The War on the North-West Frontier of India.

By V. Chattopadhyaya.

The only news we have of the military operations on the North-West frontier and of the movements of the independent frontier tribes against the British comes through the usual imperialist channels. The frontier war was begun in the middle of April and has now continued for exactly four months, and imperialist reports have attempted to produce the impression that the thousands of tons of explosives with which the R.A.F. bombing planes have been blowing the tribes and their villages out of existence have had a “salutary effect” upon these “turbulent” tribes. It was reported that the anti-British movement was dying down and that most tribes refused to be misled by the “young bloods”. But now we are told that the situation is again serious, because a lashkar (force) of nearly 10,000 Afridis are moving on Peshawar, and this in spite of the fact that the tribes know the havoc committed by the R.A.F. and that they have been repeatedly “warned” by the British Government. The Afridi advance is described by the imperialist press correspondents as “a temporary triumph over the grave warnings of British Political Officers and over the steadfast advice of the tribal elders”. It is admitted, too, that “there is no indication so far that the operations of the defending forces are producing a general retirement of the Afridis”. In passing, we must draw attention to the description of the British imperialist army and air-force as “defending forces”, a phrase deliberately employed to conceal the real nature of the war on the N.W. Frontier, the objective of which is the occupation of the frontier of the Soviet Union. For this purpose, “there is a large concentration of troops at Peshawar to meet all eventualities” and “air-bombing of Trans-Border districts” is being continued, according to the latest dispatch of the “Times” correspondent at Peshawar.

As for the North-West Frontier Province which is directly administered by the British, it has been in an indescribable condition of suffering during the last four months, for ever since the historic uprising of the masses in Peshawar on April 23rd and 24th, the heroic refusal of the Garhwal divisions to shoot and the action of solidarity taken by the Frontier tribes led by the Hajj of Turangzai, the people of the N.W.F. Province have been living under the most terrible conditions about which the very rigid censorship has allowed no infor-
A Turning Point in the General Strike in North France.

By C. Henri (Paris).

The fight conducted by the French workers against the reactionary "Social Insurance Law", which has now been going on for four weeks, has arrived at a turning point. The reformist strike sabotagers, who had hitherto prepared their treachery behind the scenes, on August 11 issued the order that work should be resumed in those undertakings in which the employers had shown a certain "compliance".

In the front ranks of the fight there stood the textile workers and metal workers of the largest industrial area of France, the Northern district, which as the unshakable stronghold of the social democracy and of the reformist trade unions. The strike movement against the "Social Insurance Law" and for wage increases did not set in with full force immediately after the introduction of the new act. The number of strikers in the Northern area, which has meanwhile increased to 150,000, could be achieved only in the flight of the revolutionary trade unions — with their relatively exceedingly weak organisational basis — against the reformist trade unions and the Socialist Party.

The socialists right from the beginning, warmly supported the Social Insurance Law, which not only brought with it a wage reduction of 4 to 6 per cent, but led to a general increase of retail prices, in many places amounting to 30 to 40 per cent. But the activity of the revolutionary trade unions and of the P. of France, which set in some considerable time before the act came into force, sufficed to convince the workers of the correctness of the strike slogan against this scandalous Act. The excitement among the workers, who also in the Southern and Eastern departments took up the struggle, was particularly great in the Northern district. The growth of the strike struggle in the Northern district is the result of a most desperate struggle between the revolutionary leaders and the reformist trade union leaders, who, in face of the militant spirit of the masses, were compelled on their part to take up the strike slogan. But the reformist trade union leaders, in thus taking up the strike slogan under the pressure of the masses, did not do so in order to conduct a real fight against this Act for higher wages, but in order to place themselves at the head of the fight so as to be better able to throttle it. Under the leadership of the reformists, the textile and metal workers of the North had never gone on strike since 1921; the close connection of the reformist leaders with the heads of the "all-powerful" Textile Consortium caused all conflicts to be settled by "friendly negotiations".

Contrary to the demands of the revolutionary strike committees who called for a wage increase of 50 cents per hour (25 to make up for the wage deduction in respect of the Social Insurance Law and 25 cents as wage increase) and as a political slogan demanded "down with the scandalous law", the reformists announced as their demand an increase of 25 cents an hour, which would only have made up for the deduction from wages for social insurance. The revolutionary strike leaders led the striking workers onto the street; in many towns, as in Roubaix, the workers for the first time since 1921 demonstrated for their demands on the street. In the 50 most important strike localities the C. P. and the revolutionary trade unions called demonstrations, which were attended by thousands. When on the same day, the reformists in Halluin and the revolutionary leaders in Lille called demonstrations, in Lille 5000 workers marched under red flags, whilst in Halluin there was only a small gathering of about 800, which soon met a counter-demonstration of the revolutionary workers.

Whilst the Tardieu government sent gendarmerie, military and mobile guards into the Northern district in order to terroise the strikers, the reformists were not idle. The reformist burgomasters in Tourcoing and Roubaix proclaimed a state of siege and prohibited demonstrations. M. Labas, the social democratic burgomaster of Roubaix, gave the police orders to attack the strikers with fixed bayonets. Everywhere the revolutionary strike committees were at their