the London and North Eastern, have just concluded a pooling agreement, a further step in the long trend of rationalisation, the purpose of which is the avoidance of “overlapping of services and undue competition will be avoided”, stations and depots cut down, staffs reduced etc.

The companies concerned themselves admit that this will mean a reduction of at least 40,000 in the existing staffs, on terms of the facts of the case, no less than 7,000, the service has been reduced in the past ten years by no less than 147,870. In addition to the dismissal of 40,000 workers, the pooling scheme means the transfer of thousands of other workers with pay reductions, and the de-grading of status of many others.

In the cotton industry, the three year struggle of the weavers against wage cuts and more-looms is once more coming to a head. Already 25,000 weavers in Burnley and Earby are on strike; the rest of the cotton area is in a ferment to join them. The cry of “All Out” is on all lips in Lancashire, and the workers have only been held back by the pusillanimity of the leaders of the cotton unions, who, despite a ballot vote heavily in favour of strike action, have been narrative with the employers for wage cuts, and only now, after a fortnight of struggle in Burnley and months of struggle in Earby, are reluctantly considering sanctioning strike action throughout Lancashire, under tremendous mass pressure, 200,000 weavers are effected, and a similar action is pending on an equal member of spinners.

In London, the workers on trams, buses and tubes are threatened with cut-out strikes in the branches which have been overwhelmingly in favour of strike. But the joint committee of seven unions with members working on the tubes, has accepted the employers’ terms. The London District Committee of the two key unions, the electricians and the Locomotive men, have, however, rejected the terms, and are already organizing the cut-out strikes in the branches which have overwhelmingly rejected the claim of any wage cut. On the trams, the union has accepted, but there is widespread opposition from the rank and file. Thus we see in all the London transport undertakings, the workers are anxious for struggle, but the bureaucracy is extending its dead hand to hold them back from struggle.

As with the employed so with the unemployed. In face of the growing revolt of the workers against the Means Test, the T.U.C. has to declare itself in opposition to that measure. But in actual practice that “opposition” has worked in sabotage and splitting. Every attempt of the unemployed to form unionist organisations has been opposed and splitting organisations have been formed, the tendency of the Means Test and the capitalist State, but the National Unemployed Workers Movement with its long record of militant struggle.

With all these vital questions confronting the industrial workers, the T.U.C. does not propose, if it can avoid it, to discuss any of them. Instead it is concentrating on “larger issues of policy”, such as “Public Utility Corporations”, “Public Control of Industry” and the question of a fixed Eastern.

But while the leadership is trying to stifle action, the Congress represents three million workers prepared to fight to the last ditch in defence of their standard of life.

No lead to fight tariffs, no lead to render support to the Burnley strikers, no lead to fight against the Means Test or against wages. That is the attitude of the General Council, and of this fact there is a growing realism among the rank and file workers.

Resolutions are pouring in on the trade union executives demanding that the matter be raised and that the T.U.C. break with the policy of co-operating with the employers which is not only in the interest of the workers employed in the working class against wage cuts, unemployment and war.

These resolutions from the branches are being followed up by the organisation of a mass workers’ delegation to attend the Congress and make their voices heard.

The leadership of the T.U.C. wish to stifle the voice of the rank and file, but steps are being taken to ensure that it shall be heard, both on the floor and outside the Congress hall.

Against Colonial Oppression

To the Enslaved and Oppressed Peasants of India.

The revolutionary workers of the whole world send fraternal greetings to the toiling and exploited peasants of India, who are rising up in a revolutionary struggle against their oppressors—the British imperialists, the Indian landlords and the capitalists—united with them.

The life of the Indian peasantry is filled with bitterness, want and the wretchedness of a servile bordering on slavery. With the help of the galloway, the princes and the army, the British imperialists struggle and rob, while their chief supporters, the landlords and the usurers, rob, exact the blood of the working masses, and then in their footsteps follow the British capitalists, all of whom are together attempting to demolish the toiling masses of India.

Even during the last century the exploited peasantry of India mercilessly raised in Decan the banner of revolt against their exploiters. During the past years the number of local and isolated uprisings has increased. The toiling masses have not forgotten the Moplah uprising. But now the peasants of Burma have been carrying on for eight months an armed insurgent struggle against the imperialists and local exploiters. Following their example the oppressed peasantry of Kashmir, suffering from the domination of a feudal prince, launched an armed movement of resistance. It is clear, the peasants have not forgotten the Moplah uprising and everywhere, the struggle of the peasants in the United Provinces, Punjab, Bengal, Madras and other regions were put down, and why is it that the peasantry has not succeeded in gaining even slight improvements?

The peasant risings were put down because they were uprising of unorganised masses, uprisings without definite clear political demands, that is, without demanding the complete overthrow of the yoke of imperialism and without demanding the confiscation of all the land of the landlords and usurers, and a change in the governmental structure. The peasant movements were put down because they were not organised and not prepared in advance. They were put down because the proletarians and toiling masses of the rural districts were not yet allied with the proletarians of the towns. These are the reasons why the peasants did not succeed. A successful struggle of the peasantry requires a close alliance with the working class in the towns. In order to succeed it must be consciously revolutionary, prepared in advance and extended throughout all India.

In 1919–22 the peasant masses launched a struggle. But the bourgeois National Congress, which had the confidence of the toiling masses, betrayed them and disorganised them because the peasants were beginning to avenge themselves on the landlords and usurers and ally themselves with the workers in a real fight against the police and against the imperialists. Owing to the betrayal of the National Congress the peasants and workers suffered defeat. The Congress non-violence agitation is nothing else but direct help on their part to the British imperialism, which robs the masses of the toiling masses. The Congress non-violence agitation is directed to disorganise revolutionary struggle of the peasantry for independence and land.

In 1930–31 the toiling masses, desperate and worn out with suffering, rose up once more against national injustice and slavery conditions. And again the bourgeois National Congress, headed by Gandhi, Nehru, Bose, Abdal-Caphar-Han, combating the peoples’ revolution is once more attempting to help the British plunderers crush the workers and peasants of India and, disguising themselves in pseudo-radical phrases, to avert the peoples’ revolution for independence, land and a workers’ and peasants’ government. The bourgeois National Congress wants to wipe out the peasant risings, put them in a position to collect rent and taxes in U.P., Gujerat and elsewhere.

The toiling masses of India have reached the point where they cannot endure this suffering any longer. The workers and peasants do not want to die from servitude without protest and without resistance, but the peasant masses of India must rise up and become the leaders of the last struggle.

The peasant risings so far have been put down because the bulk
of the peasantry, instead of recognising the traitorous bourgeois nature of the National Congress and the falseness of its bourgeois professions, the Congress party is fighting for struggle hand in hand with the working class, in many districts, at the treacherous advice of the National Congress, it is continuing to meekly put up with the serfdom of the feudal lords and landowners and the power of the imperialists.

The time has now come to choose: either go along with the National Congress, or join the struggle against the landlords and the capitalists. It is necessary to prepare for struggle hand in hand with the working class, even in the most dangerous areas, with the poorest peasants' movement and remain enslaved, deprived of rights, hungry, landless, in debt, and again toiling in servitude, or carry on a struggle against all exploiters, against the imperialists, landlords, usurers and their allies—the Indian bourgeoisie, which is in control of the National Congress, and take a stand, not only in the towns for the abolition of serfdom and serfdom.

The advanced conscious industrial workers, rising up against capitalist wage slavery in the factories, have at the same time shown themselves to be the most self-denying and determined fighters with the communists, who are fighting against imperialism, against the landlords, princes and usurers.

The city workers of India have begun a new and tremendous struggle of all the poor against all the rich. The city workers in Bombay, Calcutta and other cities have begun to rally together in the Communist Party and, in spite of their meagre experience, great obstacles and many mistakes, are carrying on the struggle for independence and freedom for the whole nation. The Communist Party of India has come out with its new programme of action, which represents the interests of all workers and toiling peasants. The doctrine of the Communists is the doctrine of struggle against all oppression, against all plunder, against all forms of injustice. A person is a real Communist only if he knows the reasons for class oppression and devotes his life to the overthrow of this oppression. In its programme of action, the Communist Party of India has come out for the interests not only of the working class, but of the peasantry, for the interests of the toiling masses, demanding the complete state independence of India, the abolition of the feudal landlord system of land tenure and all forms of feudalism, the transfer of all land to the peasantry, complete and gratuitous cancellation of all indebtedness and all exactions and the establishment of a workers' and peasants' Soviet government.

Every conscious worker and peasant must gather around him the most hopeful and courageous of his comrades. He must attempt to explain to them the need for a clear-cut demarcation of forces between the revolutionary and the counter-revolutionary camp; for or against the interests of the workers and peasants, for or against the National Congress, for or against the Communists, for or against the revolution. Such clarity will win the masses and throw them into the fighting ranks.

The future of India depends on how far and how speedily the bourgeois National Congress is unmasked before the eyes of the toiling masses, and the determination with which the revolutionary workers and peasants under the leadership of the Communist Party prepare and organise the toiling masses for the struggle and the revolution.

This is the revolutionary duty of the genuinely revolutionary groups and organisations in the peasant movement. These groups and organisations are correct when they transfer the centre of gravity of their work to the task of pointing out to the great masses of peasants the traitorous bourgeois nature of the National Congress and the call upon the toiling masses, on all the landlords and above all, the agricultural labourers, regularly calling local and peasant conferences and organising peasant committees elected on a broad basis to carry on the various struggles and systematically prepare the great masses of peasants to come out in defence of their basic demands.

At the present time the struggle for independence and the abolition of the serfdom maintained by the feudal lords, landholders and usurers calls for preparation and development of the proletarian, the Communist Party, will be formed and peasant. This means that the struggle should be organised and given a conscious character, unmasking the bourgeoisie disguised in "socialist" phrases, and calls for strong militant alliance between the peasantancy and the Communist workers in the towns. Such an alliance is the only guarantee of the victory of the workers and peasants, the victory of the Indian revolution. This struggle calls for the awakening of the general mass of the country, building and helping to build all kinds of local legal and semi-legal revolutionary organisations and directing their activities in the channel of genuine class struggle.

It is in this daily struggle and in this movement that the leader of the Indian revolution, the revolutionary party of the proletariat, the Workers' and Peasants' Revolution will grow. It is in this struggle that the militant alliance between the working class and the peasantry under the leadership of the working class will be consolidated.

The day will soon come when the working population in the towns will rise up, not only to march fearlessly through the streets under the leadership of the Workers' and Peasants' Revolutionary slogans: "Down with Imperialism!" and "Long live the Workers' and Peasants' Republic!", but will rise up for the great and final struggle when the working masses will say: "We will die in the struggle or win our freedom", when, in place of the hundreds of killed and wounded in the struggle, thousands of new and fit fighters will be needed to carry on the fight. The struggle will arise throughout all India, and will go to the aid of the workers in the towns and fight to the end for the freedom of the peasants and workers. No hordes of imperialism will hold out against them. The working population will con-

The Chinese Section of the Anti-Imperialist League.

The Japanese Section of the Anti-Imperialist League.