

The Rise of Reaction in Wuhan

By SZ-TOH-LI

(Continued From Last Issue)

WITH the closing of the trade unions, the labor pickets have been disarmed, arrested or driven away. And here enters another characteristic feature into the new reaction of Wuhan. The newspapers of Aug. 11, report that armed corps of "laborers" have been organized under the auspices of the Labor Department of the Kuomintang for the purpose of "protecting the workers against the plots of the revolutionary labor leaders"

JUDGING from the experience of the Chinese working class in Canton, Shanghai and elsewhere, there can be no doubt but that these "armed labor corps" are a new edition of Fascist bands organized for the purpose of disrupting the labor and peasant movements. On this score, as on most any score, the Wuhan Government may without hesitation shake hands with Chiang Kai-shek and Li Chi-hsin.

NOT only the trade unions, but the Kuomintang is also being "reorganized" from top to bottom, and the

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WORKER 33 First Street
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SZ-TOH-LI of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Central Bureau has furnished The DAILY WORKER with four articles describing the betrayal of the liberation movement by the Wuhan leaders and the horrible butcheries and suppression which followed their surrender to Chiang Kai-shek and the other militarists.

By documentary evidence the writer shows that the Wuhan "moderates" took the same attitude toward the labor movement and the peasant organizations as did imperialists and their militarist allies.

Written the first of August, the general predictions made by the writer have been confirmed fully by subsequent events.

henchmen of the militarists are put in control everywhere.

Today the Wuhan Government cannot claim the support of the workers and peasants or of their organizations. How could it, when the workers and peasants are oppressed and every movement suppressed, their leaders executed, and the organizations destroyed by irresponsible soldiery?

Today all the corrupt elements, all the feudal landlords, the gentry, and all the militarists on Nationalist territory are drunk with their temporary triumph.

Today the Northern militarists are strengthened and the imperialist powers encouraged to play their old game of oppressing the Chinese people unhindered by the vigorous and determined, revolutionary nationalist movement of a few months ago.

TODAY the Wuhan Government cannot claim the sympathy of the international working class, for the simple reason that by its rapacious acts directed against the labor movement, it has sunk to the level of Chiang Kai-shek, Li Chi-hsin and Wu Pei-fu.

Today the Wuhan Government no longer enjoys the solidarity and support of the First Workers' Republic of the U. S. S. R., because it would indeed be demanding or expecting the impossible to expect the revolutionary working class of Russia to lend its support to a government which crushes the labor movement and executes its labor leaders.

TODAY Wuhan is no longer the asylum it was for the persecuted revolutionaries of other oppressed countries. Revolutionary Hindus, Koreans and Javanese are as unsafe as they are in the domain of Chiang Kai-shek or Li Chi-hsin, who two months ago arrested two Javanese

delegates to the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Conference.

Today even the speeches of the same eloquent confusionist who but two months ago prattled about the Chinese Revolution being an integral part of the World Revolution, and the Nationalist Government never betraying the interests of the working class and peasantry . . . yes, even their speeches are not the same. . . . And their deeds are definitely counter-revolutionary.

How the Counter-Revolutionary Coup Started.

IT STARTED with the blood bath in Hunan, where the labor and peasant movements were very strong and highly developed. For fear of the agrarian revolution, the reactionary militarists in the province decided to crush the labor and peasant movements.

The trade unions and the peasants' unions were literally destroyed. Hundreds of workers and peasants were executed. This on the territory of the Nationalist Government, under the very nose of the Central Kuomintang.

There could be no mistake about it: the Nationalist Government was in the grip of the reactionaries. General Tang Shen-chi, the boss of Hunan Province, was the self-appointed "investigator," judge and executioner. What he dictated the CEC of the Kuomintang "approved."

THE atmosphere was systematically poisoned with cries, slogans, posters, articles, speeches and manifestos reeking with accusations of "infantile sickness of the labor and peasant movements," "immature action," "undesirable elements leading the workers and peasants," "nihilism and anarchy as opposed to Sun Yat-senism," etc., etc. "Public opinion" was

being prepared for the counter-revolutionary coup. The masses were to be deceived—and butchered.

ON June 30, the last and closing session of the Fourth Congress of the All-China Labor Federation took place. During the same night the All-China Labor Federation headquarters were raided by garrison troops and everything destroyed or stolen. Then the pickets were disarmed.

The Nationalist Government and the Kuomintang did nothing to restore order, except issue a few manifestoes with barren phrases about "protecting the workers and peasants." This was only a maneuver intended to deceive the masses.

IN the instruction issued by the CEC of the Kuomintang on July 7, we find such pearls as:

" . . . Because of the defective organization of the trade unions and peasants' unions, no capable leaders appear, and because of the lack of capable leaders, the existing organizations are bad"—(exact wording of General Tang Shen-chi's "recommendations" to the Government). . . The peasants and laborers are illiterate and therefore the unions are easily manipulated by a few persons. . . . Taking advantage of the situation, undesirable elements have gained access to the unions and have tried to carry out their selfish plans"(!). . .

THIS mind you, was only one week after the Fourth Trade Union Congress, at which the representatives of the Kuomintang and the Government spoke of the leading role of the trade unions in the revolutionary movement and of the asset of revolutionary trade union leaders.

Compare these sweet words with those in the manifesto of the Kuomintang (see People's Tribune of

Aug. 3) regarding its new labor policy:

" . . . The motive of the Central Kuomintang in correcting mistakes committed by peasants and laborers is to lead such movements into their proper channels and place suitable persons in lead of such movements in order to insure their rapid development. . . ."

HOW stupid and shortsighted to believe that a party like the Kuomintang which has in its ranks so many merchants, militarists, gentry and petty bourgeois elements, should force their "suitable persons" on the Chinese trade unions and peasants' organizations, to "lead them into proper channels". . . No! The workers and peasants will reject such encroachments in an unmistakable manner.

(To be continued.)

The Bazaar! Are You Preparing For It?

Boston Y. W. L. Meet.

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Wm. Herberg, national Agitprop of the Y. W. L. will speak on the league tasks before the convention. All must come. Bring your membership books.

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