

The Reign of Violence of the MacDonald Government in India.

By V. Chabr.

When the MacDonald government entered into office, a Conservative politician, on being asked his opinion regarding the probable length of life of the new Cabinet, declared that the test for MacDonald would be India. For the English bourgeoisie it is, as a matter of fact, more advantageous to make use of its most Left wing, represented by MacDonald's Party, for the purpose of crushing the Indian national revolutionary movement.

Right from the first moment the government of the social imperialists has not in any way differed from its reactionary, conservative predecessor. The continuation of the Meerut trial, the refusal to grant even the most elementary concessions to the national-revolutionary movement, the ruthless attacks on the striking workers—all this the British financial magnates themselves could not have better carried out than their social-imperialist lackeys.

The revolutionary crisis in India is developing. Colossal masses of the town workers and of the Indian peasants are participating in the struggle. The Mass Strike as a weapon in the fight against imperialist oppression, street demonstrations, often leading to bloody collisions, active and passive resistance to the violence of the imperialist government—these are the outstanding features of the situation in India. Gandhi's March originated as a result of the pressure of the profoundly excited

masses; it was undertaken by Gandhi in the hope that the MacDonald government would prefer to come to a compromise with the reformist wing of the Indian national movement, with the advocates of "non-violence", rather than call forth an outbreak of the powerful and violent mass movement. National reformism wanted to make it possible for MacDonald to gain time. And MacDonald made use of this time in order to arm his battalions to the teeth, to place his police and military in readiness and to show the mailed fist to the national emancipation movement.

MacDonald's policy in India represents the most brutal oppression of the working class; its only answer to the demands for freedom of a people numbering 350 million is the bayonet, arrests, prison sentences, banishments, police violence. The trade union leaders having been thrown into prison, it is now the turn of the President of the Youth League—Nariman, Mahatma, Gandhi's son, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President of the Indian National Congress and others. The striking workers who have been fighting for weeks and even for months for their rights, as, for instance the railway workers of the G. I. P. Railway, are continually confronted in their fight by the police of the "Labour" Government.

And what is the II. International doing? Nothing, not even raising the slightest protest! It seems a mockery when one

reads that the members of this same International who are bludgeoning and imprisoning the striking workers in India, at the same time propose to the trade unions of these workers that they enter the Amsterdam International. If the Indian workers still need any enlightenment regarding the true character of the Amsterdam International, MacDonald is doing his best to provide them with this enlightenment.

MacDonald's violent methods have naturally brought about serious changes in the Indian mass movement itself. In face of this policy of the strong hand, the futility of Gandhi's tactics of non-violence becomes obvious to the masses. MacDonald's provocations, which Gandhi continually called upon the Indian masses to meet with passive resistance, are now going beyond the patience of these very long-suffering Indian masses. The movement shows very clear symptoms that it is getting beyond the control of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi himself seems to regard the mass movement at the present moment as so threatening that he is beginning to adopt a radical tone, to speak of the possibility of bloodshed. Still more remarkable, however, is the fact that the movement is not only concentrated in the districts of Ahmedabad which are under the influence of Gandhi, but that the masses, and particularly the working masses, in other remote districts of India are spontaneously taking up the anti-imperialist fight by acts of sabotage, mass strikes and mass demonstrations.

MacDonald, in his Indian policy, is the exponent of British financial capital, the friend and helper of the reactionary clique of colonial officials, who live like parasites on the Indian masses, the protector of that backward despotism which still to-day holds down India. There could be no more reactionary united front than this common block of all the forces of reaction and exploitation in India.

But the Indian masses cannot and will not retreat; MacDonald's policy, however, leaves no doubt that the eloquent pacifist of the II. International will not shrink from bloody massacres, and that in fact he is actively preparing for this, as is shown by the concentration of "reliable" Mohammedan regiments in the disaffected districts.

In such circumstances the result of the fight will to a great extent depend upon whether the British working class will succeed in staying the arm of their "Labour" Government, whether they will permit the revolutionary movement in India to be crushed, which would result in a strengthening of British reaction and would have fatal effects for the British proletariat.

"India is the test of MacDonald." MacDonald is passing his test by the Tory examiners as brilliantly as he has done in the case of Egypt, Africa, Palestine and the whole of the vast Empire which he is administering in the interest of the city money-bags. But India is also a test for the British proletariat and for the C.P. of Great Britain. The fight of the Indian people, the fight of the Indian proletariat against MacDonald, against imperialism, must not remain isolated. Against the reactionary block there must be set up the united front of the enslaved Indian masses with the fighting European proletariat.