and by the relation of strength and activity of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. The imperialists are preparing the war quite openly. The question of the decisive, main question, is whether it will be possible to get millions of men to go to war, for an imperialist war carried on according to "all the rules of the art" can only be a war of the masses. In other words, the most important question is whether a new August 4th, whether a repetition of the year 1914 in the direction of a successful mobilisation of "moral factors" by the social traitors will be achieved, whether the masses will again become the victims of the mania.

This is a question of power, a question of concrete historic fight. On the one hand the whole armoured might of Imperialism, its complete apparatus of lies, hypocrisy, suggestion and compulsion, will be thrown into the scale of war and peace. In the same way, International Social Democracy will work in the same direction for winning the "power of the comes aband", it will in a huge measure be the work of Lenin. Social Democracy. It is even possible that a portion of the Communist Press will display "shameless conduct", for which Lenin has already prepared the Bolsheviks."

We should not be Marxists, if we did not consider in a sober fashion our chances, i.e., the possibilities of preventing a big war or of transforming it into a civil war.

The whole of humanity, and especially the working class, still remembers the year 1914, still thinks of relatives and friends who were dragged into the Imperialist slaughter; tens of thousands of cripples and invalids are still living.

2. To deceive the masses a second time with the "human" purposes of the war will be more difficult than it was the first time, even the virtuosi of Social-Democratic lies will not succeed in this case. It is not out of the question that, if a portion of the Communist Press collapses, considerable strata of Social-Democratic and even independent workers will refrain from following Social-Democracy.

3. In place of Tsarist Russia with its "outspoken reaction" (Lenin) we have the proletarian Soviet Union, which pursues a distinct policy of peace, which in face of the blood-thirsty policy of the imperialists is the only safe refuge of international peace.

4. There is now a powerful Communist International, which did not exist in 1914.

5. The East of 1927 is not the same as that of the year 1914. At that time the Orient still slumbered. To-day even the backward bourgeoise papers speak of the "awakening" of China.

6. If the world conflagration breaks out and its front is the frontiers of the proletariat and of the Capitalist States, there will be good chances in favour of the proletarian States in the fight against the Imperialists, even if the latter are superior in war techniques. The incitement to civil war in our country, the experience of the famous Churchill "attack of the 13 States", has shown the Imperialists how difficult it is to make war upon a country, in which there is no ruling class of landowners and capitalists. The "strength of the masses" is a prime factor in the fight of the army of the proletariat. And even if the mechanism of the Imperialistic war on two fronts converted the imperialist war into a civil war (rise of the struggle of the exploited against the exploiters), the fact of an imperialist war on a single front, i.e., the fight of class against class within an international war — will transform such a war the more quickly into a civil war, behind the front, in the armies of Reaction. In the coming big war of the "white" and "red" roses, Imperialism is in danger of finding its grave.

1) Ultra-Left and ultra-Right deserters from the proletariat camp, heroes of loud phrases and of opportunistic tendencies after the style of Frau Ruth Fischer or Com. who provide Chamberlain with material for war propaganda against the Soviet Union, will always be available.

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**POLITICS**

**British Provocation in Egypt.**

By J. B. (Jerusalem).

The fact that both the Egyptian Government and the Parliament have over and over again understood how to adapt themselves to the position of constraint created by the British rule of force in Egypt did not satisfy British imperialism. The Zaghloul majority in the Egyptian Parliament had done everything to avoid a conflict with Great Britain; it renounced discussing points which were in dispute, it removed the question of the Soudan from its agenda and did not discuss the British question on which it is a heavy burden for Egypt. The experiment was to be made of building a bridge, temporarily dependent within the scope laid down by the well-known British declaration of February 2nd 1922.

Events proved however that even this seemed too great a danger to British imperialism; for every step towards realising independence — towards removing foreign officials, towards independent action in the sphere of home policy and economic policy, — meant that the national movement was strengthened. It turned out that Egypt could everywhere govern itself independently and that the restrictions imposed upon the country were a mere means of keeping up the Imperialist support. The way was justified. In addition to this, the Parliament gave the Left wing of the Zaghloul party every opportunity of developing its radical programme; on every occasion, the National Revolutionary deputies made the fact clear to the people that true, complete independence had yet to be won. The attempts to come to an agreement with Great Britain by bringing the forces of the Liberal Constitutional Party and making appointments which best met the wishes of the British (such as the recent change of Government which replaced Adly Yeghe Vasha by Abdel Khalek Saraf Pasha) also failed.

The British then began taking action which aimed directly at destroying even the shadow of independence — especially of the Parliamentary regime — which Egypt still possessed. The British High Commissioner snubbed the Egyptian Government, made pleasure trips during which he spoke as though he — the British High Commissioner — were master in Egypt and not the Constitutional Government, handed in notes which interfered in an extremely humiliating way with the internal affairs of Egyptian justice (it was insinuated that the Egyptian Courts had dealt very leniently with persons who had violated Englishwomen), protested against the right of the Egyptian Government to dismiss persons appointed for British officials, which was guaranteed to it by treaty, brushed aside the illusion that Great Britain was prepared to agree to the abolition of the capitulations — briefly, he made it distinctly felt that the Egyptian Parliament and the Government could not but react to the repeated inferences in its sphere of action which belonged to the British privileges and which the British wished to become accomplices in the British deeds of violence.

Every protest of the Egyptian Parliament, every attempt at resistance on the part of the Egyptian Government was however a signal for a furious attack on the "Egyptian bands of demagogues" by the whole British Press which appears in Egypt, as well as by the London newspapers which are inspired by the British Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Headed by the "Times" and the "Daily Telegraph", the "patient endurance" of the British authorities in Egypt was stormed at week for week. any word of protest in Parliament was inflamed into a dangerous conspiracy, the shadow of a Zaghloul Ministry which would threaten the British power over the Suez Canal, was painted on the wall. The demands were: the dissolution of the Parliament, the appointment of an anti-Zaghloul Government and the abolition of all the reforms planned or carried through by the constitutional government.

One of the most important reforms which the Egyptian Government had been preparing for a long time and which, in the eyes of the majority of the Zaghloulists, justified their agreeing to the Coalition Ministry and tolerating the incessant challenges of the British, was the reform of the Suez Canal, a question of making the small, badly-equipped army, which was all the Egyptians had to oppose to the mighty British army and navy of occupation, at least actually Egyptian, that is free from British influence. With this object in view, it was pro-
posed to remove British officers from the highest commands in the army.

Although this reform was perfectly admissible according to the treaties between Great Britain and Egypt (Great Britain had only ensured for herself the right to maintain her army of occupation in Egypt, but had renounced the right to interfere in the internal affairs of the Egyptian army), Lord Lloyd, following the aggressive line taken by British imperialism in recent times, immediately raised a protest against the Government's resolution which was supported by Parliament. The change of Government postponed the resolution being put into effect, but then the Egyptian Government declared itself in favour of its remaining in force.

They provided sufficient material for measures of force being taken. On May 30th, Lord Lloyd presented a note in which he warmly recommended that the proposals made by Great Britain should be accepted and that all should remain in status quo in the army. At the same time, three British dreadnoughts appeared in the harbours of Alexandria and Port Said in order to make it as easy as possible for the Egyptian Government to alter its resolutions.

The indignation in Egypt at this new provocation is immense. After the repeated measures of force used by Great Britain against Egypt in the course of the sanguinary events of 1919, the deportation of Zaghul Pasha in 1913, the throwing out of the National Government in 1924, the refusal to permit the formation of a Zaghulist Government in 1920 — the present expedition against the peaceful Egyptian people can in no way be justified even from the standpoint of imperialist inter-state relations. It only proves once again how little value is to be attached to chartered promises unless they are backed by the power to put them into effect, and that, in the last instance, it will always be the privilege of the best naval guns to interpret treaties concluded between oppressed peoples and their imperialist "friends".

The Yugoslav - Albanian Conflict.

By P. L.

The fight of the Yugoslav Government for supremacy in the Balkans against the progress of Italian imperialism has become more acute. Up to the present, the protecting hand of British imperialism, which shielded Italian imperialism in the Balkans, has caused Yugoslavia to surrender Albania. Italy used the favourable opportunity actually to colonise Albania, completely to penetrate it economically and to the most important strategic and military positions. The whole of Albania's machinery of Government, the State Bank, customs and the State monopolies, post, telegraph, transport, as well as air traffic — everything is ruled and exploited by the Italian imperialists. In the Albanian army Italian instructors play an important role. The situation in Albania actually plays the part of Mussolini's Governor.

The Government of Achmed Zogu, Albanian dictator by the grace of Mussolini, recently ordered the arrest of a translator of the Yugoslav Legation in Albania. The Belgrade Government demanded his immediate release on the score of diplomatic immunity. The Government of Achmed Zogu, on the advice of the Italian Minister, refused, stating that the prisoner, who is said to have acted as spy for Yugoslavia, had no claim to immunity. Thereupon, the Yugoslav Government recalled from Durazzo its diplomatic representatives in Albania. At the same time, the Yugoslav representative at Belgrade was handed his passport. Diplomatic relations between Yugoslavia and Albania were thus broken off.

The acute conflict between Yugoslavia and Albania is the aggravated conflict between Yugoslavia and Italy. While the Fascist Press in Italy expresses itself in sharp tones and makes no secret of its sympathy for British imperialism in its dominion in Albania, the Yugoslav Government is trying to mobilise French and British Imperialism, as well as the League of Nations, which is to meet within the next few days, to effect the annulment of the treaty of Tirana, in which Albania delivers itself lock, stock and barrel to Mussolini as far as foreign policies and military matters are concerned. The Italian Government, hungry for prey, wishes to secure its hegemony in the Balkan Peninsula; the Yugoslav Government, on the other hand, will not surrender the territory it has stolen and prefers to meet Italy's dangerous competition.

The intensified fight between Yugoslav and Italian imperialism cloaks lurking dangers of war. Even though in the prevention of the spread of British imperialism we work for the smoothing over of the Yugoslav-Albanian conflict for the present, because for the moment a new Balkan war would not fit in with its military enterprise against China and against the Soviet Union, it must be clear as day to everybody what a hotbed of war is the Balkan Peninsula under the dominion of Italian imperialism. The Federation of Socialist Balkan Republics could and would be in a position to drive out the imperialist interlopers and, by liberating all oppressed nationalities, to establish good neighbourliness among all the Balkan States.

The Resistance of the French Working Class to Reaction.

By Michel Hollay.

The political life of France is at present characterised by the determined resistance of the working population to the campaign of persecution, which has been introduced by the Government of the National Block against Communism and the revolutionary trade unions, and it is at the same time characterised by the fight of the working class against the anti-Soviet agitation. The reactionary offensive, begun by Sarraut, Minister of the Interior, has not yet, however, been broken. The bourgeoisie Press is urging on the Government more wildly than ever to extirpate the Communist "traitors, barbarians and spies". When, on May 27th Minister of the Interior Sarraut disported himself as hero of the fight against the Communists, the members of the National Block turned their thumbs down and roared: "Action, action!" Not enough that the espionage-affair, fabricated by police-spies, had collapsed ridiculously, the reactionary pack demanded a French repetition of the Joyson-Hicks-Comedy and, in conjunction therewith, the breaking off of diplomatic and commercial relations with the Soviet Union.

Hundreds of our French worker comrades are already in prison, our section of the French Communist Party and our proceedings are continually being started. The bourgeoisie is desirous of rendering all the Communist ringleaders hors de combat. For this purpose Minister of Justice, Barthou, has submitted a draft of a new disgraceful law, according to which all political offenders shall be kept in prison immediately after the first judgement, if the sentence is one of six months or more, without awaiting the judgement of the Court of Appeal. This Bill is evidently intended to fulfil the demand of the reactionary Press for imprisonment of all revolutionary leaders. For, if this plan is realised, all party and trade-union leaders, who have been condemned to years of imprisonment by the Lower Court, may then be under the law a key.

Another instrument of oppression used by French class justice is "physical compulsion", the changing of an unfit fine for a political offence into a term of imprisonment. Only a few days ago the imprisonment of several comrades, who had been in prison since the middle of 1925 on account of propaganda, in Algeria against the Moroccan war, was prolonged by a number of months on the ground that they were not in a position to pay their fines. In this way, comrades Lozeroy and Arrighi were each condemned to a further eighteen months, Aucouturier to twelve months more, and Casara to six months.

The workers are already beginning to give sharp expression to their resentment against all these and other reactionary measures designed to rob the Labour Movement of its leaders and to gag it. The shouts of triumph from the parties and the Government of the "National Union" are already beginning to drown out the angry voices of M. Masson of the Ligue Nationale, who received the moral reproach from his ministerial colleague Briand, Minister of Justice Barthou suffered a knock from the Parliamentary Commission which was instructed to despoil the Communist deputies Doriot, Vaillant-Couturier, Clamadus and Duclos of their right of immunity, but which it refused to do for fear of the electorate.

A still more vigorous thrust was administered by the working masses themselves. On May 29th, the yearly commemoration day of the fighters of the Commune, more than 100,000 workers demonstrated at the Wall of the Federates