

MANIFESTO OF THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS PARTY.

The Government of India not content with the innumerable instruments of oppression they are already armed with, for suppressing even the most constitutional methods of the Indian-people in their fight for freedom from exploitation, are planning to forge another addition to their unlimited powers. The introduction of the Trades, Disputes Bill at the next session of the Imperialist Legislature is aimed at suppressing the growing awakening amongst the masses of Indian workers and peasants who have found in the Trade Union Movement an expression against-capitalist exploitation. The Trade Union movement though only in its infancy, has during the past few years rallied round its banner, the workers and peasants of India, who due to Imperialist domination, have been kept in a chronic state of ignorance in-discipline and disorganisation to satisfy the needs of exploiters both foreign and Indian. The abject state of surrender to capitalist tyranny is being resented, and this resentment is finding expression in the spontaneous and sporadic strikes all over the country. The number of Trade Unions in the Industrial centres like Bombay and Calcutta have increased in large numbers with the result that the exploiters have found that their monopoly to exploit the Indian workers, unhampered is receiving a severe check. The representations of the Bengal chamber of commerce, and the shouts of the Bombay Millowners against communist agitators have brought the Government to the rescue of the capitalists who are alarmed at the growing manifestations of mass energy. By this Trades Disputes Bill the imperialists make no secret of their intentions of giving a death blow to the Trade Union Movement in this country.

The Trade Disputes Bill which the Government have tabled for introduction in the Legislative Assembly is a counter part of the Rowlatt Act in the Economic sphere with the drastic powers contained in the bill for coercion, intimidation and suppression the Government will be enabled to cripple the Trade Union Movement making it impossible for the workers to fight their employers to obtain better living conditions. Because the Government will in essence control the internal administration and the external policy of Trade Unions in India.

For instance the Bill provides the Government smells a dispute between the employer and the workers. (The Government canine powers of smelling revolutionary plots particularly in Bengal should be borne in mind) the Government can force itself and appoint a semi-judicial enquiry. In a fight between the employers and the workers, the result of such an enquiry will be a forgone conclusion. Hence an impartial enquiry does not exist in a *class dispute*. By intervenin at the mere "apprehension" of any dispute,

the Government will check the right of the workers to strike in order to obtain better living conditions.

If, by any chance the Government intervention fails in the first stage, the Ghost of the Government will dog the steps of the fighters at the next stage. For, the bill provides that the strikes will become illegal if resorted to without a month's notice to the employer. The bill of course does not lay any restrictions on the wage reducing propensities of the bosses. The subtle, subterfuge and hypocritical methods of employers resort to, to snatch from the workers, portions from their already miserable wages; that have been brought to light in the mill strike show if anything how impossible it is for the workers to combat the bosses against such dirty trickeries, as in the textile strike it took about two years for the workers to discover their wages were being systematically reduced; and the talk of a month's notice before such hypocrisy, will be sheer tyranny, only unmasked.

As if this were not enough, resorting to strike in semi-Government institutions, such as the Railways, post and Telegraphs, is made impossible as the Government is free at any time to suppress any strike.

The penalising of strikes will be a formidable weapon in the hands of an Imperialist Government, and should be fought out. Once the Government is armed with the necessary weapon, it is common knowledge, how the Government runs riot, in enforcing the provisions of the law. The history of the Bengal ordinance and the ruthless manner in which the Government utilised this machinery *should be warning to those that may fall prey* to the Government manouvres in getting support to this bill. A month's imprisonment for going on strike, while it may help to prolong the strike, by a month, by the strikers' month's existence problem being solved, will in no way minimise the possibility of a strike; for the cause of strikes is to be found in the ruthless manner in which modern capitalism works. And since there is a chronic state of exploitation, struggle against this exploitation will be a chronic feature of the age. And neither imprisonment, not even hanging will have any terror for the masses struggling to free themselves from capitalist tyranny.

The clause that lays down a more drastic punishment to the abettor while aimed against the communists and Agitators' that are supposed to be rousing the workers revolt (while they are only exposing the fraude of the capitalist class) will have little effect. For, the very inguman conditions that are the necessary effects of capitalist and Imperialist exploitation, will rouse the masses to fight their exploiters. And once the mass energy is awakened, no force can stay its mighty ire which sweep away all obstacles before it. Such drastic powers, therefore, in the hands of an Imperialist Government are a menace, and should be fought out.

Finally, the intervention, of the Government into the internal administration of the trade unions, strikes at the very root of this movement of the workers. The protection that the bill gives to blacklegs will in future reduce the trade unions to be mere agencies of the Government and the employers. The fundamental right of an organisation to freedom from interference in its internal administration being snatched away, the T. U. movement cannot grow at all. By insisting that every person, who having failed to abide by the decision of a trade union, if dismissed from its membership shall be liable to be restored to membership by the force of this bill, the trade unions in future will be honeycombed with Government spies and capitalist agents who will swarm the unions and sabotage their growth.

The Bill leaves no ground, therefore for a straight fight, for the workers against their exploiters, The elementary right of a trade union of freedom from interference in the internal administration being snatched away, as also the right to strike, the exploitor is left free to continue in his ruthless job, assisted by an Imperialist Dictator. For any strike can be interpreted as coercing the Government or the community.

Protests from all over the country must be against this bill being passed, in the shape of mass demonstrations, and also an agitation should be carried on for a country-wide General strike, to force the rescinding of this bill as also to obtain an eight hour day, minimum living wage, better housing conditions and etc., for the workers, and show the Government that the masses will not tolerate any such repression in future.

S. V. Ghaté,

Workers' & Peasants'

Secretary.

Party office, 17,

Dwarkadas Masion,

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