of the worker’s newspaper Niemenen, to initiate the Lapua people in the methods of fascist terror. The communist lawyer, Salo, was dragged from the court room and placed in a motor car, in which he was conveyed from place to place for several days. He was then sent by rail to Helsinki, and from there he was sent by train over the frontier. Many others have disappeared, that is to say, murdered in all probability. The assertion of the Finnish bourgeoisie press that these acts are attributable to an elementary “patriotic” indignation of the peasantry, is proved to be a palpable lie by the fact that throughout bands everywhere have motor cars at their disposal. They are the heads of the village bourgeoisie, landowners, big peasants, officials, parsons, merchants etc., who have been mobilised by the leaders of the Coalition Party.

The fascist “Peasant” delegations which in June came to Helsingfors from Lapua and other places, consisted likewise of heads of the bourgeoisie and a whole number of well-known big capitalists, belonging partly to the Coalition Party and partly to the Land Union; and the whole of their demands, which relate to the removal of the communists from the whole public life of Finland, were the same as those with which the Coalition Party had already submitted to Parliament five months previously. In various localities the formation of sections of a country-wide fascist organisation bearing the name, “The Lock of Finland”, has been commenced by emissaries from Helsingfors.

The task of setting going the so-called “elementary ferment of the peasantry” was, it is true, at first no easy one for the coalitionist leaders. Not that there existed no susceptibility in the ranks of the village bourgeoisie, no inclination to acts of banditry. No, susceptibility was there as well as sufficient candidates for the blackest bands. But it was the necessary courage and ruthlessness. The instigators had considerable difficulty in overcoming the qualms felt by the bandits in regard to open acts of lawlessness. The first bands from Lapua, headed by the band director Nicula, made their preparations and carried out their work (wrecking the workers’ printing works in Vasa) with the greatest secrecy and then disappeared under cover of the night without leaving any traces. It was impossible to induce these heroes to come forward openly and acknowledge their work and receive their laurels. Thereupon the first instalments of their instigators were able to achieve was that a fascist meeting in Lapua decided to send a telegram to the government stating: “The act was organised by our detachment.” The chairman of the meeting, Viktor Kosolo, put his signature to theventurous telegram, and thus the country obtained a hero.

In the end the bandits were inspired with fascist courage and bestiality by means of alcohol. It should be remarked, by the way, that the coalition party is conducting energetic propaganda for the withdrawal of the prohibition of alcohol.

It was also not so easy to bring the Lapua bandits, who are not schooled in high politics, to the idea of a “march on Helsingfors”. To beat up a few Communists and to destroy the printing works of the labour newspaper—that was quite within their “patriotic” capacity. The idea of a demonstration against Parliament, however, was found by them, not only as very risky but also absolutely senseless.

They were, however, taught better. The gentlemen in Helsingfors who dominated the majority of Parliament wanted to see a fascist mass demonstration in front of Parliament. They themselves invited the bands of Osterboiten to Helsingfors. Svinumuid came to Lapua and assured his hearers that a journey of the fascist bands to Helsingfors was an equally “patriotic” idea as the ill-treatment of the Communists in Vasa. The President of the Peasants’ Party said the same thing. And even the President of Parliament, Paavo Wirkkunen, Doctor of Divinity, came and said: “Please, you must come without fail. Your demonstration against our Parliament is on the agenda for 7th of July. Please don’t be late.”

One had to believe that Helsingfors required a march of the fascists from the country. One could very easily believe that.

(To be continued.)

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AGAINST COLONIAL OPPRESSION

The Revolt in Egypt and the Treachery of the Wafd.

By J. B. (Jerusalem).

Law and order has again “triumphed” in Egypt. A powerful wave of popular revolt has been beaten back by the intervention of military forces. Many hundreds of killed and wounded form the bloody balance of the July fights which took place in Bilbeis, Khartoum, Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said, and Suez. The revolt of the Egyptian people has not, for the time being, achieved any of its aims; British imperialism, with its creatures Fuad and Sidky Pasha, has maintained its positions for the present. Nevertheless, the July revolt of Egypt represents an important episode in the fight for emancipation of the Egyptian masses, an important link in the chain of colonial revolutions which characterise the years 1929/30, an unmistakable prelude to new fights for emancipation.

The Egyptian revolt has shown that British rule on the Nile and on the Suez Canal is anything but firm; it has resulted in a further shaking of the British Empire, already undermined by the Indian revolution, the disturbances in the colonies and mandatory territories and the economic crisis at home. The fact that during the fights in Alexandria and Cairo only Egyptian troops were employed against the excited masses, that the British soldiers and the hastily dispatched warships of MacDonald were too late to intervene, does not alter the fact that in reality it was only the British occupation which decided the issue for Sidky and Fuad and against the masses. The first retreat of the Egyptian troops would have been pleasant for Henderson — who talked so much about British “neutrality” and non-intervention in the inner affairs of Egypt — was obliged to confess, to the immediate intervention of the British army. Its presence and readiness, quite apart from the fact that the Egyptian army is under British control, decided the fate of the revolt. This was understood before all by the Egyptian masses; for the cry: “Falahze atiklat mass” (Long live Egyptian independence!), which was the ever recurring central slogan, showed that they instinctively knew and recognised the real enemy behind the figure heads of Fuad and Sidky, and that their anger was directed before all against British imperialism.

What, now, was the role of the Wafd? It made use of the indignation of the masses by placing itself at the head of the movement which it has been able to dominate spontaneously everywhere. After the resignation of Nahas Pasha and his conflict with the king had become in fact, but against the will of the Wafd leaders, the signal for a rising of the people, it endeavoured to get the latter as quickly as possible into its hands. As long as it could it preached discipline, law and order. When, however, the mass demonstrations assumed a threatening character, when the peasants began to stream into the towns, when the first collisions had taken place and the police stations stormed, when the crowd received the troops sent against them with showers of stones and improvised “bombs” — bottles filled with sand —, the popular revolt was already in full swing — then the Wafd hastened to accept the new situation and to divert the mass movement, which was directed on the much farther aim of complete emancipation, into the channel of constitutional demands. This was done with the clear and definite intention, which was to be plainly seen at every political turn, of putting the brake on the movement: as much as possible. But the Wafd was not contented to do this, and of not losing contact with MacDonald, who on his part was fully aware of the non-revolutionary character of the Wafd leaders, and not letting the revolutionary outbursts spread to a sphere where, in view of the increased self-consciousness of the masses, they would get out of the control of the Wafd leaders, raise social questions and give rise to revolutionary slogans.

The Wafd leadership is no less responsible for the crushing of the popular revolt of July 1930 than the ruthless
For the Independence of Egypt!

We publish below an extract from a Manifesto of the League Against Imperialism.

The anti-imperialist front has now been extended to Egypt, which has been under the iron heel of British imperialism for 48 years. Egypt has witnessed a revolt against the terrible conditions to which they have been reduced by imperialist and native capitalist exploitation and feudal tyranny. From being a rich and self-supporting country producing its own food, Egypt has now been reduced to a combine that is receiving a million pounds a year from the foreign lords that control it, and that are exploiting the Egyptian people. The poverty-stricken and underfed Egyptian has come to realize that his country is being plundered and that his countrymen are being exploited by the foreign lords, capitalists and merchants, and for the maintenance of the imperialist-feudal State apparatus and the foreign army of occupation. From the surplus value created by their labor, they are maintained also the Reserve Fund which the puppet governments, appointed by British imperialism, devote for the most part to placing orders with British heavy industry. Under this system of increasingly intensified exploitation the petty bourgeoisie of the towns has also become steadily impoverished. The country is drained of its wealth. The 300,000 pounds, a year for interest alone on the investments of British capital.

But British capitalism maintains its strangulation on Egypt not merely because of the financial profits squeezed out of the toiling masses, but because it has to safeguard the route to its whole gigantic system of exploitation. For these reasons it has established its sole control over the Suez Canal and over the Sudan and resists by force of arms any attempt to diminish or jeopardize that control.

The history of the British occupation of Egypt is one of the most disgraceful even in the annals of British imperialism. After the defeat of Arabi Pasha who had successfully organised a rebellion against the foreign interlude, British imperialism took up a Parliamentary meeting on 21st of July and instead, to submit a humble petition to its majesty King Fuad, begging him to convene an extraordinary session on the 26th of July. That meant, in the situation then existing in Egypt, complete retreat. It meant that the masses who were to be fed into the fight on July 21st, were delivered over without a fight to Sidky's hirings. The capitulation of the Wafd was the more shameful as it was perfectly clear beforehand that the king would not reject the petition; the whole manoeuvre obviously served as a pretext for avoiding a collision with the dictatorship.

That the Wafd then, after the rejection of their demand by the king (whose prestige was restored precisely by the treachery of the Wafd) even on the 26th of July did not summon the masses to revolt, but convened its deputies to a meeting held during the night in a private building, in order to make the gesture of protesting against Sidky — that Nahas Pasha, who had arranged with the king that he would assure him that law and order and the "property of foreigners" would be protected at all costs — is only the logical continuation of the treachery of 21st of July.

The treachery of the Wafd, however, has in no way succeeded in alliances the revolutionary excitement of the Egyptian masses. On the contrary, the revolutionary pressure of the tollers in the towns and villages still continues. After cases of spontaneous refusal to pay taxes are to be recorded in various villages in lower Egypt, the Wafd is now itself compelled to place on the agenda the question of proclaiming general "civil disobedience". There arises from this, however, a number of fresh conflicts which are bound to lead to further collisions. The discontent among the Wafd leaders with the course of the revolutionary struggles lead to the formation of a new leadership of the masses capable of coping with the revolutionary tasks and pursuing a correct path to the victory of the Egyptian workers and peasants.

This way is shown by the appeal of the Communist Party of Egypt, which appeared in the middle of July and was distributed among the Egyptian workers. It is directed against the dictatorial government of the Wafd, against the treachery of the national leaders and shows that the real emancipation of the Egyptian masses can only be achieved when the national emancipation of Egypt is linked up with the social emancipation of the workers and toiling peasants. The appeal and the appeal of the CP. of Egypt show that prospects for the approach period of the revolutionary upsurge of a country whose anti-imperialist fight forms a serious danger to the British Empire, which is based on oppression and exploitation.