

# The Latest Treachery of the General Council

*A Statement by HARRY POLLITT, Secretary British Minority Movement*

**T**HE decision of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress to participate in an industrial peace conference with 24 capitalists, representing the biggest industries in the country, is the most shameful betrayal of the British Trade Union Movement that has taken place since the unconditional surrender to the Government during the General Strike.

In 1919 the capitalists prepared an "increased production and peace in industry" campaign; many prominent labor leaders participated in this along with the capitalists. In 1921 the campaign had come to an end, the employers had made their preparations, and the tremendous wage offensive began to take place. Since that time the British trade unionists have lost in wage reductions ten and half millions pounds sterling per week.

In 1925 there was a miners' crisis and the Government in July gave a subsidy to expire in May, 1926. This intervening nine months was used by the Minority Movement to endeavor to mobilize the Trade Union Movement for the inevitable struggle they knew would take place in May. The General Council deprecated all attempts at preparations for a fight, and spoke only of the need of peace.

The result is known to the world. The General Strike was defeated, the miners' lock-out was subsequently betrayed and lower wages and longer hours was the result.

## RAIDS BEGAN

In January, 1927, the capitalists commenced their armed attack on the Chinese Revolution; in May they raided Arcos and broke off relations with the Soviet Government; in the same month they introduced the Trade Union Act, which nullifies all the fundamental economical and political rights of the trade unions. This Act was placed on the Statute Book in August, 1927.

The week before the Trades Union Congress opened at Edinburgh, Baldwin made his plea for industrial peace and class-collaboration. The General Council responded to that plea, and since that time have publicly been making overtures for a conference with the capitalists.

The workers will find, unless the present leadership is repudiated, that the whole of this propaganda of industrial peace and the proposals that will undoubtedly arise from the conference will be another attempt at a "breathing space" such as the capitalists got in 1919 and 1925, preparatory

to launching a new offensive upon the wages, hours and workshop conditions of trade unionists.

## NOTHING CONSTRUCTIVE

All this is being done under the pretense that the trade union leaders have some positive contribution to make to the re-constructoin of British capitalism. Not a single leader who has been publicly associated with industrial peace propaganda has since the Edinburgh Congress made a single speech or article in which any attempt has been made to remedy vital weaknesses in the trade union machine, such as the multiplicity of unions, lack of factory committees, and local and central co-ordination. The result will be that the workers will find themselves delivered hand and foot to the capitalists and it is for this reason that the Minority Movement has been carrying on a ceaseless propaganda against the treachery of the existing leadership of the British Trade Union Movement.

This explains why that at the moment the only fight that is taking place on the part of the leadership is a fight against the revolutionary workers, and yet whenever the trade unionists have an opportunity of registering their choice as between the reformist defeatist leadership and the new revolutionary forces springing up from the ranks of the Minority movement they unanimously show their decision in electing our nominees as has been proved in Scotland where our candidates have swept the board.

This is the best guarantee that despite the latest example of unheard-of treachery the fight we shall wage against it will be a fight bringing increased success to the revolutionary movement.