent. In Lyon only 6 of the 82 establishments report normal operating schedules.

In every branch of the textile industry the report shows a majority of the establishments on a part ca-