

Labor in the Far East (Indonesia)

The militancy of the young working class of Indonesia in the face of persecution by the Dutch colonial government, the police and even a sort of Javanese fascisti, is told in the following interesting article, the fourth and last of a series by Comrade Semaoen of Java on the Indonesian labor movement. These articles are furnished The DAILY WORKER by the Trade Union Educational League. The article yesterday told of the many strikes directed and led by the Red Trade Unions of Indonesia and the Communists. Today's article shows how the Dutch colonial government tries to suppress the Communists with terror.

By SEMAOEN.

ARTICLE IV

THE events enumerated in my last article clearly show that the Indonesian working class is again in the mood for taking up the offensive. It is clear that in connection with the Chinese events, which infects all Asia, causing big sympathy demonstrations of workers and peasants in many places, the dispersal of meetings on the Chinese situation, the arrest of Communist speakers, etc., and in connection with the discovery of intensive propaganda work among the soldiers and the police (many soldiers have now been discharged) and also in connection with the revolutionization of the intellectuals by the Javanese students in Holland, the reac-

tion is not only continuing but growing and increasing its persecutions.

During the period from May till August alone, not less than 200 comrades were arrested. Many hundreds of workers have been dismissed on account of their trade union membership, or for being members of the Communist Party or the Sarekat Rajat and all this had to be gone thru after the terror of February last when many comrades were killed and more than 100 wounded.

THE reaction is learning now that oppression alone is not enough and that other means are required: Its Sarekat Hidjo terroristic groups paid with the money of the reaction, costs a great deal in expenditure. It is furthermore very unpopular among certain of the Dutch rulers themselves, because the Sarekat Hidjo has its counterpart in the illegal Red terror groups (Anty Ribut Bund).

As soon as the Sarekat Hidjo members were not paid they openly declared that they had been misled by government officials, and now preferred to be members of the Anty Ribut Bund without payment. Thus the reaction made a lot of propaganda for the reformist leaders.

For example, a pseudo-trade union leader like Soerjo Pranoto declared last August (vide the Soerjo-history in connection with the pawn-shop union mentioned above) that "it is not good for the workers to go on strike . . . and the capitalists are not so bad after all," etc.

SUCH a statement is given wide publicity by the reaction. This makes

Soerjo feel that he is a man of very great importance and leads him to fight madly against the Communists. He will have to look out for the jealousy of such reformist "national" leaders as Tjokroaminoto and others. The reaction, however, appears to doubt the possible success of any such move because it knows that our working class is able to see thru such intrigues.

The reaction is therefore drawing up a "plan" to reorganize the state into a "democratic system" with a so-called "extended election law" and to increase the budget for the "economic welfare of the people" during 1926. But the people will recognize the humbug of such a concession and it will not be so easy to hoodwink them.

"CONTINUE your terror! You will thereby render our working class prouder of its revolutionary traditions and more class conscious." That is what we can say to the reaction. It is fully within our power to make the trade unions, by legal or illegal methods, more progressive, since the working conditions of the masses are so terrible.

The continual political terror wielded against our trade union movement thruout the whole of its history is our sure and certain guarantee that the next big mass strike will not be of a merely economic character, but will also be one for political demands, and we can rest assured that Comrade Zinoviev's prophesy: "Now, China, later Java . . ." will be fulfilled.

(The End.)