

Tasks of Left Wing in Fight Against British Imperialism

No one acquainted with conditions in India can deny that the very air is electric with revolution against British imperialism. The following analysis correctly estimates the forces at work and outlines the tasks of the Left Wing trade unions of India, on which falls the principal burden of leadership in the struggle which will profoundly affect the whole world and certainly the workers of the Pacific area. It is therefore important that all adherents of the P. P. T. U. S. familiarize themselves with the following estimation by the Executive Bureau of the Red International of Labor Unions of the tasks of the Left Wing unions of India, which estimate will undoubtedly deeply influence future struggles.—Editor.



I. The present economic and political situation in India is characterized by an ever-sharpening development of the class struggle. The ruthless oppression by British imperialism, the intensified exploitation by British and Indian capital, the appalling working conditions and unemployment have brought about strong resistance on the part of the working class of India. A new period in the national revolutionary independence movement of India has begun. A period of broader, deeper and more determined than ever before working class struggles against British imperialist subjugation and capitalist exploitation. A period of anti-British imperial mass struggles in which the proletariat is the leading and deciding factor.

The present-day revolutionary struggles in India have found expression in the recent and last year strikes and mass demonstrations. The main characteristic features of these are as follows: (a) The strikes are taking place mostly in the textile mills, railway shops and the metal works. The miners and plantation workers have not been affected by the strike wave while the transport workers were partly involved. However, since last summer the present strike wave has

risen higher than all the preceding ones in India. It now begins to spread to inland cities and native states and to affect also the most remote and backward sections of the proletariat; (b) the strike committees are being elected by and from the rank and file or from the striking masses; (c) the strikes are greatly accelerating the differentiation in the labor movement as well as in the national independence movement; (d) the strikes give birth to revolutionary trade unions (Girni Kamgar Union, etc.), stimulating their steady growth as well as it inspired the rank and file with self-confidence and urged it on to independent working class action; (e) the strikes are of extremely long duration and are fought by the masses with steadfastness and great self-sacrifice. In these struggles the Bomby textile workers (Girni Kamgar Union) are the leading and most advanced section; (f) the strikes are being organized and led mostly by the Left Wing trade unions, and by the rank and file of the reformist trade unions apart from and against the will of the bureaucrats; there have been also spontaneous or unorganized strikes; (g) the strikes are frequently lost. First of all, due to armed suppression by the British authorities; secondly, due to sabotage and treachery of the reformists; thirdly, because the strikes are not co-ordinated and extended in scope but rather remain isolated and confined to local battles; (h) the strikes begin mostly as economic fights, primarily against rationalization enforcements, but, nevertheless, they often assume a political character; (i) last but not least, there have been also clear-cut political mass actions of great importance. Particularly the recent protest strike against the arrests of the Left Wing trade union leaders and the mass demonstrations in Bombay and Calcutta marching under the banner "Long Live the Soviet Republic of India." These are all sharp expressions of mass activity, rapidly growing strength, political maturity and revolutionary outlook of the Indian proletariat.