

The All-India T. U. C. Begins to Work.

By A. G. E.

A good indication of the strength of the militant „Red Flag“ elements in the Trade Union movement of India was given in the removal of the open supporters of capitalism, of those who sabotaged the struggle of the workers, **Joshi, Chamanlal Bakhale**, at the last Congress of the Indian T. U. C.

To the degree that the Executive Committee carries out a militant policy, to that degree will they retain the sympathy and active support of the Indian workers. At the meeting of the Executive Committee, on January 19th and 20th, resolutions were passed which if carried into operation represent a policy of struggle based on the fight of the working class.

The Secretary of the Hamshedpur Labour Association tried to get carried a resolution rescinding the resolutions passed at the Congress, affiliating to the League Against Imperialism and demanding the boycott of the Whitley Commission. This was ruled out of order by the Chairman, who stated that the Executive Committee had no authority to rescind resolutions passed at the Congress.

The Executive Committee gave their whole hearted support to the Great Indian Peninsular (G.I.P.) railway strike and called upon all workers in other railways to help in every possible way in making the strike a success.

A very important decision was taken with regard to the Meerut prisoners. (The National Meerut Prisoners Defence Committee, which was formed by some politicians and lawyers, including the „left“ Jawaharlal Nehru, has now dissolved, frightened away by the fear of being dubbed Communist). A resolution was passed, stating that the Executive Committee „is of the opinion that the committal order of the special Magistrate of Meerut makes it clear that the 31 accused in the conspiracy case are being prosecuted for holding certain views, and for their active part in the Trade Union movement, and further that the prosecution is a direct attack upon the workers' movement. It demands that the case be immediately withdrawn... It further declares that the defence of the accused is one of the most important tasks of the working class movement in its fight against imperialist oppression, and resolves to form a Central Defence Committee to organise and coordinate the activities of local committees to be started under the auspices of the T.U.C. It calls upon each union to undertake to contribute a definite sum per month to the Defence Fund.“

It was also decided that „the 20th March be celebrated as 'Meerut Day' and demonstrations be held all over the country to protest against the trial and collect funds for the defence.“

Here, there is no expression of fear of any action which might be taken against them by the Government, with the excuse that the case is 'sub judice', as is the case with the lawyers and politicians.

This resolution on Meerut was followed by a stronger resolution calling for the strengthening of the Trade Union movement and deploring the action „of those gentlemen who have been trying since the Nagpur Session to split the workers' ranks by trying to form a rival organisation“, and appealing to the rank and file of the workers and the unions „to stand by the Trade Union Congress and support its militant programme, on the basis of which alone the solidarity of the working class can be maintained and a united front presented to common enemies“.

The meeting of the Executive Committee ended by outlining the following programme of work:

1. Collection of fund for all India propaganda for carrying out the resolutions of the T. U. C.
2. Consolidation of existing Trade Unions and the establishment of new ones where none exist.
3. Organisation of transport workers throughout India.
4. Organisation of metal workers, and mine workers, including oil and petrol works.
5. Organisation of workers in tea and other plantations.

If the Executive Committee carries out this programme of struggle, and rallies the Indian workers for the defence of the Meerut prisoners, then the Indian workers themselves will be able to expose the pretences of Gandhi, and free themselves from the domination of lawyers and politicians. The formation of a strong Communist Party of India is on the order of the day.