

# AGAINST COLONIAL OPPRESSION

## The British Trade Union Council and the Bombay Strike.

The following statement is issued by the Political Bureau of the **Communist Party of Great Britain**:

"The capitalist press gives extensive publicity to an attack on the Bombay Textile Strikers which has just been issued by the General Council of the Trade Union Congress.

The General Council finds it "impossible to say" whether the 150,000 "illiterate mill workers" are genuinely on strike, or have merely been forced out by the closing of the mills. The General Council ignores the fact that these same 150,000 workers showed their spirit by holding out in a six month's strike last year, under the leadership of the "Red Flag" Union.

The General Council speaks of the "few hundred" members of the "Red Flag" Union. It conveniently forgets to mention that that Union has grown to 65,000 paying members in under 12 months, while the yellow Union led by the reformist corporation lawyer, Joshi, has vegetated for years at about 8 or 10 thousand.

The General Council says the "Red Flag" Union was formed last year because the "older union" was against making the dispute at certain mills into a general strike. It conveniently omits to explain that the whole 150,000 cotton operatives had been out for weeks when the "Red Flag" Union was formed, and that **the "older union" had been openly seeking by every means in its power to break the strike** — calling on the operatives to return to work, negotiating separately with the employers, etc.

The General Council pretends ignorance of the real cause of the present dispute, although this has appeared in the British daily papers on several occasions. It pretends not to know that **the workers struck as a protest against the wholesale arrests of their Union officials.**

On the contrary, the General Council echoes the police indictment of the 31 Trade Union Leaders in jail at Meerut by stating that "the whole affair is a move in carrying out the 'Drang nach Osten' policy of the Communist International. The General Council cannot be ignorant of the fact that most of the leaders of the "Red Flag" Union are **not communists**, and that the Workers' and Peasants' Party, to which they belong, is **not a communist body.**

But the General Council prefers to join hands with the British Government by supplying its voluntary piece of "evidence" against the accused leaders of Indian Trade Unionism. No more blackguardly action has ever been committed in the annals of the international trade union movement.

The Communist Party calls on British workers to record their disgust at the Imperialist policy of oppression in India, supported by the General Council and the Labour Party, by refusing to vote for the Labour Party at the coming General Election, by joining the Communist Party, and by subscribing to the Defence Fund for the arrested Indian Trade Union Leaders."