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Hands off the Soviet Union!

The Trial of the Chervonetz Forgers and the International Agitation against the Soviet Union.

By A. Norden (Berlin).

The end of the trial of the Chervonetz forgers on February 8, constitutes an important page in the history of the fight against the Soviet Union. Acquittal of the Georgian and German accused, acquittal of the confessed and non-confessed criminals, acquittal of people whose criminal character was not denied even by the bourgeois press. In Germany one can fabricate documents against the Soviet Union, forge Chervonetz and make military preparations for the overthrow of the Soviet Government, all with impunity. That is the logical conclusion to be drawn from the Chervonetz Trial.

It is true the national socialist bookseller Böhle received 300 Marks for placing his printing press at the disposal of the forgers; it is true, the fascists Bell and Schmidt obtained 3000 marks on false pretences, just as it is true that the Georgian Menshevik Sadathierashvili promised his relatives that he would set up a luxurious dwelling in the event of his succeeding in pulling off the forgeries — but "the court did not find that any of the accused acted on selfish motives".

Thus the court in pronouncing judgement, corrects the facts and the motives of the accused. A declared paid agent of the British secret service, the fascist Bell, is, to his own

extreme surprise, pronounced to be a man of honour and integrity. Herr Karumidse "has risked his life for Germany". Yes, things have already gone so far, that to support the fight against the Soviet Union, with whom Germany still maintains official relations, is an act meriting acquittal by the German class court. "The accused Georgians wanted to liberate their fatherland and re-establish economic relations with Germany". The court did not even try to conceal its sympathy with the white-gardist bandits and its hope for the victory of counter-revolution over the Soviet Union.

Therefore, the court either pronounced the accused to be innocent or amnestied them on account of their political motives, although it was clear to anyone who had followed the trial that the men in the dock are criminal agents of capitalism of the rank of Deterding and Nobel in England and influential banking and industrial circles in Germany, assisted by English Tories and German Reichswehr Generals.

The verdict calls to mind the *Orlov Trial*, which took about nine months ago in the very same court, in which Soviet document forgers were the accused. They at any time received prison sentences, even if only short ones.

acquittal, however, is a direct affront, an open provocation of the Soviet Government; it places it outside the law, legalises every whiteguardist attack on the existence of the workers' and peasants' dictatorship, and is tantamount to an open declaration of war by the ruling class of Germany on the land of proletarian rule. A judge in Germany would never have ventured to pronounce such a verdict if the Power against which the crime was directed had been an imperialist Power. But because it is directed against the Soviet Power, it ceases to be a crime.

It must be borne in mind that this judgment was given at a time when 3500 bourgeois and social democratic papers were daily, morning, noon and night, repeating the deafening cry: "Moscow is the enemy of culture! We must strike mischief-making Bolshevism at its roots, in the Soviet Union itself." This orgy of incitement, intensively prepared by social democratic ministers against everything connected with the Soviets, from the Derop (German Trading Company for Russian Oil Products) up to the Soviet Embassy, this poisoning of public opinion in Germany, is the ideological extension of the hasty alignment of the German government in the front of the imperialist Powers. That the social democracy is thereby looking after the business interests of the Anglo-American oil trust, whose representatives are conspiring at the Wilhelmstrasse and in the Reichstag in order to exclude Soviet oil from the German market so as to promote the interest of Standard Oil and Royal Dutch, is no more surprising than the infamous attack of the "Vorwärts" of 11th of February, which designated the perfectly justified protest of the "Iswestia" against the acquittal as "provocative calumny" and "insolence".

The judgment delivered by the Moabit Court represents only a link in the long chain of anti-Soviets acts which have become so frequent of late.

An absconded Paris bill forger is pronounced by the whiteguardist press to be a "victim of the Cheka", simply because he is a Tsarist General. And as a matter of fact in the last two weeks there is not a bourgeois-social-democratic organ which has not reenacted the fairy-tale of "murder of General Kutiepov by the Cheka".

A Communist daily paper begins to appear in London, and on the command of the Jingo press the social democratic Foreign Minister Henderson lodges a protest at the Soviet Embassy.

The government of the Mexican jailer, Rubio, severs relations with the Soviet Union and ventures to arrest the Ambassador of the proletarian dictatorship.

The Austrian Gallifet, Federal Chancellor Schober, concludes a secret alliance with Mussolini by which he not only delivers Austria over to fascism, but above all provides a bridge between Italy and Hungary, these two powers who are bent on the annihilation of the Soviet Government.

Signor Ratti issues a contemptible and lying anti-Bolshevik Manifesto in which he endeavours to mobilise the whole world against the Soviet Union. The Pope wants war against the Soviet Union and has issued a papal Manifesto announcing the setting up of a "special Russian Commission" in order to inform the world of the horrors committed by Bolshevism.

The London "Morning Post" has already announced that "the Archbishop of Canterbury has followed the call of Rome". The Polish Nobles Club in Warsaw already demands that the Pope shall cut as short as possible the religious overture to the concert of the cannons, and as quickly as possible give the signal for the commencement of the military crusade. Mussolini's papers already announce that fascism feels itself the banner-bearer of the fight against Bolshevism.

"All the Powers of old Europe have united to exorcise this spectre", the spectre of socialist construction in the land of the proletarian dictatorship; the Pope and the oil king Deterding, Severing and Schober, Tardieu and Mussolini. But this spectre is today flesh and blood of 140 million toiling peasants and workers of the Soviet Union, is flesh and blood of the million masses who in all countries of old "Europe" and in the other parts of the earth, feel themselves to be bound for weal or woe to the cause of Communism, and will reply to the insults and calumnies against the fatherland of all workers and poor peasants by unfurling their red banners, bearing the flaming inscription: "Long live the Soviet Union!"

POLITICS

The Crisis in Greece.

By Petro P-we.

The latest reports already permit one to form an idea of the extent of the economic crisis which has seized Greece and accentuated class antagonisms to the extreme. The whole bourgeois press of the country is sounding the alarm. The past year was a year of "suffering and deprivation"; it showed that the "stabilisation" regarding which the lackeys of the bourgeoisie, and especially Monzelos made so many promises, has fallen to pieces.

Let us take a glance at the situation in industry: the total value of industrial production developed as follows in the last five years (in millions of Drachmas—375 drachmas are equivalent to one pound sterling): 1925—4.8; 1926—5.0; 1927—6.1; 1928—6.7; 1929—5.7.

Thus, the value of the industrial output of the last year is 15 per cent. below that of the preceding year. "Ikonomikos Tachidromos", the most important Greek economic journal, writes that a great reserve of unsold goods has accumulated in the country in the last few years. The reason of this is that the burdens of capitalist stabilisation have so greatly reduced the purchasing power of the toiling populations, the attack on wages and the achievements of the working class was so strong, and the agricultural crisis so acute that the purchasing power of the broad working masses fell. Naturally, the majority of the bourgeois economists explain the crisis as being due to "shortage of money", "to the tightness of the money market"; at the same time they all agree that at present "too little is being bought", and herein lies the "whole secret".

What is the position with regard to agriculture? In spite of certain signs of growth, agriculture is experiencing a chronic crisis. Although the area under corn showed an increase of 13 per cent in 1929, the peasants were compelled to reduce the total area of land under cultivation by 6 per cent. The low prices obtaining have a depressing effect on agriculture and keep the peasants permanently dependent upon usurers and the banks; while the intolerable burden of taxation is accelerating the process of the proletarianisation of the peasantry, a fact which causes great fear to the bourgeoisie.

Herein lie the roots of the present crisis in Greece, which is closely bound up with the world economic crisis. It has resulted in an increase in the number of insolvencies among industrial undertakings. In 1929 the number of bankruptcies reached its highest point. The following bankruptcies were recorded in the last four years: 1926—87; 1927—119; 1928—189; 1929—382. At the same time there is to be observed a decline in building activity: in 1929 the number of big building works commenced was only 52 as compared with 174 in 1928. The crisis is also reflected in the Stock Exchange quotations. In the period from January to December 1929 the rates fell between 10 and 40 per cent, and in some individual cases 50 per cent, the shares of industrial undertakings suffering especially in this respect.

The crisis is giving rise to unemployment such as has not been witnessed in Greece for many years: more than one fourth of the proletariat, i. e. 100,000 workers are out of work.

For the bourgeoisie there is no way out of this situation. The government is prepared to grant short-term credits to the total amount of one million pounds out of capital which has been imported from abroad by way of loan. But this "solution" of the problem is of a pronouncedly desperate nature; it only means increased imperialist penetration and with it a greater squeezing out of super-profits at the cost of the toiling masses. But that is not all. Capitalist rationalisation and trustsification—that is the slogan which is heard throughout the country. Increased pressure on the working masses, enhanced "productivity of the nation", i. e. still more pitiless exploitation of the working class—that is how the bourgeoisie wishes to save itself. The venal bourgeois press (Hallinikos Tachidromos) openly declares "We must cut down social insurance

and relief, restrict the privileges which are injurious to the economic interests of the country and demoralise the workers. ... We must learn to reply with an inexorable "No" to the crowd which demands compensation, social insurance and benefit. It is not by chance that General **Cordless**, who is preparing a fresh coup, is still persistently dreaming of those territories, such as the Caucasus, which were such a source of wealth to the country in the past. Preparation for war, before all against the Soviet Union, is the reverse side of the medal of the present bourgeois policy.

The aggravation of the crisis of capitalist stabilisation, has caused an increased activity on the part of the broad working masses, especially of the proletariat. In the year 1929 between 90 and 100,000 workers took part in strikes, which is a considerable figure for such a small country as Greece. The strike struggles of the past year bore an outspokenly political character. On the other hand, the peasant movement against the taxes and the forms of serfdom, as well as for the division of the soil, has considerably increased of late and in some cases assumed the form of armed risings.

Even the petty bourgeoisie showed signs of ferment—significant in this respect is the students strike at the Athens University which has lasted already for two months.

In general the year 1929 was a year of upsurge of the workers' and peasants' movement in Greece.

There can be no doubt that we are only at the commencement of the crisis and that it will become even more acute in the near future. When it is borne in mind that finance capital has placed itself at the head of such a rationalisation campaign as Greece has never before witnessed and which throws thousands and thousands of workers onto the streets, that the employers are now openly demanding the fixation of the ten hour day by law and the complete abolition of every kind of social insurance, then one can imagine to what an extent the class antagonisms are growing and with what rapidity the working class is becoming revolutionary. All this renders it easier for the Communist Party to fulfil its task of winning the majority of the working class.

The Communist Party and the revolutionary trade union federation, rightly recognising the character of the present situation, replied to the attack of the bourgeoisie by issuing the slogan of preparing for a political mass strike as the counter-attack of the proletariat. The government thereupon hastened to dissolve the revolutionary Trade Union Federation hoping that it would thereby deprive the revolutionary Trade Union movement of its leadership.

The chief slogans under which the strike is being prepared are: against bourgeois terror and for the right of combination, for a general wage increase of 50 per cent, against war and for the defence of the Soviet Union, against the Venizelos government and for the workers' and peasants' government. The Communist Party, by preparing the workers for the political mass strike is approaching the task of overthrowing bourgeois society.

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

The Strike Movement in France.

By Aimé Simon (Paris).

During the first quarter of 1929, 284 strikes involving 173,000 workers took place. In the second quarter of 1929 there were 545 strikes participated in by 240,000 strikers. In the third quarter there were 405 strikes in which 141,000 workers participated, and in the fourth quarter 403 strikes with 107,000 workers.

In January 1930 the total number of strikes amounted to 150, in which over 100,000 strikers participated, which represents a great upsurge of the strike wave.

The working masses, who for many years have been passive, are being roused and driven to fight by the increasing high prices and capitalist rationalisation. At the end of November 1929, 2000 metal workers struck work in a factory in **Quimper** in which "social peace" had reigned for 12 years. In De-

cember, 3000 miners downed tools in the iron-ore basin of **Brley** in which there had not been a strike since 1906. At present over 10,000 workers in the metal works and in the textile factories of **Belfort**, which since 1920 was influenced by reformist ideology, are on strike.

The railwaymen ever since 1920 had the idea that strike is to be discarded as a weapon. Meanwhile in January of this year there were numerous meetings in the railway workshops of the Paris district and even short strikes were carried out against the introduction of a new speeding-up system.

If a movement breaks out in a factory or a locality, it has immediate effect upon similar factories or the whole district. Thus, for instance, in **Belfort** the strike in the metal works has led to a strike in the textile factories. The smallest incident suffices in order to create a movement. 500 miners in **Alès** struck work for 24 hours, because their delegate had been suspended from all his functions for a month for having delivered a "violent" speech at the funeral of a colleague who had been murdered by rationalisation. The reformist trade union was compelled to support a strike of the miners in **Epinac** who protested for 24 hours against the penalisation of one of their work mates.

The workers and employees of the government institutions are in a state of profound discontent, which finds expression in the street demonstrations of the civil servants and in such stormy meetings that the government prohibited some of them. One day "**Journal Officiel**" of the Republic was almost prevented from appearing owing to differences in the national printing works.

The method of struggle within the workshops is being applied to an ever increasing extent. The workers in the **State railway workshops** went on strike, held meetings and attacked their engineers. The workers of the **Alsthom** works have repeatedly held demonstrations in the factory yards.

The representatives of the revolutionary trade unions and of the Communist Party are everywhere enthusiastically welcomed as soon as they immediately intervene in the strike and direct the attention of the workers to the political character of all these struggles.

These facts prove that we are confronted by a rising revolutionary wave of the French proletariat; hence it is the task of the **C. P. of France** to co-ordinate the numerous scattered struggles and to give them a better leadership as the actual general staff of the working class.

The **C. P. of France** and the revolutionary Trade Union Federation have made some progress in the preparation of the strikes organising **workers' congresses** within a factory or of a district. Up to now 50 such Congresses have already taken place or are being prepared. Sometimes they have taken place without any general plan and without definite fighting aims. The great success, however, achieved by some of these Congresses, such as that of the miners of the **Mosel** district and of the workers of the **railway workshops** of the Paris district proves that they represent the best method for the preparation of strikes.

The **National Conference of the Communist Party of France**, which is convened for March 1930, will liquidate the Right and ultra-Left tendencies. The chief item of discussion will be the question of a good preparation of the political mass strike by the economic struggles, with a view to carrying out this strike already on the 1st of May.

Change of Address!

The address of the "**Inprecorr**"
is now:

BERLIN C 25
Bartelstraße 1—5 III, Germany.

REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS IN THE COLONIES

The Punjab Workers and Peasants Congress.

By M. Ali.

Signs of the rise of the peasant movement in the present situation in India, characterised by the growth of the revolutionary movement of the workers and the petty bourgeois youths, are making their appearance. Such signs include the demonstration of the Sikh peasants at Lahore, the no-tax movement in certain districts of Bengal, and the workers and peasants conference held at Lahore on December 26th and 27th.

The conference was more a peasants' conference than a workers' and peasants' one. This is evident from the nature of the resolutions passed by the conference and the attendance, which was largely peasant.

The conference was attended by 25,000 people, many of whom had come from distant villages. The volunteers and organisers of the conference wore red badges on their breasts with the sign of hammer and sickle and the slogan "Workers of the world unite" inscribed on them. The elected president of the conference Ranadive of the Red Flag Union of Bombay could not preside on account of his arrest and conviction to one year's vigorous imprisonment. On hearing this news, all the delegates and others present shouted "Long live revolution, down with imperialism".

The opening of the conference was very impressive. A man clad in a coarse blanket stepped forward and said: "I am an oppressed peasant having no education. The government concerns itself in only squeezing out rent and taxes from me and has done nothing for my education. My address therefore will be read by another comrade". This simple peasant (Karam Singh by name) was the chairman of the reception committee of the conference. Some extracts from his address are as follows:

"Comrades, I greet you in the name of the poor workers and starving peasants of the Punjab . . . On account of the crushing burden of the direct and indirect taxes imposed by the government, the loot and plunder carried on by the money lenders, the severe terms of the landlords and the want of land, the condition of the peasants is going from bad to worse. . . . The workers also are in a miserable plight. Working all day a worker does not get enough to save himself from cold and hunger . . . The unemployed middle class intellectuals are in worse conditions than the workers themselves.

"The government is based on capitalism, therefore it cannot do anything for us. The nationalist leaders who claim to be the representatives of the Indian people want to win over the workers and peasants with the promise of the Swaraj, which is vague and does not say what the workers and peasants will get from it . . . These capitalist leaders want to deceive us with Swaraj, but we should refuse to be deceived any more. We know our interests.

"While the government repression against the workers and the youth is at its highest, the bourgeois leaders are preparing for a compromise with imperialism. . . . Under dominion status the conditions of the workers and peasants will become still worse. . . . We should therefore condemn it and declare that 98% of the people do not want it."

In the absence of Ranadive, Kartar Singh (a peasant) was elected as president of the congress. He said:

"My election to the presidency means that the workers and peasants should lead themselves. This is very just, for our experience teaches us that to allow ourselves to be led by the Indian capitalist leaders is very dangerous . . . The Congress was in the hands of the capitalists who were compromising with imperialism. The Indian National Congress does not defend the workers and peasants. It helps the capitalists . . . The noise of complete independence raised at the congress was nothing but a deception."

"The Congress aims at replacing the government of the British capitalists by that of the Indian capitalists . . . The workers and peasants should act themselves if they want to improve their conditions.

"The government, in order to crush the peasant movement, accuses it of being Bolshevik. We declare that we are not Bolsheviks. We want complete independence so that the conditions of the workers and peasants may be improved. If to demand complete independence is Bolshevik, all India is so. The movement of national freedom cannot succeed until and unless it is supported by the masses. The object of the workers' and peasants' movement is to free India and to overthrow the yoke of slavery by organising workers and peasants."

A resolution was adopted appealing to the people of India not to give any help in men or money to the imperialist government in the next war.

Another resolution laid down that the land belongs to those who cultivate it and not to parasitic landlords who suck the blood of the toiling peasants. An amendment to the resolution to the effect that the workers in the factories should be given equal share in the profits was also passed.

A resolution which demanded that there should be no land tax but instead an income tax was withdrawn on the plea that it amounted to a request to the government.

Other resolutions condemned the Nehru Report, the Whitley Commission, the government repression and the statement of the congress leaders in reply to the Viceroy's declaration.

A message was read to the conference from the Workers' and peasants' Party of Punjab, which stated:

"At this time when the repression carried on by British imperialism against the two anti-imperialist movements, namely, labour and youth movements, is at its height . . . our capitalist leaders led by Motilal and Ghandi have definitely gone over to imperialism . . . The betrayal of the Indian masses by the capitalist leaders is complete . . .

"The object of the workers' and peasants' Party of Punjab is to organise the workers and peasants of India on the lines of class struggle and to lead them to establish an independent government of worker and peasants.

The course of the conference and the decisions adopted are evidence of the growth of the revolutionary movement among the broad masses of the toilers of India.

SUPPORT THE SOVIET UNION

Before the Second International Conference of the Friends of Soviet Russia.

The eyes of the whole world are directed to the Soviet Union, following with intense interest the news relating to the carrying out of the gigantic work of socialist reconstruction.

The anti-Soviet press, with the newspapers of the socialist democratic parties and reformist trade unions at its head, is employing every description of misrepresentation and calumny in its efforts to belittle and drag through the dirt the great success of socialism in the countries of former Tsardom. An actual crusade against the Soviet Union has set in, reminding us of the days of the worst anti-Bolshevik slander campaign of 1919/20.

In Great Britain generals, bishops, and lords take the field against the "persecution of religion" in the Soviet Union. The continental press seeks to outdo these by swindling reports of atrocities committed against the church and its believers. The calumnious anti-Soviet speeches held in the German courts of justice by forgers and profiteers are printed with broadest headlines. "Specialists" and "impartial observers" of all countries compete in the columns of the newspapers with articles on the "deprivation of the workers of their rights", on the annihilation of the peasantry, on risings in the rural districts, on famines. In France the socialist

fraction in the Chamber joins hands with Kerensky to plunge into the combat against the Soviets. In Denmark, the social democratic press discusses the participation of Denmark in a war against the Soviet Union, in alliance with Great Britain.

The imperialist great powers, alarmed at the actual success of socialism in the Soviet Union, and anxious to save what can be saved at the last moment, are intensifying their efforts—even in countries where so-called labour governments are at the helm—to set up an anti-Soviet front, and to unfetter the long projected war against the land of the workers and peasants. The international institutions of the capitalist countries and the various assemblies of the imperialists: League of Nations, Kellogg Pact, reparations negotiations, and disarmament conference, are enlisted in the cause of intervention against the Soviet Union.

In view of these intensified slander campaigns and war preparations, the friends of the Soviet Union too must redouble their efforts. The number of the friends of the Soviet Union, and their determination to fight against the threatening war, are growing steadily and rapidly. Ever greater number of workers, employees, working peasants, and intellectuals grasp the enormous importance of the development of the socialist revolution in deciding their own fate, and look towards the Soviet Union as to the country of the realisation of their own hopes.

The movement of the Friends of the Soviet Union, founded by the delegates sent by the workers of 42 countries to the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Russian revolution, is on the road to become a broad mass movement. In order to confer on the most urgent tasks of the Committee, with the aim of extending its activities, the International Committee convocates the

II. International Conference of the Friends of Soviet Russia in Essen on 22nd and 23rd February 1930.

The Sections of the Committee are preparing for this international gathering by means of national conferences.

But today the number of sincere friends of the Soviet Union goes far beyond the organisations and individual members belonging to the sections. Therefore the International Committee of the Friends of Soviet Russia appeals to all organisations and all individual persons in the labour movement, and to the representatives of the radical intelligentsia sympathising with the socialist reconstruction of the Soviet Union, and calls upon these to take part in the work of the International Conference.

The greatness of the events taking place in the Soviet Union, and the seriousness of the position characterised by the intensified campaign staged against Soviet Russia by its enemies and by the growing preparations for war, demand imperatively that all the friends of the Soviet Union should gather together, and intensify their measures in support and protection of socialist reconstruction!

All organisations and individual persons who are prepared to take active part in the work of developing the movement of the Friends of the Soviet Union, and to take part in the Conference, are requested to communicate with the International Committee of the Friends of Soviet Russia, 77 Zimmerstrasse, Berlin.

International Committee of the Friends of Soviet Russia.

AGAINST COLONIAL OPPRESSION

The Echo of the Arab Workers Congress.

By J. B. (Jerusalem)

The response which the Arab workers congress in Haifa has called forth in the Arabian countries is very manifold. The rise of an independent workers' organisation, which in the decisions of its congress stands for the fight for the everyday interests of the workers and at the same time for the complete independence of Arabia, was bound to arouse the lively interest of the whole of the Arabian public.

It became clear, as soon as the decisions of the Congress were published, that here it was not a case of one of the many stereotyped congresses, conducted by the clique of the Arab

executive committee, with cut and dried decisions against the Balfour declaration, appeals to British "justice" and protests regarding the question of the wailing wall. Here it was not a meeting of "leaders", but it was the workers who discussed and decided—workers from the workshops bench and factory. The attempt of the nationalists to achieve a sort of declaration of a "national united front" by the workers' congress, was frustrated. For the first time there took place an Arab Congress, the convocation of which was not in the hands of the official aristocratic invitation-and-appointment machine, but the election of delegates was carried out by the working masses.

It is therefore quite understandable that official nationalism cannot be satisfied with the results of the Congress. The nationalists still hope, however, to be able in time to extend their influence in the newly created workers' organisations and are refraining therefore from directly attacking it. There was only one nationalist newspaper which was unable to control its class instinct: it openly opposed the economic demands of the Congress (eight-hour day, increased wages, labour protection), because any improvement of the situation of the workers is not desirable at the present moment from the national point of view. The Arab workers can compete with their Zionist rivals only when they underbid them by more moderate demands. Therefore, economic demands of the Arab workers mean support of Zionism.

Zionism, however, is far from being pleased with the results of the Congress. The reformist organ, which, as a result of the impression which the convocation of the Arab workers Congress made on the Jewish and even the Zionist workers, vacillated for a time and for a moment interrupted its undermining and incitement work against the Congress, immediately after the publication of the resolutions resumed its campaign of hate and calumny. While the bourgeois Zionist papers are endeavouring to exaggerate the nationalist influence at the Congress but nevertheless admit that it is undoubtedly to be regarded as an expression of the will of broad masses of Arab workers, the Zionist social fascists are attempting to discredit and denounce the Conference as such.

Things have gone so far that in the English edition of the socialist "Davar" the Congress is denounced to the government as the work of the Communists or of the secret police, while it attempts to persuade the Jewish workers that it took place under nationalist influence. The historic event represented by the meeting of the Arab workers' Congress has created so much confusion in the reformist ranks that they are entangled in their own lies, calumnies and contradictions.

Meanwhile, the central committee elected by the Congress has proceeded from words to deeds. The mishandling of a worker in the big cigarette factory "Mabruk" in Haifa evoked a protest strike of the workers. The Arab trade union took up the defence of the workers and set up a number of new demands (such as the introduction of the eight hour day, abolition of exploitation of children—children of 12 years are employed in the factory—increased wages). The Arab trade union has addressed an appeal to the Arab workers of the whole country to support the strike action and enter the trade unions in masses.

At the same time there is taking place the formation in various parts of the country of local groups of the central trade union. In many places the creation of these local groups has encountered the resistance of the Arab employers, who after the decisions of the Congress understand the danger which threatens them from a class organisation of Arab workers.

The government is attempting on its part to intimidate the workers by threats. A portion of the Syrian delegates did not arrive at the workers' Congress in time because the French government refused to grant them permission to attend the "Bolshevik" Congress in Haifa. The British government in Palestine (Executive organ of MacDonald and Lord Passfield) sends spies and police against the workers, and threatens to dissolve the trade union which has only just been founded, should its activity assume a political character.

After a splendid beginning, the organised Arab labour movement is now confronted with the difficulties of every-day systematic work and it must force its way step by step in hard struggle until it achieves

Struggle Against Unemployment

International Fighting Day on 6th of March.

The West-European Bureau of the Communist International has issued the following communication:

The Conference of the European Communist Parties and Red Trade Unions held in Düsseldorf decided to fix the 6th of March as the day of fight against unemployment (not the 12th of March as, owing to an error, was at first reported).

The Conference further decided to approach the Executive Committee of the Communist International and the Executive Bureau of the R.I.L.U. with the proposal that the date fixed—6th of March—be confirmed and that this day be observed in all countries as an international fighting day.

Mass Demonstrations of Unemployed in Hungary.

By A. Kovács.

The Hungarian political police has once again saved the State order. The 1st and 2nd of February had been announced to be "critical days": in Budapest the whole of the police was mobilised, the troops in the barracks were held in readiness. The expected Communist putsch did not materialise, but as the Bourgeois press complains, the distribution of leaflets could not be prevented, in which the "Unity Committee of the Unemployed" called upon the workers to hold street demonstrations and issued revolutionary slogans.

A short time ago the state police had already announced the annihilation of the Communist Party apparatus, when it arrested 12 "conspirators" and discovered 2 illegal printing works. How is it possible that in spite of this, the Communist propaganda is being continued? That is the question asked by the bourgeois press.

The Hungarian working class is taking up the active fight against fascist terror and social fascism which is collaborating with the government. For weeks the uninterrupted street demonstrations of the unemployed kept the Budapest police in constant suspense; in spite of prohibitions and ruthless attacks of strong police forces, the unemployed hold demonstrations for hours, beat and rough handle the police and even police officers. The political police have not succeeded in getting hold of the leaders.

Unemployment in Hungary raises all the other unsolved problems of the government; the devastating industrial and agrarian crises, the unbearable burden of taxation, the impoverishment of the toiling peasants etc. Unemployment is constantly growing, but its increase cannot be stated in exact figures, as no official data are available. According to the last report of the free trade unions, on the 31st of December, 20,000 of their members, constituting 13.04 per cent. of the organised working class, were unemployed. But only a small portion of the Hungarian working class is organised in the trade unions. The total number of unemployed among the industrial proletariat amounts to over 100,000. In Budapest alone, 53,000 unemployed recently handed in questionnaire forms on the occasion of a relief-action; also in the various provincial towns the unemployed number several thousand.

In addition there is a chronic unemployment among the agricultural workers. The collapse of the small peasant undertakings, the proletarianisation of broad sections of the peasantry and the unlimited exploitation of the rural proletariat have created a "surplus landless population", numbering hundreds of thousands, who are subject to unemployment even in the busy season. The Minister for Agriculture himself recently declared that the only solution of this problem is the emigration of the agricultural workers to South America and to the colonial countries. For the present the migration of the agricultural workers to the towns is worsening the position of the industrial proletariat.

Capitalist rationalisation, which means enormously intensified exploitation of the workers and a simultaneous mass dismissal of "superfluous" workers, has the same effect. The number and the misery of the unemployed masses are increasing enormously. There exist no insurance or welfare institutions for the unemployed. The government, at the behest of the

capitalists and of the big landowners, refuses "on principle" to grant any kind of unemployment benefit.

Both the government press, as well as the opposition liberal and democratic papers, attribute the resentment and bitterness of the unemployed to "the undermining work of Moscow" and unanimously demand the establishment of the anti-soviet bloc. It is very characteristic that in this question there is revealed the closest connection of the irredentist Rothermere propaganda with the preparation of the war of intervention against the Soviet Union.

The same hymn of hate against the Soviet Union is ground out by the press of Hungarian social democracy, which is attacking the mass actions of the unemployed in the rear by means of calumnies and denunciations. Its central organ "Nepszava" wrote:

"According to the latest telegrams the Central Council of the Soviet Trade Unions has decided to commence an energetic offensive, whereby the unemployed of the European countries are to be made use of as the most valuable revolutionary elements. A fund was set up for financing the revolutionary unemployed movement . . . Moscow does not wish to alleviate the great misery of the unemployed, but only to make use of their exasperation and desperation for its own special purposes".

No matter how stupid such assertions may be, they will not fail to have their effect upon the police, the Public Prosecutors and the bloody courts, who will make use of these "arguments" for a new campaign against unemployed proletarians. But the toilers who have been aroused to revolutionary activity will not be intimidated either by fascist terror or by social-fascist provocateurs.

The Position of the Unemployed in Yugoslavia.

By V.

Zagreb, beginning of February.

The general economic crisis in Yugoslavia has become exceedingly acute since the establishment of the military-fascist dictatorship, and has resulted in a further worsening of the position of the working class and broad sections of the toiling peasantry. This circumstance found expression in the not only permanent but even growing unemployment, caused on the one hand by capitalist rationalisation (with an official 10 hour-day there obtains in practice a 14-hour day; dismissal of older, skilled workers and their replacement by cheaper female and youth labour; starvation wages and an extensive fine system) and on the other hand, by a predatory campaign of the dictatorship against the poor and middle strata of the peasantry, and the progressive impoverishment of the rural population. The towns are full of impoverished peasants who are seeking work and who go to swell the already numerous army of the unemployed.

The number of the unemployed, who in the course of the year 1929 sought work through the State labour exchanges, was 188,233 (166,005 male workers and 22,228 working women), while in 1928 139,382 workers (125,730 male workers and 13,652 working women) were registered at the Labour Exchanges.

These figures cannot be considered as giving the actual extent of unemployment. According to the estimate of the revolutionary trade unions there are at present over 200,000 unemployed in Yugoslavia.

There exists no insurance for the unemployed in Yugoslavia. The workers thrown out of the factories and the peasants driven from the villages, are simply exposed to starvation. In the course of 1929 the total sum paid out in relief for the unemployed amounted to 2,365,712 Dinars that is to say, on an average an unemployed worker received 12.06 Dinars (13 Dinars equal to 1 English Shilling) i.e. not even a shilling for the whole year.

The greater part of this fund for the unemployed is used

for the construction of palaces, so-called means for "productive relief". In 1929 the Belgrade municipality alone received 10 million Dinars out of the fund allotted for this purpose amounting to 16.8 million Dinars. This money was spent on the construction of so-called workers' asylums, where the unemployed can obtain supper, bed and breakfast for 10 Dinars a day (i. e. almost for the whole amount of the yearly benefit): even the greater portion of the workers engaged in production cannot afford such a sum without renouncing all other expenses, such as dinner and clothes. The rest of the means originally allotted for the unemployed is handed over to the social fascists for the construction of huge buildings for the sick insurance institutions and Labour Chambers, in which they rule as the commissars of the dictatorship, although nobody has elected them, and support the bourgeoisie in their suppression of the working class. The social fascists, who as parasites receive high salaries out of the unemployment relief funds, conduct "actions for the maintenance of social legislation" by sending resolutions to the government in which they express the hope that the government will render aid.

Only the Communist Party of Yugoslavia and the revolutionary independent trade unions are conducting the struggle against mass unemployment. In connection with the preparatory work for the International Fighting Day against Unemployment, a leaflet is being issued and local committees are set up for the carrying out of the actions for the struggle for the demands of the unemployed: Possibilities of work, insurance against unemployment, adequate State unemployment benefit.

What Do the Austrian Unemployed Live On?

By G. Z. (Vienna).

The organ of the unemployed, which was founded in 1923 by the Central Council of the Unemployed, has now again appeared after a longer interruption. It contains reports from the whole of Austria regarding the appalling misery of the unemployed; letters from unemployed workers on the chicaneries to which they are exposed by the Labour Exchange officials, a description of conditions in Steyr, where the whole town is threatened with loss of work by the closing down of the big auto factory. In the leading article the question is raised, what does an unemployed family live on? We publish below the figures in this connection. According to the Federal Office of Statistics a Vienna workers' family consists on an average of 4.65 persons. The family breadwinner is entitled to 21 Schillings a week (3 Dollars), when drawing full benefit. If he has a flat, he has to pay weekly at least the following:

for rent etc.	Schillings 4.—
" electricity and gas	3.—
" fuel (50 kg. coal)	3.—
" soap etc.	1.—
" repair of clothes (of course not for repair of shoes and similar luxurious expenditure)	1.—
Schillings 12.—	

Thus 12 Schillings have been expended without these four people having eaten a mouthful!

The organ of the unemployed assumes that this family is living only on coffee. That would cost:

Milk (1/4 liter per head per day)	Schilling 3.78
Coffee (chiefly substitutes)	3.20
1 Kilogramme sugar	0.90
Total Schilling 7.88	

This unemployed family cannot even afford dry bread in addition to substitute coffee, for half a loaf per day per head would run to 11.20 Sch. a week. Where is the unemployed father of a family to obtain the money for bread, if for the above mentioned items 19.88 schillings have already been spent?

What do the Austrian unemployed live upon? They are taking their last articles of clothing, underlinen and other bits of property to the pawnshop, and when these are all exhausted, there is nothing for them but starvation.

IN THE COLONIES

The Economic Position and Communist Activities in Siam.

By M. Musso.

Since the close of the war considerable headway has been made by Siam in capitalist development; she has signed 12 treaties of friendship, commerce and navigation with leading capitalist countries.

Agriculture and to a lesser extent fishing is, by far, the most important occupation of the people. As in other countries of Southern Asia, Chinese immigrants have acquired practical control of the retail business, as is also the case in British Malaya and Indonesia. The small Chinese shop is much in evidence and a number of wholesale important export firms are also of Chinese nationality. The Chinese were the first to work the tin mines of Siam and they own and operate many of the rice mills.

In 1928 out of 90,102 foreigners immigrating to Siam 88,045 were Chinese.

Siam also cultivates on a more or less limited scale cotton, Kopak, pepper, tea, cocoanuts, maize and other tropical products. Tin is the second most important item of export and is mined in Lower Siam, which is part of the world's richest tin district. The annual yield of metallic tin is approximately 7,700 tons, and practically the whole of the production is marketed in Singapore in the form of ore.

Rubber tree planting in Siam is expanding and in 1927-1928 exports of rubber reached 12,230,000 lb. Siam is also an exporter of the valuable teakwood.

The world crisis, however, affected the economic position of Siam exceedingly and concerning this general depression the "Bangkok Times" of November says the following:

"Since from 1920 Siam had never experienced such a disastrous trade as nowadays. Nearly 60 per cent. of the total rice mills could not work this year. Also the navigation was undergoing a blow. Most of the steamers left Bangkok only with the half cargo or less. Several of them were compelled to wait a couple of weeks for cargo in order to cover the expenses of the voyage".

With regard to the communis activities it can be stated that it has found its foothold among a part of the Chinese population. The natives being mostly engaged in agriculture remain still inactive and the communist propaganda is not yet penetrating among them. Regarding the Communist activities in Bangkok the Singapore Free Press of December 5th, 1929 contains the following reports.

"Happily the police are on the track of the leaders and some ten arrests have been made. It is disappointing to find that the Hailan community is again implicated. An association, illegal, of course, and unregistered bearing the title: "Association of Employees of Europeans" has been busily at work. It has included among its members employees of Europeans and boys working at the Rajdhani Hotel and the Sport Clubs".

Further it was reported that several leaders of that organisation have been already placed under lock and key. Their deportation to China will be asked for when they come before the Court.

Siam was formerly a country where the Chinese immigrants could enter and leave freely without any hindrances, and the Chinese population was granted full freedom to organise. In 1926 when the Kuomintang was maintaining close connections with the Communists, even in the streets one could see the red flag flying near the Kuomintang one, and portraits of Lenin and Marx were to be seen everywhere. But when the Chinese generals had already betrayed the revolutionary movements of the proletariat, also Siam began to take a hostile attitude towards Communism. It was certainly also encouraged in this course by the British imperialism, which practically has the dominant influence over the country.

Moreover, the king of Siam recently visited Indonesia, and during his stay there he also made a special agreement with the Dutch to act together against the "Red Danger". This

agreement was made, because the Dutch knew that several persecuted Indonesian Communists had fled to Siam and remained there up to this moment.

As a direct result of these friendly relations, an Indonesian Communist who managed to escape to Bangkok, was arrested by the Siamese authorities and handed over to the Dutch Government.

It is clear, that no country in the Far East is now free from Communist propaganda. China, the Philippine Islands, Indo-China, Siam, the Straits Settlements, Indonesia and India, these countries form to-day one link, where the exploited working and peasant classes, under the leadership of the Communists are firmly opposing their subjugation by the national bourgeoisie and the imperialists.

It should be noted that the movements of the proletariat in those countries are separated from one and another, while the nationalist bourgeoisie and the imperialists have already formed a united bloc to fight Communism. Therefore, the most burning task confronting the revolutionary proletariat in the East to-day is to form a close united front and to maintain regular connections, in order to enhance and to facilitate the combined struggle against imperialism.

FASCISM

The Atrocious Acts of Polish Fascism.

By A. Pomorska (Warsaw).

The last few months have witnessed an uninterrupted series of ever fiercer attacks by the Polish fascist government on the working masses and increasingly cruel acts of repression. Wholesale arrests and house-searches, a new wave of monstrous mediaeval tortures in the prisons of the fascist dictatorship, dissolution of workers' and peasants' organisations, persecutions, censorship and suppression of the revolutionary press, dispersal of meetings and mass demonstrations—all these are only a small part of the acts of violence of the fascist Piłsudski government towards the toiling masses and the oppressed nations. In the course of December last the police in Warsaw, Łódź, Vilna, Upper Silesia and Volhynia arrested over 400 workers and peasants. The arrested were ill-treated, beaten and tortured. In the town of Radom the majority of the arrested were seriously injured as a result of the cruel blows and beatings, which in the case of three young workers caused serious hemorrhage of the lungs. In Vilna sixty workers were arrested and cruelly beaten, solely for having attended the funeral of the worker Juchno.

In the Western Ukraine and in White Russia, which form the immediate terrain of war preparations against the Soviet Union, the fascist terror is raging most fiercely. The sentences pronounced by the courts amount to twelve to fifteen years' imprisonment even for harmless participation in the national emancipation movement.

The arrested fighters in the workers and peasants movement are thrown into prison and delivered over to the tyranny and violence of the prison authorities. The new fascist prison regime is being applied with unprecedented cruelty. This regime aims at placing political prisoners on a level with common criminals and depriving them of all the rights which they have won in hard and bloody struggles. The "communities" of political prisoners are dissolved; the arrested are divided into groups which are completely isolated from one another; books and papers are not permitted, and medical aid and attention is refused. The political prisoners receive such meagre diet, that they are actually starving. At the slightest sign of resentment or resistance they are placed in a dark cell. The ever more frequently occurring hunger strikes are made use of by the prison jailors as a "favourable opportunity" for arranging fresh tortures of political prisoners by means of the so-called "artificial" feeding. During the eleven days' hunger strike in the Vronki prison several political prisoners were rendered seriously ill as a result of "artificial feeding". In Pruzany (Western White Russia), a comrade died as a result of internal injuries caused by artificial feeding. In Lomza, Fordon, Vilna, Bialystok — everywhere the political prisoners are annoyed, ill-treated and tortured in the most diabolical manner.

The incomplete figures of the Polish Red Aid show 74 hunger strikes in the course of nine months of the year 1929. 5328 political prisoners participated in these strikes, and the number of hunger strike days amounted to 30,081.

Fresh bloody crimes were committed by the fascist police during the Lenin-Liebknecht-Luxemburg week. Wholesale arrests and house-searches took place in the whole of Poland; meetings and demonstrations were everywhere broken up in the most brutal fashion. In the district of Rawa and Tomaszow (Western Ukraine), the revolutionary peasants organised a magnificent demonstration which was participated in by about 2,000 peasants. The demonstration procession was held up by the police. The police tried to take away from a flag-bearer, Peter Marochniak, the red flag he was carrying on which was inscribed "Communist Party of Western Ukraine". Marochniak refused to yield up the flag. Thereupon the police, without the slightest warning, fired a volley into the crowd. Marochniak fell dead on the spot. Trochim Putkowsk, a peasant, was mortally wounded and died on the way to the hospital. Three other peasants, Putko, Biszko and Onyszkiewicz, were seriously wounded.

But neither the massacres nor the tortures will be able to crush the growing activity of the masses of workers and peasants. The peasants are participating ever more numerously in strikes, mass meetings and demonstrations; the demonstrations of the unemployed are becoming more and more imposing and frequent; the toiling masses, both in the towns and the rural districts, are going over to the attack, to the counter-offensive, in their fight against the fascist dictatorship.

After Spain . . . Italy?

By A. de Vries (Amsterdam).

One of the most reactionary bourgeois newspapers in Holland, the "Handelsblad" published an extremely interesting report of its Italian correspondent concerning the serious crisis of Italian fascism.

The article points out that for practically a year now Mussolini has been confined to the Palazzo Venezia which he hardly ever leaves, and that in consequence his popularity is suffering.

On the 30th January Mussolini delivered a speech in a meeting of the Podesta, the appointed dictators of the Italian municipalities, concerning the serious economic situation and the policy of the government. In this meeting he announced the abandonment of the fascist housing policy. This was always the main plank in the fascist "social" platform, and the fascists were never tired of talking about it and declaring that in a short space of time fascism would make an end of the housing misery left behind by the bourgeois governments. In the meantime the housing situation in Rome, Naples and other big towns has become no better and rents are high.

Mussolini declared to the Podesta, "The eighth year of the fascist dictatorship will see the end of government interference in building operations etc. Individual initiative will now be given free scope. I am of the opinion that nothing extraordinary will happen, although we must reckon with an increase of rents." The only governmental action referred to by Mussolini is the coming erection of temporary dwellings and barracks for those workers who will be turned out of their homes on account of inability to pay the increased rents.

Mussolini also announced that all public expenses would be limited and that the regime would limit itself for the moment to administrative tasks. "It is necessary to give the taxpayer a breathing space", declared Mussolini, "because the number of bankruptcies has increased rapidly of late. The economic situation is very delicate".

It is clear that the fascist dictatorship has been hard hit by the protracted financial and industrial crisis which Italian backward industry is ill-equipped to weather. It is abandoning all pretences at "social progress" and concentrating on the naked dictatorship alone, "pure administration". This must lead to a great intensification of class contradictions and to increasing resistance on the part of the toiling masses to fascism.

Indeed, "Handelsblad" writes: "The rumours concerning revolutionary upheavals in northern Italy are being persistently contradicted from official sources, but there would appear nevertheless, to be more than a little truth in them."

Five-Year Plan

The Huge Socialist Smelting Works in Magnitogorsk.

By D. M.

Moscow, beginning of February.

Light up the map please!

The huge map of the Soviet Union is suddenly studded with many coloured lights, illustrating in the most striking manner the progress of socialist construction on one-sixth of the earth's surface.

This was at the last meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union.

The President of the State Planning Commission, Comrade Krshishanovsky, illustrated his report on the Five-Year Plan of socialist construction.

When Krshishanovsky said -- "metal please!" -- lights sprang up on the southern slope of the Ural Mountains: one of the colossal new Soviet works — Magnitostroy. It is a solution of the so-called Uralo-Kusnetz problem — one of the most important parts of the Five-Year Plan: here the coal of the vast Kusnetz basin in Siberia will convert the inexhaustible ore deposits of the Urals into iron. It is a problem which could never be solved under the profit-hunting system of capitalism. It is a problem the solution of which only the victorious working class, which it setting up its socialist economy, could tackle.

The Magnitaja mountain, from which the Magnitogorsk Works now in course of construction derive their name, rightly enjoys a world fame. 275 million tons of iron ore lie beneath its surface. The masses of ore stored in the granite will suffice for centuries. In places there are to be found blocks of magnetic iron-ore, with an exceedingly high percentage of pure metal, almost without any admixture. The Magnitogorsk ore possesses yet another advantage — it does not lie at any great depth, but in fact nearly on the surface. This, of course, renders it much easier to win.

The huge excavators of the Magnitostroy will every year tear from the mass of the mountain and crush 2,300,000 tons of ore.

The plan of railway construction in the U. S. S. R., simultaneously with the erection of works, envisages the construction of the Southern Siberian Mainline Railway, which will serve to connect the Magnitogorsk works with the European portion of the Soviet Union. This railway will connect the Magnitaja mountain with Moscow and Siberia.

About six months ago, when the preparatory construction work had already been commenced, the Magnitogorsk received a definite order to produce 650,000 tons of pig iron annually.

But the enormous possibilities, the unexampled requirements of the country of the Soviets, which is developing at a giddy pace, increase every day. The output programme of 650,000 tons is already a thing of the past.

"The output of the works must be doubled", said the Party three months ago. And the working class changed the calculations accordingly, enlarged the building projects, and the equipment of the works and fixed an annual production of 1,100,000 tons.

And now it has been practically decided to extend the output of the future works to 1,600,000 tons.

The greatest of the metallurgical giants, the pride of the Soviet smelting industry, the Petrovsk works in the Ukraine, looks like a mere dwarf in comparison with the Magnitostroy. In fact it is three times as small.

The Magnitogorsk works will, in size and equipment, surpass the largest foundries of Europe.

In the neighbourhood of the works there is being erected a town for 30,000 inhabitants, a town of the socialist type with a maximum socialisation of the forms of life. Houses for cultural purposes, schools, technical schools for miners, hospitals and workers' clubs are springing up out of the ground where only a little while ago there was nothing but a desolate steppe.

The wise sceptics and the Right opportunists prophesy: "It will be impossible to build such a works in less than seven years".

Actual experience has demonstrated the untenability of such assertions. The architects of the Magnitogorsk works have undertaken to have the whole concern running in less than three years — by the 1st of October 1932. But a part of the Magnitogorsk works will already commence working in October 1931.

In less than three years four huge blast furnaces will be set going.

The huge rolling works occupies an area of 7 hectares and will work up a great part of the production of the works. The equipment of this powerful department of the works will consist of bloomeries for 850,000 tons and will be on the lines of the best models of the gigantic American ironworks.

The building work is being carried on at a feverish pace.

The building plan for the second quarter will be completed in February, a month earlier than the time originally fixed. The construction of the mechanical workshops is nearly completed, as is also the power station; 50 kilometres of railway lines have been laid down, and a brick works capable of an annual output of 22 million bricks is nearing completion.

On the 1st of October 1931 the molten ore will pour from the huge furnaces of the new socialist Gigant at the foot of the Magnitaja mountain.

THE WHITE TERROR

The Wave of Mass Trials in Yugoslavia.

Letter to the "Inprecorr".

Belgrade, beginning of February.

Since the proclamation of the military-fascist dictatorship in Yugoslavia over 10,000 workers, peasants and intellectuals have been arrested on political grounds: over 4,000 are still in the police prisons and subjected to the most frightful tortures while awaiting trial. The State court for the Protection of the Republic in Belgrade has in the first year of the dictatorship pronounced sentences on 95 persons; two of them were sentenced to death, and 93 received sentences amounting in all to 430½ years imprisonment. In the last few weeks several trials took place in which larger groups of accused were sentenced.

We reported already in the "Inprecorr.", 23rd January regarding the trial of 20 Communist workers from Nish. Immediately after this trial there commenced the trial of 10 Communist workers from Maribor (Slovenia) charged with Communist propaganda and activity in the illegal Yugoslavian Red Aid. The sentences were pronounced on the 25th January: — Milan **Barl** to 10 years' hard labour, Rudolf **Strauss** to one year's imprisonment, Albin **Breznik** to 6 years', Marie **Breznik** to 3 years', Franz **Toplak** 2 years', Jakob **Kerbitch** 2 years' and Ivan **Roschkar** 2 years' hard labour.

On the 28th January there commenced the trial of 15 national revolutionary and Communist Macedonians from **Kumanovo** (North Macedonia). In spite of all the efforts of the police, the greater portion of those arrested in connection with the discovery of a secret printing press in Weles had to be released, and only 15 persons were kept in arrest. For six days these arrested did not get any food and only a few drops of water, so that they physically collapsed. They were then tortured, until some of the arrested declared themselves ready to sign the protocols prepared by the police. In this way "confessions" were extorted by which also other prisoners were incriminated. **Andelkovitch**, a police officer, took a very prominent part in these tortures.

The police and the Public prosecutor made all the preparations for the trial in order that the cruelties practised in

prisons should not become known and to ensure the condemnation of the accused. The Public Prosecutor rejected all witnesses for the Defence and permitted only a few witnesses, all of them police agents.

A number of other trials are to take place shortly before the Belgrade Special Tribunal. More than 40 workers and intellectuals of Belgrade are still under arrest charged with Communist propaganda.

From a letter smuggled out of the Belgrade police prison, one sees how this monstre trial is to be "prepared". A prisoner writes:

"We learn that we shall not be conveyed to the court prison, but that we shall be cross-examined in the police prison. It must be made known to the public, that we shall have to remain in the police prison during the whole court examination and during the main proceedings in order to keep us continually under the pressure of the inquisitorial methods of the police. It is quite impossible to tell the truth to the examining judge as long as we are in the power of the police. The atmosphere in which we live: murders, throwing of prisoners out of the window, mishandlings until the prisoner faints, tortures by means of iron nails driven into the legs and into the flesh, permanent threats of murder and tortures. Raiko Jovanovitch, a lawyer, had a toe torn out while being tortured. We cannot withdraw the extorted "confessions" and statements before the examining judge: we cannot utter a word as to the horrible treatment in the police prison, so long as we are in the power of these beasts, whose misdeeds cannot be measured by any human expression . . ."

It is under circumstances such as described above that the following trials will be prepared in the near future:

The trial of 17 Macedonian national revolutionary workers and intellectuals from Veles (Macedonia);

the trial of 30 Communist workers and intellectuals from Ossiek;

the trial of about 60 Communist workers and intellectuals of Zagreb.

The broad masses of the workers, peasants and suppressed nations are not be deterred from their struggle by the horrible white terror. The united front of the suppressed, the exploited and persecuted will overthrow the murder-bands in Belgrade, headed by bloody king Alexander, by the armed uprising, and in place of the present military fascist dictatorship establish the Balkan Federation of workers' and peasants' republics.

Against the Fascist Government in Mexico which is Imprisoning and Murdering the Communist Functionaries!

We publish below an appeal of the South-American Secretariat of the Communist International. Editor.

In the first days of January the Mexican government of Portes Gil let loose a brutal reaction of a fascist type against the revolutionary movement, in the first place against the Communist Party and the Young Communist League; it dissolved the local branches and the Central Committee, murdered 20 comrades and arrested over 100 Workers. The terror employed by the mexican government for many months against the Communist Movement — the murder of Comrade Guadalupe Rodriguez, the dissolution of Communist local branches, the application of preventive arrest, the plundering of the printing works of the Central Committee — all these crimes are crowned by the latest deeds against the revolutionary movement, and the policy of the government is becoming an open and cynical policy of fascism. By the murder of 20 courageous comrades of the Communist Party of Mexico and by wholesale arrests of Party functionaries, the Mexican government wishes to furnish a testimonial as to its reliability as agent of American imperialism and to lay the foundation for its fascist regime.

Workers and peasants of Latin-America! Protest against the fascist hangmen of the American proletariat, hasten to the assistance of the Communist Movement of Mexico!

Comrades! The Mexican government has betrayed the Mexican revolution and has unconditionally entered the service

of Yankee imperialism. But the masses do not betray themselves. They are for the revolution and against imperialism, against the big landowners, for the confiscation of the land, for a radical improvement of the standard of living, for the cessation of persecutions and reaction. Portes Gil's government which speaks in the name of "Revolution", does not expropriate the land owners; it increases the misery of the toiling masses and by its policy promotes the imperialist penetration, supports capitalist rationalisation, increases unemployment and confirms the fascist labour legislation. The masses are against imperialism, of which the Mexican government has become the servile agent.

The Communist Party of Mexico is pursuing a clear and energetic revolutionary policy; it has placed itself at the head of the masses in order to lead them to revolution and to achieve the aim it has set itself: it is fighting against imperialism, against the big land-owners and their agents, the Mexican government. In these circumstances the preconditions for a victory of Yankee-imperialism are lacking. The discontented and suppressed masses of workers and peasants, led by the Communist Party, represent the greatest danger to the Portes Gil's government and its masters, the imperialists. In the present situation prevailing in Mexico, the victory of the imperialists over the toiling masses can be achieved only by means of terror, fascism, by the suppression of the Communist Party and the revolutionary organisations. The Mexican government constitutes the advance-guard of imperialism in Latin-America. These are the reasons for the fascisation of the Mexican government.

The Mexican government, which makes every concession to the imperialists, concluded a "compromise" with the latter, by making itself their agent. But this compromise means intensified exploitation, misery and enslavement of the masses. One of the conditions of the compromise is that all resistance in the interior of the country be prevented and every protest and revolt of the masses be stifled. In order to achieve this, the masses must be robbed of their leadership, the Communist Party and the Young Communist League.

The period of fascism is commencing in Mexico. This period was prepared by General Calles and completed under Portes Gil's government. There cannot exist any doubt that Ortiz Rubio, who received his instructions from the American imperialists in Washington and Wall-Street, has taken over the task of fully developing the fascist regime. Ortiz Rubio, who took over office by means of a bloody election manoeuvre, will proceed with the fascist policy of destroying the Communist and revolutionary organisations by murdering and arresting our best champions. It is only by such means that Yankee-imperialists will be able to obtain possession of the enormous riches of Mexico, only by sacking the blood and the energies of the broad toiling masses. It will in future be impossible to conduct the struggle against imperialism in Mexico, without at the same time fighting consistently and determinedly against the fascist government of Portes Gil and Ortiz Rubio.

Comrades, the persecution of the Communist Party of Mexico is not a chance occurrence. The Communist Party is conducting the consistent anti-imperialist struggle on the basis of an energetic defence of the interests of the working class and the peasantry. Thanks to this policy of our brother party, the reformist leaders and agents of the government are losing their influence upon the masses: thanks to this policy, the government cannot, as it desired to do, make use of the forces of the workers and peasants who are united in a bloc: thanks to this policy, the masses are gathering under the slogan of the workers' and peasants' government which is raised by the Communist Party. The ruthless struggle of the Communist Party against opportunism in all spheres, against the renegades and traitors against the fascist government and against the imperialists, has made it the centre which attracts the exploited masses in town and country.

The Latin-American proletarians and peasants must show their absolute solidarity with the Communist Party of Mexico, they must raise their voice in emphatic protest against the fascist government which is only an instrument of the imperialists and they must condemn Galvar, de Rivera and Co., the traitors and renegades in the service of the fascist government which bought them.

Comrades, the murders and arrests are symptoms of the

serious events confronting us in Mexico. They reveal the intention of the fascist government to bring about the liquidation and physical annihilation of all Communists in order to safeguard the rich Mexican booty for the imperialists. But we not only witness fascist reaction, we see also the increasing discontent of the masses, who strengthen the revolutionary movement and are preparing great revolutionary struggles. Under the leadership of the Communist Party the masses will successfully achieve the workers' and peasants' revolution against fascism, against the big landowners and against the imperialists.

The Communist Party of Mexiko has to bear a great responsibility; it has to work under the most difficult and dangerous conditions. The assistance and solidarity of the Latin-American proletariat can effectively support our Mexican comrades. In all Latin-American countries great mass demonstrations must take place in the streets against imperialism, against murderous fascism, against the traitors who have gone over to the enemy and for the revolutionary movement and the Communist Party. The political and material solidarity of the suppressed masses of the whole American Continent must create a protecting wall round our Mexican brothers and aid them in carrying out the revolutionary task which is allotted to them. May the orphans of the victims not hope in vain for solidarity of their class, for material help from the anti-imperialists of Latin-America.

Long live the Communist Party of Mexico! Long live the Young Communist League of Mexico! Long live the Communist International! Preserve the memory of the fallen comrades! Down with the fascist government of Mexico! Down with imperialism! Long live the workers' and peasants' government!

The Prison of Santo Stefano.

By Edmondo Peluso

The Island of Santo Stefano is situated about seven kilometres from Naples and possesses but one means of communication with the world of the living: a little ship which in summer comes twice a week and in winter once a week bringing food for the prisoners—and what food too!—and fresh human victims to this gloomy prison settlement.

During the voyage the prisoners are chained in the hold of the ship. The choppy sea and the stifling atmosphere of the engine room are a real torture; sea-sickness causes painful scenes, for the gendarmes are forbidden to take the chains from off the prisoners, even when the latter are ill. Hardly have they arrived at the harbour, from whence they proceed to the prison, than they are surrounded by a strong escort of gendarmes, prison warders and jailers of every sort. The journey to the island, and then to the prison, the silence of which is only broken by the dragging sound of the chains, is the last farewell of the condemned to the light of the sun.

The prison! . . . The heavy gate closes! . . . for ever. The prisoners will only emerge from the prison in their coffins, in order to be buried, with a number and a cross, in the cemetery at the extreme end of the Island.

The accursed Pontine Islands have at all times been places of imprisonment and banishment: Porcida, Santo Stefano, Ventotene, Ponza — four Islands, four prisons. . . .

An alteration of the regime took place when the people of the House of Savoy, that is of monarchist Italy, succeeded the Bourbons. The governments of the monarchy destroyed everything that could ameliorate the life of the prisoners. The big dormitories were done away with: the interior of the "Rotonde" in San Stefano was divided up into hundreds of small barred cells. The hour's exercise each day in the fresh air no longer took place in the large court, from which one had a view of the sea, but in the small courts whose high walls permit one to see only a fragment of the sky. San Stefano is the most frightful prison of all. As, however, the barbarity and cruelty represented by the structure and dividing up of the prison did not suffice, the prisoners are forced to live in "solitary confinement".

Today, fascism is employing horrible methods in the prisons. The places of punishment are at present those

places in which it can best wreak its vengeance on a political opponent. That inhumane regime which was created for common criminals and later applied against the regicides is today made three times more cruel for people whose sole crime consists in their being anti-fascists. Mussolini and the society which supports him could not think of a better and more diabolical system of extermination. With a daily diet consisting of one litre of dirty water, called soup, and a piece of bread, the victims are doomed to incurable disease of the digestive organs. This is the physical side of the matter. The strict "isolation", that is the absolute silence, complete loneliness without end, without hearing any sound, is such that one is simply buried alive. All this quickly leads to insanity, even in the case of gifted, intelligent and educated people, who therefore possess great strength of mind as the present imprisoned anti-fascists.

We demand that the anti-fascist political prisoners be accorded the treatment which even the cruelty of the Bourbons conceded to their opponents, namely:

the right to air and to live with other political prisoners; the right to receive food and support from their friends and relatives; we must demand that the political regime be conceded to all anti-fascist prisoners in prison on remand and in prison settlements.

Close our ranks for our action before it is too late!

The best comrades are threatened with death. It is a question of such comrades as Gramsci, Terracini, Soccimarro and many other brave fighters for the cause of the proletariat.

No worker has the right to remain indifferent and passive in face of the murderous regime of the prisons of the fascist State.

Our prisoners will not be forsaken! They must be rescued!

IN THE INTERNATIONAL

The Approaching Elections in Japan and the Communist Party.*

The Parliamentary elections in Japan are taking place in a situation of increasing economic crisis and a rising revolutionary wave. The bourgeoisie and the big landlords are endeavouring to make use of the elections and to mobilise their forces in order to undertake a new, hitherto unheard-of fascist predatory attack on the proletariat and the peasant masses under the banner of rationalisation, the saving regime, new attempts at taxation robbery, and the struggle against the Communists. They are endeavouring to decapitate and crush the developing mass movement and to cast the whole burden of the crisis upon the toilers. Therefore the situation requires that the Communists make use of the elections: 1. for the ruthless exposure of these fascist robber plans, for the exposure of the social-fascist deceit, which makes out that a peaceful Parliamentary reform of the existing fascist-reformist rule is possible by means of bourgeois democracy; 2. for the organisation of the counter-attack of the proletariat and of the peasantry under the leadership of the Communist Party, against the bourgeoisie and the big landlords, for the revolutionary preparation of the masses for the overthrow of the monarchy (Mikado), of the dictatorship of trust capital and feudal landed property, as well as for the confiscation without compensation of the whole of the big landed estates; 3. for the mobilisation of the masses under the slogan of the struggle for the revolutionary workers' and peasants' government on the basis of the Soviets, under the slogan of the revolutionary united front from below of the workers and peasants; 4. for struggle for the Communist Party and against the white terror on the one hand, and against all (Right and Left) social-fascist and pseudo-Communist attempts to liquidate the Party and to adapt it to the police-fascist "legality" on the other hand; 5. for the struggle for the complete independence of Korea, Formosa and China; 6. for struggle against the new imperialist

* Resolution of the West-European Bureau of the Communist International passed on 6th February 1930.

world-slaughter which is being prepared and for the defence of the Soviet Union.

By drawing the masses of workers and peasants into the struggle on the basis of their economic daily demands and the further transition to political actions, the C.P. of Japan will make use of the present election campaign in the first place to explain to the masses the principles of the fully developed programme of revolution and to mobilise the masses for these demands, to strengthen the influence of the Party in the masses and to consolidate the Party and the revolutionary workers' organisations. The elections will be made use of for the extension and organisation of the struggle against rationalisation and against dismissals in the factories, for the development of the peasant movement against the imposition of rent and tax dues, and for the organisation of a powerful unemployed movement, which at present acquires special importance (formation of unemployed committees, organisation of unemployed fractions etc.). The following partial demands and slogans, which are closely linked up with the chief slogans, must be set up:

1. Abolition of the anti-Communist law, abolition of all laws aiming at the suppression of the toilers, immediate amnesty for the arrested Communists of Japan, the revolutionaries of Korea and China. Complete freedom of the class organisations of the workers and peasants, struggle against the military-fascist and police suppression of the strikes and actions of the toilers, against the political disenfranchisement of women and young people, abolition of the "Eta" slavery.

2. All-round social insurance of the toilers (sickness, accidents, maternity, incapacity to work, old age pensions) and in particular immediate unemployment insurance for all categories of wage workers to the amount of full wages at the cost of the capitalists and their State, the administration of the fund to be placed in the hands of the unemployed. Great reduction of rent and prices of electric light for the city poor, the unemployed to be completely exempt from these charges.

3. Seven hour day, against the speeding up system, equal pay for equal work, abolition of semi-slavish conditions of work, against the slavish living-in system, against the eviction of workers, abolition of compulsory arbitration, increase of wages, establishing of a definite housing fund for the workers administered by themselves.

4. Against the pillaging of the masses by means of the economy regime and rationalisation, exemption from taxation of the workers, the city poor and the main mass of the peasantry, annulment of the debts of the peasants to the landowners, against the compulsory settlement of Japanese and Korean workers and peasants.

5. Immediate withdrawal of Japanese troops from Korea, Formosa and China, against the robbery of land in Korea, for publication of the secret documents regarding the imperialist plans, as well as the intervention plans against the U.S.S.R. and against China.

The Communist Party, which is conducting the united front tactic exclusively from below, must not enter into any agreements with the reformist and semi-Communist groupings of the type of Sin-Roto, but must conduct an irreconcilable fight against them. It is the task of the Communist Party to mobilise the masses from below, in the factories and in the villages, by the Left trade unions, the revolutionary factory councils, by election committees of the factories, by factory delegate meetings, unemployed committees, committees of action, committees of poor peasants and agricultural workers, by means of a campaign of meetings and workers and peasants conferences. The mobilisation and action of the Young Communist League, as well as the legal young workers' movement, with a special platform of economic and political demands of the youth are necessary. Where there exists no possibility of putting forward "legal" candidates, the Communist Party will of course put up its own candidates from the ranks of the political prisoners and see that the masses participate in the vote for such demonstrative candidates. The Communist Party of Japan will be able to cope with the task confronting it only when every nucleus and every single Communist displays mass initiative and self-activity and realises that it is urgently necessary to develop from below the mass fight on the political mass strike, the revolutionary demonstrations etc.

The VII. Plenum of the C.C. of the C.P. of Poland.

By G. Henrykowskij.

The VII. Plenum of the C. C. of the C. P. of Poland took place in a situation characterised, on the one hand, by the extraordinary intensification of the general crisis of capitalism and, on the other hand, by the exceedingly rapid development of socialist construction in the Soviet Union.

The Plenum declared that the struggle against imperialist war and for the defence of the Soviet Union is and remains the chief task of the Party. In connection with the tenth anniversary of the war between Poland and the Soviet Union — April/August — the Party must organise in good time a campaign for the defence of the Soviet Union and revolutionary solidarity with the Red Army. It is absolutely indispensable to bring about a real change in our work in the army which is still at its initial stages.

The Plenum placed in the foreground of the tasks of the Party, apart from preparing a new miners' struggle, the leadership of the growing struggles of the unemployed and the connection of the unemployed movement with the general struggle of the working class against the fascist dictatorship. The Plenum dealt thoroughly with the forms and slogans of the unemployed movement and with the plan of a broad mobilisation action in connection with the International Fighting Day against Unemployment.

The Plenum emphasised, that the greatest efforts must be made in order to prepare a strike of the agricultural workers. The town proletariat as well as the exploited peasantry must be mobilised in time for the strike of the agricultural workers.

So as to strengthen the leading role of the Party in the economic struggles, the Plenum specially emphasised the necessity of rooting the Party in the factories, pits and big landed estates, of reinforcing work in the trade unions and developing the revolutionary trade union opposition.

The intensification of the class struggles, their growth into big struggles against the fascist dictatorship, the wave of stormy demonstrations (Warsaw, Lodz, Zaglebie, Lemberg, Posen, Grudziadz) impose upon the Party the task of enhancing the mass struggles for the streets. The political mass strike must be closely linked up with the demonstration movement. The Plenum specially emphasised that the political strike, connected with demonstrations and with the propaganda of the general strike, is the means to raise the movement of the masses to a higher level and to win them for the immediate struggle for the dictatorship of the proletariat. At the same time it is necessary to carry out the previous decisions of the Party regarding mass workers' defence.

After laying down the special tasks of the Party among the peasantry, and recording the serious achievements made hitherto by the Party in the revolutionary peasant movement, the VII. Plenum, called attention to the fact that the most serious fault in our work is the inability of the Party to put forward concrete demands in the rural districts.

The Plenum devoted special attention to the strengthening of the revolutionary national emancipation struggle in the territories occupied by Polish fascism, such as Upper Silesia, West Ukraine and West White Russia. The whole Party must take active part in the campaign of the C. P. of West Ukrainia on the occasion of the trial of the Ukrainian counter-revolutionaries.

The Plenum subjected the whole activity of the Party to a thorough self-criticism and stated: "Our whole daily work must undergo such a change as will secure the successful carrying out of our line. The incongruity between the set tasks and the practice of the Party, the lagging of our organisations behind the mass mood and elementary mass movements—these weaknesses must be fundamentally eliminated if the Party is to become the leader and organiser of the revolutionary movement."

The carrying out of the enormous tasks by which the Party is confronted is impossible without the struggle against the opportunist mistakes in our practical work, against the Right deviation of the Kostreva group. The Right conception of individual followers of the Kostreva group, which has not

yet been overcome, was revealed in the revival of illusions on the occasion of recent events in the Sejm. Some comrades openly claimed that these events confirmed the correctness of the Right views regarding the double meaning of the democratic phrase and regarding the struggle of social fascism against fascism. This opportunist estimation has been completely refuted by the development of events in Poland.

The Plenum correctly stated that "the economic and political crisis of fascism has become more acute". Unemployment is growing rapidly. Hunger for land, taxation robbery and the increase in the prices of all industrial articles affect the masses of toiling peasants very seriously. The revolutionisation of the masses is rapidly proceeding. In several places the action of the workers and peasants comes to bloody struggles with the police. Under the pressure of the revolutionary masses there is to be observed a weakening of some links of the fascist system (decline of the military defence organisations).

In order to concentrate the forces of the fascist camp, Piłsudski replaced Svitalski by Bartels, whose government is only the outer cloak for the fascist dictatorship. The change in the composition of the government of colonels only rendered it easier for fascism to carry out the constitutional reform by "parliamentary" means and enabled social fascism to deceive the masses while continuing to use Left opposition phrases.

In view of these events, every comrade had the possibility to perceive to what catastrophe the political line of the Right group would have led the Party; it would have been dragged in the wake of the P.P.S.

The most important organisations have energetically condemned the standpoint of the Rights. The VII. Plenum recorded the fact, on the basis of the preceding district conferences in Łódź, Posen, Warsaw, West—White Russia, West Ukraine, that the process of consolidation of the Party has greatly advanced. In glaring contradiction to this turn in the Party there is the development of the Right group, which, after the Polit secretariat of the C.I. had passed a resolution on the situation in the C.P. of Poland, after their isolation from the Party masses was more openly revealed, went over to combat the standpoint of the Comintern. By maintaining at the VII. Plenum the motions which it had submitted at the VI. Plenum against the line of the C.C. and of the Comintern, the Right opposition made a step backward. The Right comrades openly declared that they are not in agreement with the standpoint of the Comintern, according to which the errors committed by Comrades Kostreva, Steiński and Brand represent a Right deviation. Under the impression of the criticism of the Party and of the Plenum they had, however, to condemn Comrade Kostreva's declaration. Owing to the fact that a number of Comrades withdrew their reservations to the Party line, the Rights were compelled to declare the platform of reservations to be politically wrong.

The VII. Plenum passed a special resolution on the Right opposition, in which it is emphasised that the Right group has actually begun the struggle against the Comintern. In view of the further manoeuvres of Comrade Kostreva against the Comintern and the Party, the resolution declares:

"The Plenum emphasises that both the present standpoint of Comrade Kostreva and her manoeuvres against the Party and the Comintern, as well as her silence since the VI. Plenum regarding the decisions of the Polit Secretariat and of the Party, are incompatible with the duties of a C.C. member. Should Comrade Kostreva, who was not present at the Plenum, fail to recognise that her standpoint is wrong and clearly and unambiguously carry out the decisions of the Comintern in regard to the struggle against the Right deviation, the Plenum instructs the Politbureau to apply to the Executive, in accordance with the decisions of a number of Party organisations (Warsaw, Łódź, Posen etc.) to remove Comrade Kostreva from the C.C."

The Plenum, by directing its chief fire against the Right deviations, at the same time called the attention of the Party to the necessity of combating all forms of ultra-left tendencies, which find expression in the underestimation of work in the social fascist trade unions, in overestimating the situation etc. The work of the VII. Plenum proved that the Party is rapidly growing into a firmly consolidated, Bolshevik organisation.

Resolution of the C.C. of the C.P. of Holland on the Open Letter of the E.C.C.C.I.

On the 26th of January, 1930, there took place a Plenary Session of the C.C. of the C.P. of Holland. It had to deal with the **Open Letter of the E.C.C.C.I.** as well with a Letter of the Polit-Secretariat of the E.C.C.C.I. and the W.E.B. The Session passed the following **resolution**:

The C.C. of the C.P. of Holland unreservedly agrees with the criticism of the leadership of the C.P. of Holland contained in these letters.

It must be stated that the majority of the present leadership of the C.P. of Holland in its policy conducted a consistent struggle against the policy of the Communist International.

This opposition was not made public, but had a concealed, opportunist character, in that it accepted all the decisions of the International in words but in reality sabotaged them, as they were not carried out.

The majority of the present Party leadership has not carried out in practice the policy of the C.I. for the third period; this is evident from the fact that the Party has not concentrated on the factories, and especially from the fact that while the Dutch workers are already fighting against rationalisation, the Party is lagging behind.

The reason for this lies in the fact that capitalist stabilisation in Holland was overestimated, whilst the radicalisation of the workers and the changed role of social democracy, i.e. their development to social fascism were underestimated. Hence the majority of the present Party leadership did not believe in the possibility of the Party capturing the leadership in the struggle which the Dutch working class is already waging against capitalist rationalisation and against social fascism.

It must be stated that for some considerable time there has been formed within the Party leadership a group which is attempting to carry out a Right opportunist policy deviating from the line of the C.I. (Comrades van Riel, Gerritsen, van Wijngaarden). Other comrades of the present Party leadership (Seegers, Bergsma, Goulooze) adopted a conciliatory attitude towards the Right deviations, especially after the Party Conference of November 1929 and when the Comintern, as well as the rank and file Party members made a sharp criticism of the Party leadership and demanded the practical carrying out of the decisions adopted by the Conference, and made a political bloc with the Rights in a number of the most important political questions.

The opportunist mistakes are expressed in the following:

1. The sabotage of the decisions of the Party Conference, particularly in regard to the reorganisation of the Party secretariat and of the trade union commission, further in the bureaucratic manner in which the work plan elaborated by the Party Conference was handed over to the Party organisations without giving them any positive help in the carrying out of this plan.

2. The Party Congress was prepared in a manner calculated to bring the Party into contradiction to the decisions of the Comintern (elaboration of a political resolution containing no concrete fighting measures against the bearers of the Right deviation and against the conciliators, but directed against those members of the Central Committee who are defending the policy of the C.I.; the suppression of the discussion by keeping back critical articles and resolutions or publishing them with politically incorrect titles which do not contain any criticism; attempts to postpone the Party Congress by proposals submitted to the Central, and even after the decision had been already adopted, by rousing feeling against it in the Party organisations; finally, by preventing the Young Communist League from discussing the political problems confronting the Party).

The bloc of the Rights and of the conciliators, who belong to the present Party leadership, bears the responsibility for these mistakes.

The C.C. confirms the decision to convene the Party Congress for the 15th to 17th February in Amsterdam and to appoint a commission to prepare the Congress politically and organisationally and to conduct the discussion.

The discussion at the session of the C.C. on 26th of January showed that the Rights and the conciliators do not recognise their mistakes; whilst those who are in the Presidium voted formally for the decisions condemning their policy in

the sharpest manner, they continue to defend this policy in the Party leadership and in the Party organisations. The Central Committee issues an express warning against the continuation of this policy, which will inevitably lead to a struggle against the International and its Dutch Section.

The Party Congress has the task of rendering the Party capable in the shortest possible time of independently leading the struggle of the Dutch proletariat against Dutch imperialism and the threatening danger of war, against capitalist rationalisation and social fascism, for the capture of the majority of the Dutch working class.

The first pre-condition thereto is the election of a Central Committee consisting of new proletarian elements, chiefly of factory workers who have proved themselves capable of conducting and organising the fight, and of those comrades of the present Party leadership who have unconditionally supported the policy of the C. I. since the 10th Plenum of the E. C. C. I.

SOCIAL FASCISM

The Congress of the Socialist Party of France.

By J. Berlioz (Paris).

On the 25th and 26th of January the Socialist Party of France held an extraordinary Party Congress, the agenda of which contained but one item: what are the most favourable condition and what is the best moment for the French section of the II. International, to take over office within the frame and on behalf of capitalist society.

This question has become particularly urgent in the course of the political manoeuvres which accompanied the latest government crisis in October 1929. As is known, after the overthrow of the Briand Cabinet, Daladier, the leader of the Radical Party, was entrusted with the formation of a new Cabinet. On the 26th October he asked the socialists to join his Ministry; the majority of the parliamentary fraction accepted his offer, but the Party Executive condemned this attitude as not being in accordance with the decisions of the party congresses. A session of the national council was convened which approved the attitude of the party executive by 1590 against 1451 votes.

But the parliamentary fraction, of whom two thirds are in favour of immediate participation in a coalition Cabinet with the Radicals, refused to accept the decision and demanded the convocation of an extraordinary Party Congress after a thorough discussion in the party.

In this discussion two tendencies came to the fore. Both fractions declared, that there is no question of principle at stake, but the question of an opportune moment. Both "Left" and "Right" are completely unanimous regarding the question of participation in a bourgeois government. But there exist advocates of unconditional participation, the leaders of whom are Renaudel, Déat etc., and conditional supporters of government participation, who at present have the leadership of the party in their hands.

The chief concern of all of them is their anxiety not to lose their influence upon certain working class sections who might go over to the Communist Party. "At present" declares Longuet, "when Bolshevism is in a state of decay, we would by our participation provide it with the necessary catchwords it desires to attack us more effectively." Thereupon Salandro declared: "Instead of strengthening Bolshevism, we shall be able, as we are better armed, to deal it the severest blows." For all of them there exists only one enemy: the revolutionary proletariat and its class party; the only difference between them is whether they would derive greater advantage from bourgeois persecution of our Party by a sham opposition, as exists today, or by direct participation in the government.

These two tendencies confronted each other at the Party Congress not without bitterness. The unconditional adherents of participation suffered a formal defeat by 2066 against 1479 votes. The resolution which was adopted after an oath of fealty to the "charter of the party" declares, "that the party is always prepared to take over the responsibilities of office, be it alone or as a majority in the government and with the

leading influence in it," but it adds "Participation of the socialists in a coalition government is not out of the question could special circumstances arise".

In fact, the Right fraction gained some advantages owing to its energetic action. It has enforced the insertion of the very elastic clause regarding "special circumstances", which are always easy to find. Its leader, Paul Boncour, induced Paul Faure, the secretary of the party, to formulate a categorical declaration of war on the Communist Party and on "Moscow" and to proclaim openly that the whole party is in agreement with the Vice-President of the Supreme war Council, that nowhere must the dogma of an effective and staunch national defence of the capitalist fatherland be violated.

The threats of fraction work and of a split of the party, emanating from Renaudel and Déat, must not deceive us any more than the "irreconcilable" speeches of Paul Faure and Bracke. The unity of the socialist party is not at all threatened, but the division of labour between these two wings has to be carried out because the party is orientating towards "participation as soon as conditions become a little more favourable."

The intensification of the capitalist crisis, the growing danger of war and the increasing offensive of the proletariat are rendering the situation in France more and more difficult. In this situation government fascism will be compelled to assume a "left" guise in order to be better able to carry on its brutal policy of rationalisation and persecution. The bourgeoisie will place the socialists in office in order to mask this policy.

It may be that some influential elements in the party, like Paul Boncour, who is closely connected with the General Staff, Renaudel, reporter for the budget of the air forces, Jouhaux of the National Economic Council, will display great haste in taking over responsibility for the bourgeois State. Behind them stands the apparatus of the reformist trade union bureaucracy, whose leaders advocated immediate participation in the government, because they realise the impossibility of keeping in check the growing fighting determination of their own members and do not see any other way out to stem it.

At bottom, it is the Left wing which best comprehends the interests of the big bourgeoisie by imploring the impatient leaders not to fritter away the moral credit of the socialists by a premature acceptance of office. The Party must for a time still remain in reserve as the last weapon of capitalism, when an even more dangerous situation arises for the latter.

As a matter of fact this virginity is that of a prostitute. Kahn, one of the Congress delegates, declared quite openly that since Tardieu is in office, the socialist parliamentary fraction is compelled to conduct a policy which "is an opposition of collaboration". This remark is very apt. The socialist party only reproaches the government for having stolen its socialist programme. It openly supports the foreign policy of the bourgeoisie and proposes the best methods for increased armaments; it breaks strikes and supports the carrying out of rationalisation; it organises, together with the police, the crushing of workers, as in Japy and Champigny.

Some days ago the socialist parliamentary fraction gave an ovation to Kerensky, who had told them a lot of fairy tales of "Bolshevist cruelties". It promised to shut the mouths of the Communists whenever they come forward with complaints regarding the liquidation of the last remnants of bourgeois democracy in France. It will not be long before the socialist party will be repeating to our bourgeoisie that which the "Left" Zyransky said to the police, when they attacked the Communists at the demonstration in Champigny: "Leave the Communists alone, we shall settle accounts with them!"

PROLETARIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Unemployment Amongst Women in Great Britain.

Rationalisation at Work.

By Sid Elias.

The figures for unemployment amongst women workers in Britain at the moment reveal with staggering intensity the effects of rationalisation in Gt. Britain.

When the Labour Govt. took office in June 1929, there were 197,906 woman workers registered as unemployed at

the various Labour Exchanges in Gt. Britain. The December 1929 returns of the Ministry of Labour show that these figures had increased to 305,443, an increase of 107,537 in a period of seven months.

How does this compare with a similar period during the last year of the Baldwin Govt? In June 1928 there were 164,984 registered unemployed women; these figures rise to 235,419, an increase of 60,435.

The above figures show quite clearly that the Bosses in industry working behind the defensive shield of a Labour Government, during 1929 were able to intensify the process and **double the increase in unemployment amongst women workers**, because they realised that this Labour Government pledged to Mondism and Rationalisation would more brutally bludgeon the women, if they displayed any militancy and attempted to resist the results of the rationalisation process. This is amply borne out by the experience of women workers in the **Saddleworth and Bradford disputes**.

It cannot be argued that 305,443 represents the full extent of unemployment amongst women workers, as it has to be pointed out that there are many unemployed women workers amongst the un-insured trades, figures for which cannot be secured.

The figures of women recipients of Poor Law Relief are no use in this connection owing to the definite policy of all Boards of **Guardians** to adamantly refuse to grant Poor Law Relief to able bodied single unemployed women, and able bodied married unemployed women without dependents.

There is only one exception to this rule, and that is the **Leeds Boards of Guardians**, who some weeks ago laid down a scale for single women arising out of a mass demonstration organised by the **Leeds N. U. W. M. (Branch)**.

Nevertheless it would be true to say that taking the registered figures as a guide there are between 400,000 to 450,000 unemployed women workers in Gt. Britain at the moment.

The **Woollen industry** where Rationalisation takes the form of reducing wages in the mills of the smaller firms and giving workers more machines to tend in the larger firms shows us that in the following towns situated in the woollen textile area there is tremendous unemployment amongst the women. Bradford has 6,452, Leed 5,356 and Huddersfield 1,122 unemployed women registered at the Exchanges.

Compare the figures of Bradford with those of any ordinary town like Newcastle-on-Tyne, where unemployment is rampant generally in all trades. In Bradford there are 6,452 unemployed women against 2,147 unemployed women in Newcastle, though there is a greater general army of unemployed men and women in the latter town than in the former.

In the Woollen industry as a whole there are 19,583 registered unemployed women workers as against 16,219 unemployed men.

In the **Cotton industry** as a whole there are 49,590 registered unemployed women as against 23,966 men.

Stoke-on-Trent, the centre of the **Potteries industry** has 4,647 registered unemployed women.

The figures for **Leicester** are 1,875, that for **Northampton** are 1,109, so evidently the **Boot industry** has got a dose of Rationalisation. **Nottingham**, the centre of **Lace and Artificial Silk**, show 1,769 unemployed women.

The following figures relate to disallowances of benefit by the Labour Exchanges under both Govts, and they reveal with great force how this Social Fascist Labour Govt has been infinitely more brutal and inhuman in its treatment of unemployed women than the Baldwinites.

DISALLOWANCES BY INSURANCE OFFICERS.

Baldwin Govt.

June 1928	11,467
July	11,629
Aug.	12,889
Sept.	14,581
Oct.	13,934
Nov.	17,389
Dec.	22,682

Total 104,571

Labour Govt.

June 1929	21,988
July	14,975
Aug.	14,624
Sept.	43,321
Oct.	30,355
Nov.	16,183
Dec.	13,004

Total 164,450

The same applies to the disallowances under the **Not Genuinely seeking work clause** and also the **Courts of Referees** when unemployed women appeal against disallowances.

NOT GENUINELY SEEKING WORK CLAUSE.

Baldwin Govt.

June 1928	4,524
July	4,727
Aug.	6,422
Sept.	7,405
Oct.	7,400
Nov.	9,078

Total 39,556

Labour Govt.

June 1929	11,186
July	6,898
Aug.	6,549
Sept.	8,176
Oct.	6,281
Nov.	4,861

Total 43,951

In the case of Court of Referees disallowances we find that there is an increase under the Labour Govt. of 2,129 for the six months period June to Nov. of 1929 as compared with the six months period June to Nov. 1928 of the Baldwin Govt.

At this stage I want to draw attention to one particular clause under which women have been swept off wholesale from the Labour Exchanges. This clause is known as the "Unable to obtain suitable employment" clause, under which skilled women workers are offered domestic service, skilled women are driven into army canteens to work etc., and if they refuse any of these jobs which in the opinion of the Labour Exchanges are considered suitable they are said to have not qualified with the above clause.

Under this clause the following is the comparative figures and side by side with them we have given in some months the figures for disallowances of the men under the same clause though the aggregate number of men registering at the Labour Exchanges in the country are 1,060,901 as compared with 264,704 women.

BALDWIN GOVT.

	Women	Men
June 1928	1,212	714
July	1,635	726
Aug.	1,704	1,088
Sept.	1,791	930
Oct.	1,315	810
Nov.	1,702	1,174
Dec.	2,081	1,452

Total 11,400

LABOUR GOVT.

	Women	Men
June 1929	2,626	1,879
July	2,026	
Aug.	1,867	
Sept.	2,855	1,719
Oct.	1,592	
Nov.	1,857	1,282
Dec.	1,706	

Total 14,529

3,089 more unemployed women have been disqualified under seven months of Labour Rule as compared with seven months under Tory Rule.

When the disallowances for women under this clause are compared with the figures given for similar disallowances for men, it is clearly seen the brutality with which both Govts, more so the Labour Government, have been bullying and threatening the women and forcing them into starvation and on to the streets.

Practical experience of handling cases at Courts of References, bring this point out more vividly, as inside these Courts of Inquisition is readily seen the brutal manner and methods adopted by Trade Union organisers, middle class members of the Labour Party who sit in these bodies.

Maggie Bondfield when setting up the New Boards of Assessors, pointed out that these bodies because of their better knowledge of local industrial conditions would act in a fairer manner to the unemployed, they would get better justice before them. The following figures for disallowances for women by these bodies show that they have been even more brutal than the old Courts of References.

Oct. 1929. Women's Disallowances by Board of Assessors 4,455 out of a total of 8,261 cases including men and women considered.

Nov. 1929. 5,696 women disallowed benefit out of a total of 10,713 men and women's cases considered.

Dec. 1929. 5,671 women disallowed benefit out of a total of 10,646 men and women's cases considered.

These figures show that taking all the cases judged by these bodies, there is a greater percentage of disallowances of women than of men.

Regarding those unemployed women who have to receive and apply for Poor Law Relief their treatment is beyond description.

The only unemployed women who can secure Poor-Law Relief are widows with children, married women with children whose husbands have deserted them; it is the most difficult thing in the world for a young widow without children or a married woman without children, whose husband has deserted her to secure Poor Law Relief. There is a class of widows over 55 years of age, who can secure Poor Law Relief.

The only figures available relate to the wives of unemployed men who are in receipt of Poor Law Relief, because they, the men, have been struck off the registers, and denied benefit at the Labour Exchanges: there are 83,000 wives of unemployed men in receipt of Poor Law Relief according to the November returns of the Ministry of Health, most of these have child dependents, otherwise so strong are the regulations governing the granting of relief, they would not be in receipt of such.

There are 234,567 widows with children and widows over 55 years of age in receipt of relief.

Regarding the latter class, it is well known that the Labour Govt. is supposed to have given a great concession to the widows over 55 years of age by its extension of the Widows Pension Act. of 1929. Very little comment is now being made about this concession in Labour circles and by its press, for the simple reason that it has proved to be no concession at all.

Many of the widows, in fact most of them, who are covered by the concession, were prior to the Act able to go to the Boards of Guardians and receive up to 15/- per week poor law relief, but immediately the Act came into operation they found that the full amount of the Widows Pension is 10/- per week, and the Guardians often paid 15/- per week Poor Law Relief, so that the Widows lost 5/- per week.

The N. U. W. M. have over the last few months been thoroughly discussing and taking step for the organisation of unemployed women.

At the moment we have **Womens Sections** in **Sheffield, Attercliffe, Barnsley, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Plymouth, Barnsley, Wigan**, and in many other places the initial steps are being taken to get Women's Sections going.

A **Women's Programme** has been drafted, and the aim of all revolutionary organisations must be to draw more and more women into the struggle against Rationalisation and the Social Fascist Labour Govt. of Rationalisation.

Once women become conscious of the desire for struggle against the steady worsening of their conditions, all the shib-

olets about the political backwardness of women are soon shattered.

More attention must be paid to the women by revolutionaries if we want to bring about the downfall of this Social Fascist Labour Govt. and substitute it by a Revolutionary Workers Govt. that will bring men and women into their own.

Deterioration of the Position of the Rumanian Working Women

By Krasnova.

Two short notices in the Rumanian paper "Viata Municipiara" (Workers' Life) give a clear picture of the rapid deterioration of the position of the Rumanian working women. Between the publication of the first and the second notice there is a period of six weeks. The notices refer to the "Balkan" factory in Bucharest:

"The wages of the working women are very low — 300 to 500 Lei (7/6 d. to 12/6 d.) a week. As, however, the working women did not get their wages regularly, and in addition were struck and beaten, they entered on a protest strike, which they only liquidated after having received payment of their wages.

Three hundred working women are employed in the factory. In order to be able to exploit them without any hindrance, the employer engages exclusively peasant women, who are least class-conscious and offer the least resistance. He fears that the class-conscious working woman would enlighten the other working women with regard to the causes of their exploitation. The eleven-hour day is introduced and the working women are compelled to turn out the quantity of work fixed by the employer; if they turn out less a fine is deducted from their wage".

The second notice states:

"The number of working women in the "Balkan" factory has increased to 400. The wages, however, were reduced to 150 to 200 Lei a week (3/8 d. to 5/4 d.). The weekly wage of a woman working on piece rates amounts to 300 Lei. But it seems that the employer finds this wage too high and he keeps back 25 to 30 Lei, saying that he puts this amount in the saving bank for the working woman.

If, however, a working woman leaves the factory and demands the sum "saved" for her, she is beaten by the employer and told that if conditions do not suit her she can go. This happened the other day to two working peasant women. When they asked for their money, the employer locked them up in a room and began to beat them. In response to their cries the working women came to their rescue, but were kept off by the blows of the factory guard, who moreover heaped insults upon them.

This monstrous exploitation is supported by the government, which is sending spies and gendarmes into the factories. If anybody attempts to enter the factory, he is arrested and insulted by the spies and gendarmes".

These two notices furnish a picture of the frightful exploitation of the Rumanian working women; at the same time they reveal the elementary attempts of the working women to defend their rights. Such conditions as prevail in the "Balkan" factory also obtain in the majority of Rumanian factories. Everywhere the most miserable wages, which are constantly withheld, complete lack of rights, no labour protection for the working women, and their utmost exploitation up to mis-handling.

The Communist Party of Rumania and the Unitary trade unions have made it their task to draw the Rumanian working women into the general struggle of the working class and to organise them for this struggle. The C. P. of Rumania further sets up the following demands: protection of working women as mothers, protection of children, equal pay for equal work etc. Those who beat the working women must be called to account, and wages must be punctually paid without any deductions or fines.