BACKWARD industrial circles which are jealous of the Catalan industry. Under the pretext of securing Catalan autonomy, which in reality is not in the least dangerous, it has destroyed Catalan industry, and thus to such an extent that the employers of Barcelona, who, as a matter of fact, are a ring of murderers and reactionaries, the like of which it is impossible to find in Europe, have gone so far as to speak softly, but audibly, of a "Federative Republic."

The difficulty of the question of power, which is now raised by the defeat in Morocco, lies in the solidarity of the dynasty with the staff of the generals, and still more in the weakness of the Spanish bourgeoisie. This bourgeoisie has not succeeded in obtaining political maturity within the frame of the old monarchy. Therefore, neither the bourgeois nor the military dictatorship can continue, but nevertheless they still exist because they have no successor.

In this drama the proletariat plays the role of the great absentee. It is only present in the prisons and at the places of execution. Whether one reads the anarchist organs, which declare about "freedom" and "human love" and contain anti-tsarist articles, or whether one reads the social-reformist newspapers, which support the blood-thirsty military despot, according to the approved method of Nooks—only one obtains the same depressing picture. The revolutionary elements of the Spanish proletariat are struggling in a desperate manner. Only recently a number of anarchists have succumbed to death as a result of falling into a trap arranged by police provocators, boldly and proudly mounted the scaffold. To-morrow, this proletariat will serve the "advanced" bourgeoisie as cannon-fodder in the struggle for their own ends, and will then be again shot down as was the case in Portugal.

Thus the proletariat of Spain is passing through a terrible school. Within the last five years a young labour movement has arisen, only to be crushed in its infancy. It has not yet originated a leadership, but that, which, owing to the ripeness of its proletarian consciousness and the successes it has obtained, is of undoubted importance. These are the Spanish Communists, whose organs I "Avance" and "Socialismo." Of the organizations which have true fighting organs, and which before all number the elite of the socialist youths in their ranks. These revolutionaries will derive a great lesson in the interest of the "great absent," the Spanish proletariat, from the present and immediately approaching event. The Communist Party of Spain is destined to be the leader of the Spanish proletariat in the coming struggle.

POLITICS

British Imperialism and the National Emancipation Struggle in Egypt.

By A. R. (Cairo)

The situation created by the recent events is by no means a temporary character, but signifies a new stage in the development of the nationalist movement.

Let us consider the events in their chronological order. Soon after the opening of Parliament, Zaghlul Pasha resigned account of his differences with King Fuad of Egypt. This, of course, was only a pretext. The real reason for his resignation was the constantly growing power of the opposition and its attacks, which proved the inadequacy of Zaghlul Pasha to fulfill the tasks which he—true, against his will—enjoyed upon himself, i.e., the solution of the Sudan question.

There is not the least doubt that Zaghlul Pasha never seriously meant that the Sudan should be completely handed over to the English, but he nevertheless expected certain concessions in this direction and—was completely disappointed. The King's speech at the reopening of Parliament, as well as the speeches of Zaghlul Pasha on the official banquet, rendered it quite clear that either something extraordinary must happen—or the whole policy of the Walf (the leading party of the Egyptian nationalist movement), with all its achievements, would be destroyed. The new policy of Zaghlul Pasha was a sly and cunning calculation upon the feelings of the people, which did not fail to rip the scales in favour of the government party. The effects were really great. The resignation waswelcomed by Parliament (90 per cent. of which consisted of supporters of Zaghlul), by the people, and, in consequence thereof, by the terrified king. It is clear that the whole thing was a piece of cheap demagogy.

That was the situation before the royal and complete unexecuted events. Zaghlul and his Party were more convinced than ever that nothing would prevent them from retaining power firmly in their hands. But here there intervened one of the greatest blunders, which upset the whole game. It can be said that the British government in its relations with Egypt, to the extent of the conditions. "modus vivendi," as it was indirectly proposed to England, furnishes the best proof for the truth of this statement. It was a clear indication for the Egyptians that Zaghlul is perfectly determined to retain his role. Then came the heavy blow. It was delivered at the right time and in the right place, and resulted in the complete crushing of the unfortunate recipient.

The murder of General Lebrun, the Egyptian commandant of the Egyptian army, was a splendid opportunity for some of the people. Of course, no one can prove that this murder had been prepared long before hand. But when one compares the aims with the demands which England submitted immediately after the death of the general, the thing looks very suspicious. The demand for 300,000 feddans of land in Gauza, and more, in the demand for the handing over of further land in the future to the English in the desert to the special commission, equally interesting is the fact that Egypt is to abandon all resistance against the demand of England to control all foreign interests in this country, not to speak of the evacuation of the Sudan by the Egyptian military force. The murder of General Lebrun and the intervention of General Lebrun's brother turned out to be a case of provocation on the part of English imperialism, not only a logical conclusion from the whole situation, but the most remarkable fact as that, never in the history of the evacuation, has Egypt been in a more suitable, more favourable conditions, to venture to demand what she is now demanding. This is due to the following facts:

First, the constant decline of the leading Party of the Egyptian nationalism movement (Walf). The Walf, as an organization which is more and more inclined to represent the interests of the middle class bourgeoisie, had not the power which it was supposed to possess. It is a fact that this Party, during the past two years, has been to a large extent, never succeeded in drawing into the struggle the most important factors in the country, the peasantry, as it had nothing to give them, in spite of all the talk of being the Party of the people.

Secondly, the extraordinary favourable situation which assured England that no other power would interfere in the Egyptian affairs. The present troubles of France in Morocco make the best guarantee for England that she has nothing to fear from that direction.

The comical gesture with which the Egyptian parliament protected against the "unlawful" action of England to the League of Nations, England's vassal, was of course taken in a symbolic way by British imperialism.

Are Zaghlul and his Party already played out? On the contrary. There are a number of other questions of secondary importance upon which the Walf will build up a new programme of action, which will serve to create considerable popularity for the Party. Among these questions are the following:

1) The question of the customs duties, in other words, the fight against the practical control by England over Egyptian imports.
2) Fight against the high taxation of the young cotton industry.
3) Limitation of privileges for foreign undertakings etc.

In order not to lose the confidence of the broad masses, the Party must immediately begin to make use of some of its old slogans, but nevertheless cautiously, as Zaghlul says "moderation and constitude legally." If Zaghlul is still the leader of the Party, what further development can be foreseen? Of course, a general depression prevails, and even the extreme element among the nationalists are terrorised by the outburst of English imperialism. Nevertheless it would be a great mistake to assume that the Egyptian nationalism movement is completely discredited. On the contrary, it will be far more strongly consolidated, so that a new commanding struggle, which is unavoidable, will be conducted under new conditions. This new struggle will be the Egyptian peasants, which has to fight for bare existence. If there is anybody who doubts this study the statistics regarding agriculture and the irriga
backward industrial circles which are jealous of the Caledonian union. However, under the pretext of gaining Caledonian sympathy, which in reality is not in the least dangerous, it has destroyed Caledonian union; and this to such an extent that the employers of Barcelona, who, as a matter of fact, are a gang of murderers and rapineers, the like of which it is impossible to find in Europe, have gone so far as to speak softly, but audibly, of a "Federal Republic."

The difficulty of the question of power, which is now raised by the employers of labor, is the weakness of the Caledonian union. The bourgeoisie has not succeeded in obtaining political maturity within the frame of the old bourgeois state, and the bourgeoisie, being the minority, the military dictatorship can continue, but nevertheless they still exist because they have no successor.

In the drama the proletariat plays the role of the great abject overthrow. Whether one reads the anarchist organs, which declare that "freedom" and "human love" and contain anti-bolshevist articles, or whether one reads the socialist newspapers which support the blood-thirsty military dictators according to the approved method of Nadee—one obtains the same depressing picture. The revolutionary elements of the Spanish proletariat are struggling in a desperate manner. Only recently, the movement for the abolition of death by a result of falling into a trap arranged by police provocators, boldly and proudly mounted the scaffold. Tomorrow, this proletariat will serve the "advanced" bourgeoisie as cannon fodder in the struggle for their interests, and will then be again shot down as was the case in Portugal.

Thus the proletariat of Spain is passing through a terrible school. Within the last five years a young labor movement has arisen in Spain which, numerically, does not yet play a great role, but which, owing to the repression of its proletariat consciousness and the successes it has obtained, is of undoubted importance. These are the Spanish Communists, whose organs are "L'Alferez," in Madrid, and "La Bordelera," in Barcelona, genuine fighting organs, which before all the others espouse the cause of the socialist youth in its ranks. These revolutionaries will derive a great lesson in the interest of the "great absent," the Spanish proletariat, from the present and immediately approaching events. The Communist Party has already placed itself at the leader of the Spanish proletariat in the coming struggle.

POLITICS

British Imperialism and the National Emancipation Struggle in Egypt.

By A. R., (Cairo)

The situation created by the recent events is by no means a temporary character, but signifies a new stage in the development of the nationalist movement.

Let us consider the events in their chronological order. Soon after the reopening of Parliament, Zaghlul Pasha resigned on account of his differences with King Fuad of Egypt. This, of course, was only a pretext. The real reason for his resignation was the constantly growing power of the opposition and its attacks, which proved the incapacity of Zaghlul Pasha to fulfil the tasks which he—i.e., against his will—was put upon himself, i.e., the solution of the Sudan question.

There is not the least doubt that Zaghlul Pasha never seriously meant that the Sudan should be completely liberated from the clutches of the English, but he nevertheless expected certain concessions in this direction and—was completely disappointed. The King's Speech at the reopening of Parliament, as well as the speech of Zaghlul Pasha at the official banquet rendered it clear that either something extraordinary must happen—or the whole policy of the Wald (the leading party of the Egyptian nationalist movement), with all its achievements, went to the wind. This something "extraordinary" was a sly and cunning calculation upon the feelings of the people, which did not fail to dip the scales in favour of the government party. The effect was really great. The resignation was refused, but it was recognized that one of the main pillars of support of Zaghlul) by the people and, in consequence thereof, by the tyrannical king. It is clear that, the whole thing was a piece of cheap demagogy.

The situation before the recent and completely unexpected events, Zaghlul and his Party were more than convinced that nothing would prevent them from retaining power firmly in their hands. But here there intervened one of the forgotten parties, who up till the present day have been considered as the "neutral party," after the victory over the oppressor. There was a very moderate character. It is a fact that he sought an alliance with a very close understanding with the English government. In order to re-establish the former "impossible" conditions. The "modus vivendi," which was indirectly proposed to England, furnishes the best proof for the truth of this statement. It was a clear indication for the fact that Zaghlul Pasha is prepared to retire at any time and to drop the heaviest blow. It was delivered at the right time and at the right place and resulted in the complete crushing of the unfortunate recipient.

The murder of General Legge Black, the English commander of the Egyptian army, was a splendid opportunity for some people. Of course, no one can prove that this murder had been prepared long before. But when one compares the events with the demands which England submitted immediately after the death of the general, the thing looks very suspicious. The demand for 300,000 feddans of land in Gessy, and moreover the demand for the handing over of further land in the future proved to us complete special attention. Equality interesting in the fact that Egypt is to abandon all resistance against the demand of England to control all foreign interests in this country, not to speak of the evacuation of the Sudan by the Egyptian military forces. Thus the situation is such that you have a case of provocation on the part of the Egyptian imperialism, not only a logical conclusion from the whole situation.

The most remarkable fact is, that never in the history of the occupation of Egypt, when the British found the most favourable conditions, ventured to demand what they are now demanding. This is due to the following two facts:

First, the constant decline of the leading Party of the Egyptian nationalist movement (Wald). The Wald, as an organ which is more and more inclined to represent the interests of the middle class bourgeoisie, had not the power which it was supposed to possess. It is a fact that this Party, during the last period of its apparent greatness, was not able to enter into the struggle the most important factor in the country, the peasantry, as it had nothing to give them. In spite of all talk of being the Party of the people, it was, in reality, the extraordinary situation which showed England that no other power would interfere in Egyptian affairs. The present troubles of France in Morocco are the best guarantee for England that she has nothing to fear from this quarter.

The comical gesture with which the Egyptian parliament protesting against the "unlawful" action of England to League of Nations, England's vassal, was of course taken with a staid calm by British imperialism.

Are Zaghlul and his Party already played out? By no means. There are a number of secondary importance upon which the Wald will build up a new programme action, which will serve to create considerable popularity for Wald. Among these questions are the following:

1) The question of the customs duties, in other words fight against the practical control by England over exports and imports.

2) Fight against the high taxation of the young industry.

3) Limitation of privileges for foreign undertakings etc.

In order not to lose the confidence of the broad masses, they must make use of some of its old slogans, but nevertheless cautiously, as Zaghlul says "moderation and constitutional legality."

What further development can be foreseen? Of course, a general depression prevails, and even the extreme elements among the nationalists are terrestrially by the undisguised brutality of English imperialism. Nevertheless it would be a great mistake to believe that England has an end in its war for the Sudan, and that the English authorities will be able to "reconquer" their former losses.

either the financial or the moral ruin of the country. It is to be hoped that this will be the Egyptian peasantry, which has to fight for bare subsistence. If there is anybody who doubts this they study the statistics regarding agricultural and the irrigation
The Situation in Czechoslovakia and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

By A. Neurath (Prague)

The Czechoslovakian bourgeoisie and the coalition government are making all preparations in order to cope with the economic and political crisis with which they have to reckon. The defect of the Social Democrats' programme of opposition against the state officials and employees and against the whole working population. In the near future about 120,000 civil servants are to be discharged, 40,000 to 50,000 of them can reckon upon being thrown on the streets within the next administrative year. This action enables the Czechoslovakian bourgeoisie to increase the national hatred among the working class. The bourgeois papers have no difficulty in misrepresenting thousands of government officials as if it were for the benefit of the higher interests, the bourgeoisie of the ruling nation and is chiefly directed against the national minorities. For this purpose the coalition government frequently uses the so-called language examination committees, which have no difficulty in disqualifying thousands of employees on the ground of their insufficient knowledge of the official state language. In this way the government, so to speak, burns three birds with one stone. First it plays off those officials against the higher authorities of the government as if they have been deprived of their bread. The government, as it has already announced, will make one or another material concession to the officials who have been retained. It will thereby, in the second place, create a double staff of officials, who will allow themselves to be used even better than hitherto against the whole working class of Czechoslovakia. And in the third place, this measure, as already said, lead to further national hatred among the working class.

The coalition government, to which of course the honourable social democrats belong, is directing a concerted attack against the unemployed.

Unemployment has decreased during the last year. But there is still no indication of a real recovery. According to official estimates, 300,000 unemployed, which is not a small matter when regard is had to the number of the total population of Czechoslovakia, have been discharged. What is more important is that during the last weeks the number of unemployed has tended to increase again. This time the economic circles, and in the first place the government, are faced upon a considerable increase in unemployment in the Czechoslovak state. The financial policy of the coalition government constitutes a serious challenge to the Czechoslovak working class. Let us take the first place the figures of the budget relating to unemployed maintenance. In 1922 the budget provided 400 million crowns for the purpose of unemployed maintenance. In the financial year 1923, only 100 million was devoted to the same purpose. In the budget for the financial year 1924, only 40 million was allotted for the maintenance of the unemployed. The social stupidity of all the social-patriotic measures of the government is most clearly expressed when we consider separately the items devoted to the Bohemian and Carpathian Ruthenian unemployment. In the case of the Bohemian, an item of 100 million crowns for unemployed maintenance for the Bohemian countries with a total population of 2,000,000 Crowns were allotted to Podkarpacka Rus. These 100 million crowns exceeded by 80 millions. In the budget for the year 1923, there is provided for unemployed maintenance for the Bohemian countries, with Slovakia, 49 million crowns, and for Carpathian Russia, 900,000 Crowns. The unemployed are not only to be handed over to the greatest misery, in Carpathian Russia they are to be subjected to special ill-treatment because they have dared to follow the Communist Party. There are other items in the Czechoslovak state budget which are not without interest. This little state expends 142 million on the police for the gendarmerie, 249 millions on military purposes, and the round sum of 700 million, which sums amount altogether to no less than 2,000 million. The number of police in the whole of Czechoslovakia is 1,085,000. This represents a total of 41 million. As is to be seen, the enormous apparatus which is directed against the whole working class of the enemy at home is in inverse proportion to the size and to the social importance of the proletariat.

It is not merely a question of the interests of Czechoslovakia, but of the higher commands of French imperialism. Of course, unarmed, it is impossible for this state to conduct any war in the European war concert, it can only dance according to the tune of the French imperialists. And for this reason the Czechoslovakiean coalition government has, at the cost of the broad masses, to continue its insane policy of armaments.

The Czechoslovak bourgeoisie which in this question is entirely on one side with the bourgeoise and imperialism of this state is organizing a comprehensive economic struggle against the whole working class. As always, the first attack is directed against the workers in the most decisive industry, against the mining proletariat, and is directed against the economic conditions of the Czechoslovakia and the situation of the proletariat, a criterion is furnished by the investigation of the conditions of the mining workers. The successful offensive of capital from 1921 to 1924 has led to the following results. The average output of the coal mine has increased from 142 quintal in 1921, to 134 quintal in 1924 that is by 22%. The wages of the coal miner has gone up on the other hand, from 20 crowns in 1921, to 15 crowns in 1924. The average wage of the miner has therefore fallen from 8.3 crowns in 1921 to 9.1 crowns in 1924. This is an average figure, but particularly during the last year, there has been an increase in the price of all fuel stuffs and articles of necessity. As an example there has been an increase in the index figure for such articles as fuel petroleum, soap etc. of 19 points, that is by 2%. These figures yield the following result. The output of the miner has increased by at least 22%, while his wages have been reduced by 40.6% and the prices and articles of necessity has risen from 5-10% and more.

The situation of the proletariat in the other groups of industry corresponds to the situation of the mining proletariat. First of all, the scale of living of the rest of the working class has become even worse than that of the miners. About 1921 the Czechoslovakian bourgeoisie has begun conducting a policy of economically subduing the broad masses of the working class. And now, according to the plans of the Czechoslovak bourgeoisie and of the coalition government, things are to be rendered even worse.

The mining barons, who are wholeheartedly supported by the social democrats, are working according to the following plan. First, the mining proletariat is to be forced into a struggle and beaten, then will come the turn of the other mining districts, and finally of the other groups of industry. It is certain that the bourgeoisie, and before all those rightists, socialists, and national democrats of the Communist Party immediately after the Party Conference and the lively discussion. But they have been profoundly mistaken. The call was opened by the central organ of the Czechoslovak