

TEHRI-GARHWAL MAHARAJA ABDICATES

Too Old To Rule Or Too Old To Kill ?

Where the Ganges and the Jumna are born—"a tangled series of ridges and spurs radiating from a lofty series of peaks on the borders of Tibet"—entirely in the Himalayas, lies TEHRI GARHWAL.

ITS Maharaja has just abdicated in favour of his son. Too old, he said he was. Was that the real reason? Well, listen....

You are going to hear more and more about this little State of Tehri Garhwal with its four lakhs population and 19 lakhs revenue.

It borders on the British district of Garhwal in the United Provinces—in fact, the same people inhabit both and have been artificially divided by our alien conquerors.

Garhwal—do you remember Peshawar and the famous Garhwals led by Thakur Chandra Singh who refused to fire on their Pathan brothers?

1930 Struggle Against Tenancy

About the same time as Chandra Singh and his comrades were writing Indian history by their unforgettable courage in Peshawar in 1930, a revolt took place in Tehri Garhwal. It was a peasant revolt—confined mostly to one part of the State—Rawain.

It fought against the inhuman and unjust tenancy system which prevails under the rule of Tehri's Maharaja. It was crushed in a bloody massacre, the like of which you cannot imagine.

Since then so much has happened. A Praja Mandal came into existence. It fought the Maharaja. In July 1944 all of a sudden the wires flashed the news that Tehri's Maharaja had killed a Praja Mandal worker—SRI DEV SUMAN. He died on hunger strike in Tehri's jail—that is what the news said. But everybody knew what that meant.

Sri Dev Suman did not die in vain.

New Movement Of Freedom

And today, as I write, a new Tehri Garhwal has risen.

In Kara Kot, Akri, Dagar and Bar Jula, the people have done away with the primitive forced taxation imposed on them.

No more will they do forced labour for the States' officials.

No more will they provide free food, ghee and milk for the

HYDERABAD STATE BANS COMMUNIST DAILY

THE entry of Prajashakti (Telugu Communist daily) into Hyderabad State has been banned.

Why? Because?

● Prajashakti fearlessly exposed the treacherous role played by the Princes in the game of constitutional trickery which the British are playing today;

● Prajashakti brought to light the hideous crimes of the feudal lords and corrupt officials who have made the whole of Hyderabad a torture chamber;

● Prajashakti blew up the procurement policy of the State, which left the landlords free to hoard, and forcibly deprived the poor peasants of their very means of existence.

In a statement to the Press, Smt. Rajeshwar Rao, Secretary of the Andhra Committee of the Communist Party, has appealed to all parties and popular organisations to help to fight for the removal of this monstrous ban.

by
Brijendra Kumar

Settlement Officer, who comes to fix the revenue.

No more will they pay bribes in the form of "tribute" (nazrana) for every change that has to be made in the classification of their land.

For this year, famine stares Tehri in the face. Even the best land has yielded very little. And the people cannot pay.

So they have organised themselves and are determined to blow up the old tenancy system, by which all the land belongs to the Maharaja and he has to be paid lakhs every year by the poverty-stricken peasants.

Terror Cannot Crush

The Village officers—used to a tame and submissive people—tried intimidation. Kisans were summoned before the Settlement Officer for "treason" and made to sign apologies and promises of good behaviour. Everywhere the officers threatened firing.

But the kisans refused to give in. Volunteers kept touring the villages—carrying the message of resistance, of boycott of the Settlement Officer's court.

The police were called. They harassed the womenfolk. They tried to create differences between the Thakurs and the Brahmins the old, old game of 'divide and rule'.

They spread the lie that the people's leader DAULAT RAM had been arrested; the movement crushed.

But they failed and failed again. Like the Jumna and the Ganges, the movement just could not come to an end.

Threats And Promises

On May 28, the State Assembly was to sit in Haridwar. The Kisans met and decided to send Daulat Ram to present their case to the Assembly. The police threatened dire consequences. The kisans refused to submit.

Faced with this new mighty upheaval, with the blood of Sri Dev Suman already on his hands, the old Maharaja, having sinned enough, has abdicated.

Yes, this is the reason behind this abdication.

Have you ever heard of a Maharaja growing too old? Tehri's Maharaja is not too old to carry on the normal blood-sucking of a Prince. But he is not "young" enough to deal with the mighty struggle of the kisans.

And his record is already so black after the murder of Sri Dev Suman, that if HE were to launch the campaign of terror that is being planned, the whole of India would rise against him.

And so with full British approval—a new young Maharaja is on the sad—yung enough to kill.

Tehri calls to the people of India, calls to Pandit Nehru and the All-India States Peoples' Conference:

"This is the story of the abdication. Act now. Before Tehri becomes another Kashmir, another Faridkot. The Maharaja's military plans are ready. You can stop him before our blood flows down from our hills with the waters of the Jumna and the Ganges."

Want Of Accommodation In Colleges

IT is becoming increasingly difficult for students to get admission into colleges in South India. Last year, out of 30,000 desiring admission, not even 10,000 could find places in colleges.

There is as a result widespread and unbroken corruption among college staffs. Bribes were freely offered to push up applications.

Then there is the difficulty of accommodation for lodging. Hostels cannot meet the demand and students have had to sleep for nights on end on railway platforms.

Things are going to be much worse this year. It is expected that more than 30,000 will seek admission into the various arts and professional colleges and hardly one third of them are likely to get in.

What will happen to the remaining 30,000?

The Madras University has not done anything in the matter so far. They even refused permission to the Madras Corporation for a new college. Permission for a women's college was also similarly refused.

Fortunately, there is a popular Ministry in power now and parents and students expect a lot from them.

The Ministry has expressed its desire to reorganise education from top to bottom. That will naturally take time. But something has got to be done immediately to meet the crisis.

I would, therefore, suggest certain practical measures for immediate implementation, for the Ministry's serious consideration:

1. Two shifts in schools and colleges should be introduced—from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. This will enable the schools and colleges to take in twice the number of students they now can.

Teachers should not be a problem as there is an army of unemployed to draw from.

2. Permission should be given at once to the Trichy Municipality and Madras Corporation for new colleges. The second grade colleges in Calicut, Tellicherry, and Coimbatore should be converted into first grade colleges.

Shore Committee's recommendation that 100 more students each be taken into the medical and Presidency Colleges should be put into practice straightaway.

The proposed Medical College in Madras should be speedily opened.

3. All choultries must be taken over and used as hostels for students. The military camps in Trichy, Tanjavar, Guntur and other places which are vacant now should be utilised as temporary hostels.

K. BALADANDAYUTHAM.

Madras, June 11.

Hubli Textile Workers' Plight

THE Gujerati owner of the Bharat Textile Mill, which employs 3,000 workers, moves in Congress circles and imagines himself to be a patriot. That, however, does not prevent him from being one of the worst exploiters of labour in India.

He makes his workers lead a dog's life and considers no weapon too low against them. Bribery and corruption are rampant in his factory, and the police and goondas always ready at hand to help him terrorise the workers and keep them down.

Attempts to organise the workers which have been made since 1938 have not been very successful, partly due to the opportunistic and incompetent leaders and partly as a result of repression.

The management has also succeeded in preventing the recognition by the Government of the Union whose registration has been cancelled thrice through bribing Government officials.

Recently two Union organisers Sumitra Gowda Patil and Bhalappa Devappa Raigur were convicted by the Magistrate on some trumped up charges at the instance of the management.

In The Kingdom Of Leader Of "Little Prince"

DUNGARPUR PEOPLE FIGHT RULER'S TERROR

If you want to get to the top in a murder-gang you have to be an ace-murderer.

The Maharaja of Durgarpur was one of the Small Princes delegation which met the Cabinet Mission.

He thoroughly deserved this "honour."

FOR sixteen days in May, this Prince of the Princes gave a living demonstration of his "royal" qualities.

This blue-blooded robber-chief had been planning a "royal performance" for sometime. He did not like the way the hitherto backward Bhils in his State were being roused to fight against their intolerable existence. He did not like the Praja Mandal, formed only a year and a half ago.

A new procurement plan gave the Maharaja the opportunity he wanted; the whip fell briskly on the backs of the Bhils in the most politically conscious area in the State—the Katara area.

Private Hunting Ground

The Maharaja likes to do his whipping in secret.

● All along the borders of the State, he posted military pickets to prevent anybody from outside entering Durgarpur.

● The bus services, which are either owned or controlled by the State, were stopped, so that the people may not be able to move from one place to other.

● The telegraph wires were cut.

Durgarpur, isolated from the rest of the world became a private hunting-ground for the Maharaja. The game he hunted was human.

DUNGARPUR

Durgarpur is one of States in the Mewar South Rajputana Agency. Area: 1,460 square miles. Population: 274,000 (less than that of Agra City). Annual Revenue: 29 lakhs.

The atrocities committed on the Bhils still remain a closed chapter.

Some day the full story will be out. But may be, there is no need to know the details.

One stark glaring fact tells what the Maharaja's terror meant.

One thousand Bhils from Katara left their homes, their land, their families and fled to the jungles.

Pause a moment and think what that means, and you will know how cruel was the crack of Durgarpur's whip.

State - Wide Struggle

But news DID get out. At last the headlines spoke of Durgarpur:

"Jungle Law in Durgarpur"—wrote Pandit Nehru's National Herald.

"Police Raj in Durgarpur"—the Hindustan Times flashed the news.

The Praja Mandal protested. Its leaders were grabbed and thrown into jail. Then came lathi-charges, more arrests, savage beating.

And the people's reply... hartals, processions, meetings... in a manner the Maharaja had never anticipated.

From the neighbouring States of Rajputana, the people's movement prepared jathas to march into Durgarpur to the rescue of their brothers.

The Maharaja began to tremble in his shoes.

Enquiry Committed

At this moment, the Rajputana Regional Committee of the All-India States Peoples' Conference sent an Enquiry Committee to Durgarpur. This Committee met the Maharaja and called off the peoples' movement. The arrested persons were released.

Durgarpur celebrated the settlement as a victory.

But the Enquiry Committee—led by HIRA LAL SHASTRI of Jaipur (who is shameless enough to boast of the fact that he was the Maharaja's school-tutor years ago)—had called off the struggle without securing any assurance from the Ruler.

The result is that the Maharaja—despite his old tutor—is up to his pranks as usual. Terror rages unabated.

But Durgarpur is not crushed. It prepares for the next round. This time no tutor-pupil understanding will blow up the popular struggle, just when it has brought the Ruler to his knees.

Bad Food In Army Messes

THE messes of Indian armed forces' units have become hotbeds of corruption, inefficiency and waste.

In our mess, for instance, the rice we get smells horribly and is full of paddy and stones; the atta full of worms and the meat stale and stinking. They are totally unfit for human consumption. The medical and other officers responsible certify this stuff because they are being bribed by the army contractors.

Bad as the stuff is, it is cooked even worse. But one cannot blame the cooks for it. Poor fellows, they themselves are badly exploited.

Twenty-four cooks have to cook for 600 men. They work 14 to 15

hours a day near the fire in this hot climate, and their average wage is only Rs. 30.

If one complains to the officers about bad food, they turn round and say—"Take it or Leave it."

How long can we tolerate this state of affairs? May I, through the columns of your paper, appeal to the leaders of the country to interest themselves in our case and see that things improve as soon as possible?

A DISCONTENTED AIRMAN,
of the Royal Indian Air Force.
Cawnpore,
June 7th, 1946.



NEGOTIATIONS OR DIRECT ACTION TO END PRINCES' AUTOCRATIC RULE?

(By Our Special Correspondent)

The All-India States Peoples' Conference (AISPC) held a session of its General Council in New Delhi for three days beginning from June 9. One hundred and fifty delegates from all parts of India attended.

IN the States from which they came, there was the fiery atmosphere of struggle and resistance to Princely terror.

In New Delhi, where they met, there was the chilly air of negotiations, of "compromise," of "settlement."

The Princes used bullets in their States—sweet words in New Delhi.

Kashmir

Uppermost in everybody's minds was Kashmir.

Pandit JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, President of the AISPC, opened the proceedings. Defining the policy of the AISPC, he said that it stands for freedom externally as well as internally, that is for responsible government in every part of India. He said the period is coming when big problems will have to be decided, and continued:

"We should not fritter away our strength in isolated battles. We must not declare things in words when we lack the practical strength to put it into effect. The Quit Kashmir slogan was not based on the policy of either the AISPC or the Kashmir National Conference. But this does not mean that the Ruler has a right to stay.

"If in future any Ruler remains in India he will do so only if he is able to get the support of his people, not against their wishes."

He went on to indict the repression by the State authorities in Kashmir and pointed out that SHEIKH ABDULLAH's demand for the abrogation of the Amritsar Treaty would automatically come about once Paramountcy ceases, because then all treaties will lose force.

The passion with which Panditji spoke against feudal autocracy and his very genuine sympathy for the struggling people of Kashmir impressed all the members of the General Council.

Sardar Patel Speaks

Sardar PATEL, who had been specially invited to the meeting by Pandit Nehru, then addressed the Council. He said that ever since Rajkot he had realised that the problem of the Princes could not be solved till we removed the force behind them, namely the British. That is why we gave the "Quit India" slogan. Today a situation has come about when everyone says that the relation of the Indian Princes to the British Crown is breaking:

"This has come about because of the non-violent struggle by the Congress, not because of underground, overground and in-the-air struggles by anybody."

Sardar Patel went on to suggest quite broadly that the "people who take decisions on their own responsibility and without pausing their own strength" should not complain if they had to meet sudden repression.

"Do Your Duty"

Next day came a spirited reply to the Sardar from GHULAM MOHAMMED BAKSHI, leader of the Kashmiri delegation. Acting President of the National Conference and one of Sheikh Abdullah's closest lieutenants:

"We, the Kashmiri delegates, have not come here to beg for help from anybody even if he be the biggest leader of the Congress Working Committee. The Kashmiri people were the first to start the struggle against autocracy on the basis of their own organised strength.

"We will fight and win or lose as the case may be. We will not com-



G. M. Bakshi

plain. We are not asking you for help. We want you to take a decision as to what you conceive to be your duty towards the people of Kashmir."

Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed referred to the goal of responsible government adopted by the AISPC and said that the qualifying clause "under the aegis of the Ruler" did not mean that the people in any State should agree to have the Ruler over

them. It was for the people to say whether they wanted the Ruler to remain or go and the Kashmiris have given their answer clearly.

It was a pity that Sardar Patel was not present to hear Bakshi's speech. It was an impassioned defence of the State peoples' rights.

Many States peoples' representatives went up to him and said that their entire support was behind the people of Kashmir, that they would help with funds, that they had got jathas ready to go to Kashmir and that they had only waited for the AISPC to take a decision.

No Straight Call

But despite this tremendous feeling for Kashmir, the AISPC did NOT give a straight call for jathas to pour into Srinagar and fight Premier Kak's terror.

In fact, as Pandit Nehru said, they had "exercised great restraint and consideration" in drafting the resolution.

But the AISPC did categorically declare:

"Between the people of Kashmir and the people of the other States there is the solidarity of common interest and common objective and it will be their privilege to share common perils. It is the duty of the States' Peoples' Conference to help in every way possible the people's movement in

Kashmir. The President is authorised to take such steps as he may consider necessary to deal with the situation created in Kashmir."

Further the resolution called for an end to the "policy of repression" and deprecated "the attempts being made in various quarters to raise communal issues in Kashmir at this critical moment."

States And British Plan

The other most important issue confronting the session was its view of the Cabinet Mission's proposals in regard to the Indian States.

Pandit Nehru, in his opening remarks, said that in respect to the constitutional changes that are proposed, the State representatives should reflect reality and the people's will. He said that Paramountcy should finish as soon as possible. But that does not mean that Rulers can do just what they like. If they dare to do it in any State then the people of that State will be backed by the strength of the whole people in the rest of India.

Good And Bad Princes?

Sardar Patel, however, put forward the following arguments for negotiations with the Princes as against direct action.

"Up till now there was a gulf between the Rajas and ourselves. We wanted independence and

they wanted to continue their section with the Crown. But things are changing. I say are good and bad Princes. In all there is patriotism. Many of them are now hoping to be and want Congress to fight win freedom so that they can be free.

"But slavery is a disease to which even Princes are subject. I have many of them good in the head, but their legs are paralysed and are unable to move. We have to meet and move the Princes in a way that they do not fall and so that they not we may suffer."

Sardar Patel concluded his speech by saying that the time had arrived for negotiating with the Princely jamat as a whole and settling the problem of the Indian States on a country-wide scale and not piecemeal.

The delegates could not believe their ears. For it seemed to many of them as though Sardar Patel was asking the States peoples to postpone their struggle, to tolerate their villainous Rulers.

Sharply they fought back against any such idea.

Delegates Speak Up

The majority of the speeches delivered by members of the General Council showed their complete opposition to the stand taken by Sardar Patel and favoured some form of direct action to win democratic rights.

Swami RAMANAND TIRTH assured the AISPC that people's organisations in Hyderabad had grown considerably in strength and would soon discharge their responsibility in the struggle for democratic rights.

PATTOM THANU PILLAI of Travancore asked why the AISPC should not put forward the demand that there should be a Constituent Assembly for the States as had been suggested for the Provinces by the Cabinet Mission.

SHAKIR ALI of Bhopal moved an amendment to the draft resolution, urging that sovereignty must reside in the people to decide whether they want the Ruler to remain or go.

An amendment by NARAYAN REDDY of Hyderabad that elections be held on the same suffrage as in British India was ruled out.

Constituent Assembly

The final resolution made the following demands:

* It demands full responsible government for the States as integral part of a free and federated India.

* It demands that the representatives from the States to the Constituent Assembly be elected on the widest possible franchise.

* It demands end of the treaties of the States with the British Government and demands modification of Paramountcy even in the interim period.

* It demands that representatives from a State to the Union Constituent Assembly should sit separately to frame the constitution of that State.

* It demands that the Negotiating Committee must have representatives of the States people.

* It demands that the States must form equal units of the future free federal Union of India.

The delegates went back satisfied that they had made some progress but with the feeling that the unreal atmosphere of compromise in New Delhi had taken the edge off each of the resolutions.

They expected a call from the Congress leaders for a united struggle in all the States against autocratic terror. They were shocked and hurt when they received instead sharp criticism of their heroic struggles and even talks on the new "patriotic" role of the "good" Princes.

Our Srinagar Correspondent's Diary

Mass Plunder Under Guise Of Punitive Tax Military Out For Revenge

June 11

Thousands Of Throats

SHEIKH ABDULLAH is again on trial today. All the shops are shut. Business is at a standstill. The colleges, offices—all are closed. Thousands flock to catch a glimpse of their Sher-e-Kashmir.

But the military keeps the people far from the place of trial.

Sher-e-Kashmir must know we are here, that we are fighting. Kak's men will be telling him lies that they have crushed us. Of course, Sheikh Sahib will never believe them.

But he must know....he must know somehow.

A message? But how? We cannot get through the cordon now.

A shout? Will it be loud enough for him to hear so far away?

Yes, if we shout all together. Come on, Kashmiris, come on and shout as you have never shouted before. Sher-e-Kashmir must hear....he must know....Come on....

Quit Kashmir!

Down With the Dogra Raj!

Louder!

Again!....And again!!....

Inside the court, Sheikh Abdullah heard the voice of his people.—Kashmir Lives and Fights. And up in their palaces and mansions the Maharaja, the British Resident and Premier Kak heard also. And perhaps they trembled a little. For it was a shout which sounded to them something like their death-knell.

June 12

TODAY the military is out for revenge. Last night they raided two hundred houses, including that of HAJI AH-MADULLAH, M.L.A.

From top to bottom they searched. They called up men,

women, children, all—one after the other.

"Who are the people who lead Kashmir today?"

"From where do the posters come—thousands and thousands of them?"

Question after question. The military is supposed to be tracing the "underground" leaders of the National Conference, but in the name of searching for them, it is committing atrocity after atrocity.

Perhaps they are right and it does not matter whom they kill, whom they beat and torture, whom they arrest.

For all Kashmir is "underground", every Kashmiri is as much responsible for LIVING in the face of Kak's terror as any other.

Yes, our crime is that we dare to live, to breathe, to say once, twice, a hundred times—that Kashmir shall be free and beautiful again.

June 13

Plunder In Srinagar

TWO lakhs of rupees....that is the punitive tax they have levied on Srinagar.

And they have begun to collect it already. It is not an ordinary collection....it is mass plunder. The thieves come and rob and call it "punitive tax." But we have a right to defend ourselves against dacoits and shall do so.

June 14

Extern! Extern!

FREDA BEDI has been ordered to leave Kashmir within 48 hours. Freda Bedi, English woman journalist, married to that stalwart Punjabi revolutionary B. P. L. BEDI. Both of them are among Kashmir's and Sheikh Abdullah's greatest friends. They come here every summer to



KHWAJA GHULAM MOHIUDDIN, President of the Kashmir Mandoor Union and of the Srinagar National Conference—for many years Sheikh Abdullah's closest lieutenant. He is one of those for whom Kak's police is hunting. The latest news from Kashmir is that his entire property—worth several lakhs—has been confiscated.

throw in their lot with the Kashmir National Conference.

But this year, Freda cannot stay. Why? Was she burning bridges? No. But because Maharaja Hari Singh, Kak and the White Sahib Resident are afraid that what Freda sees with her eyes will be blazoned forth in India's Press. Freda must not be allowed to see. Out she must go, so that she may not be able to tell the world the truth about Kashmir.

You can extern Freda Bedi. But there are so many Fredas in Kashmir.

Only today a women's procession was lathi-charged.

Can you "extern" the injuries on their bodies, Kak?

The evidence against you is piling up, piling up....tanks and tanks full of evidence—that incontrovertible evidence which is Kashmiri blood.

BRITISH PLAN SOWS HATE AND GREED IN ASSAM

From Nikhil Chakravarty

Calcutta, June 14

From Assam has come the loudest condemnation of the Cabinet Mission's diabolical Plan. The Assam Congress announced an Anti-Group Campaign. Here indeed were the possibilities of a really broad, anti-Imperialist movement against the unjust and undemocratic compulsory grouping, developing on a Province-wide scale, and embracing all patriotic sections of the people.

And I went to Assam with the hope that I would see a really solid, growing, popular mobilisation against the British Plan.

I spent one fortnight in Assam. I met leaders practically of all leading parties. I attended meetings, overheard gossip in the Secretariat, in tea stalls, and in buses. I talked to the local Pressmen and I listened to students and political workers.

This is what I learnt.

WITH the coming of the British Cabinet Ministers, Assam's leaders began to get ready to contest their respective claims before them.

The Muslim League leaders stuck to their unjust claims of including the whole of Assam in Pakistan despite the fact that the Muslims here are not more than 1/3 of the entire population.

But those who stood against this unjust claim have not themselves been consistently just.

Sjt. Bardoloi's Calculations

Sjt. BARDOLOI during his interview with the Cabinet Mission was reported to have agreed to the secession of Sylhet to Bengal but not of the equally predominantly Bengali-speaking area of the Cachar plains.

Perhaps he was moved by the calculation that by throwing Sylhet as a sop to the League he would be able to save the rest of Assam from being attached to Pakistan.

He may have calculated also that cutting off Sylhet with its Muslim majority will weaken the League in Assam and, thereby will keep the Province safe for the Congress.

Besides, Sylhet fetches a meagre revenue and so its retention is not an attractive proposition.

But Sjt. Bardoloi could not agree to surrender the Cachar plains as they give him the only passage to the Lushai Hills if the State of Manipur is to be left untouched.

There are chauvinists too, in the Assam Congress who dream of the old days of "Kamrup Rajya."

Suggestions For A Corridor

And it was freely suggested that a corridor could easily be formed with Hindustan by grabbing portions of the North Bengal districts of Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and Darjeeling.

While the Assam Congress leaders were claiming territories which do not belong to Assam, the Bengal Congress leaders also made claims which went beyond their legitimate due.

Sjt. KIRAN SHANKAR ROY immediately after his interview with the Cabinet Mission in a statement laid claim to the predominantly Assamese district of Goalpara to be included (besides Sylhet and Cachar) in Greater Bengal.

This infuriated Assam Congressmen and the General Secretary of the Assam Provincial Congress Committee (PCC), Sjt. SIDDHANATH SARMA, wrote to the Congress President demanding immediate action against Kiran Babu for violating the Congress principle by his claim on Goalpara.

At the same time it is interesting to note that the Assam Congress leaders themselves quietly moved the Working Committee for the inclusion in the Assam PCC of Bengali dominated Cachar District Congress Committee.

The Sylhet DCC, which is un-

der the Bengal PCC, in its turn, on April 30, held up Kiran Babu's stand and condemned Sjt. Siddhanath Sarma; and the Cachar DCC on May 11th unanimously protested against any move to annex it to the Assam PCC and demanded the transfer of Cachar to Bengal.

Thus:

- The League claiming self-determination for Muslims, tried to grab the whole of Assam which is overwhelmingly non-Muslim.

- The Assam Congress while justly claiming Goalpara in the name of self-determination,

forgot to apply the same principle to the people of Cachar.

- The Bengal Congress while justly demanding Sylhet and Cachar, cast unjust eyes on Goalpara.

It seemed as if different territories were treated by our leaders as so many pawns that could be bargained or bartered away so that their claims could be adjusted.

It is in this context of mutual bargaining that the British master Plan came and upset the hopes of our leaders.

League Uncertain At First

The League opinion immediately on the Cabinet Mission's declaration was a bit perplexed with the long homily made by the British Ministers against Pakistan. And voices, though feeble, were raised in the League camp against the grouping together of Assam and Bengal.

Maulvi ABDUL HAYE, M.L.A., Jt. Secretary of the Assam Provincial Muslim League, is understood to have stated that had it been a sovereign Pakistan, one could have reconciled oneself to Assam being grouped with Bengal, but under the present arrangements Assam was going to be obliterated.

The Gauhati Bar Association

passed a unanimous resolution against the grouping with the full support of Maulvi NURUL HUQUE, (Vice-President of the Assam Provincial Muslim League), who was present.

Now Entire Camp Mobilised In Support

But the entire League camp was soon mobilised in support of the grouping. Surma Valley Muslims found in it an easy means of getting back to Bengal. And in the Assam Valley too, a powerful section of immigrant Muslims, particularly after the Congress Ministry's recent policy of ruthless eviction, practically welcomed it as a means by which the immigrants could have complete freedom to encroach into Assam.

And the general feeling in the Muslim camp has been that the groups provided the means by which they could retain their hold over Assam with the help of their big brother from Bengal.

When I asked Sir MOHD. SAADULLAH (League ex-Premier) why the Muslims, being only a third of the population, should try to boss over the rest of the people, he put the counter-question: "But what about the Assamese question? They themselves are not more than 1/3rd of the population," and he quot-

ed Coupland and the reports to prove his argument seemed to be

Sir Mohd. Saadullah Argument

"If the League's support groups is objected on ground that the Muslim Assam are not more 30% strong, then the Assam claim for separate Assam should be dismissed on precisely the same ground."

And between these two dead-ends he recommended the grouping by giving me a catalogue of the material advantages that Assam would get out of it: Education, Public Health, Trade and Industry—all these would benefit by this link-up with Bengal.

But I found him completely oblivious to the fact that the grouping imposed as such can never be democratic nor could I find him bothering at all about the European tea-planters who would remain the bosses that they are today.

But the Congress' just opposition to the grouping also lacks the stamp of a healthy democratic movement and has resulted in acute bickering not only between the Congress and the League but between the Congressmen themselves of the two Valleys.

Sjt. Bardoloi in his memorandum to the Working Committee rightly declared, "I cannot think of a worse case in which democratic principles are given the go-by than in a case like this" (A.P.L.—May 21st).

When I met him in Shillong ten days later he repeated the same charge: "A group compulsorily imposed is the very negation of democracy."

But in the same breath he added: "It is against (Continued on page 7)

Assamese Tribal People And The Plan

DISSATISFIED WITH BOTH CONGRESS AND LEAGUE

Danger Of Falling Into British Trap

While squabbles go on between the two communities and the two Valleys, Assam's great bulk of humanity numbering over thirty-five lakhs, lumped together as "tribes", are left without care. And yet it is here that Imperialism in its naked form reigns supreme.

THE so-called 'excluded areas' are under the iron regime of British police officers, without whose permission no one can even enter these areas.

They are kept purposely in a state of backwardness and the slightest unrest is suppressed with the severest vendetta as borne out by the famous case of NAGA RANI GUIDALO.

In Manipur continues the feudal autocracy of the Raja propped up by the Political Agent and Prime Minister, who was till recently an I.C.S., is now a pucea British Military Officer.

The area being most affected by war, the Government commuted the tribute of rupees fifty thousand levied annually from the Maharaja.

But those who bore the brunt of invasion have to pay increased land-revenue as a result of the war.

Propaganda Among Nagas

And among the unsophisticated Nagas the Britishers are sedulously propagating their plan for a separate hill Province provoking the tribes by preaching that they are being fleeced by the plains' people.

The Government census includes among "tribes" five lakhs of tea-garden labourers and those among them who have settled down in Assam; and these too are denied all the impact of the outside world, being kept under the unchallenged Zamindari of the White planters.

Among all these "tribes" in the hills as well as in the plains, a new awakening has come.

I asked Sir MOHD. SAADULLAH about the League attitude

towards the "tribes." He said that he supported the Khasi demand for a separate autonomous Unit to be federated to Assam State and he had himself submitted a memorandum on behalf of the Khasi Jaintia Political Association to the Cabinet Mission.

He is supremely satisfied that the tribes would side with the League because "they all need separate electorates, and who but the League would stand for them?"

Congress Memorandum On Hill Tribes

I raised the same question in my interview with Sjt. BARDOLOI and he said that "the Congress has agreed to support not only special safeguards but even local autonomy for the hill tribes." And I learnt that he, in his turn, had submitted to the Cabinet Mission a memorandum drawn up by the Khasi Congress leader Rev. NICHOLS ROY.

As for the plains' tribes, he said he would "personally advocate joint electorate with reservation of seats if they all agree to this."

I was surprised to find that neither the Congress nor the League has agitated recently for the abolition of "excluded areas" or for the introduction of responsible government in Manipur State, the extension of civil liberties to the tea-gardens.

I interviewed a number of Khasi leaders who among all the hill tribes have been the most directly involved in the Congress-League controversy, thanks to the last elections.

But the bulk of them still maintain an attitude of friendly

neutrality towards both. As one of them put it:

"We have no grudge against either the Congress or the League and both of them speak with sympathy for us. Both treat us like younger brothers, but in action we have not so far found them doing anything specific for us."

"We have seen both Congress and League Ministries—but not a single school for the Khasis has been started by either of them. And neither of them has cared to stop the Marwaris penetrating into the interior of our country."

In their reactions to the Cabinet proposals the tribal people are not sure if they should throw themselves whole-heartedly into this controversy on the grouping question though they have not been able to keep away altogether from it owing to the strong opposing pull of both the Congress and the League.

Attitude Of Khasi Leaders

The Khasi ex-Minister, Miss MAVIS DUNNE, for instance, has issued a statement supporting the grouping, but she is known all over Assam as being under the direct influence of League leaders.

The leaders of the Khasi Jaintia Political Association on the other hand whom the Congress fought in the last elections are not sure what stand to take. Mr. LYNDON, their Secretary, told me:

"We are frankly worried over this storm but we do not know which side to back. We are linked up with the Assamese but we know we cannot get along without Bengal. These hills are our homes but Assam and Bengal are our countries."

The Khasi leaders who have joined the Congress are of course opposing the grouping. But it is generally held that if

the Congress High Command acquiesces in the grouping the Khasi leaders will switch off their opposition.

The feeling among tribal people in the Assam plain is typified in the statement of Sjt. RUPNATH BRAHMA, M.L.A., President of the Assam Tribal League:

"From the Cabinet Mission's statement it clearly appears that in sending representatives to the proposed Constituent Assembly they (the tribal people) shall have to depend on the party commanding a majority in the general community of the Provincial Assembly."

This seems to betray nervousness rather than enthusiasm at being left at the mercy of the Congress.

Helplessness Taken Advantage Of

This state of complete helplessness on the part of tribal people is no doubt being taken advantage of by the British.

Mr. MacDonell, an influential Khasi leader who actually brought the message of the Congress to his own people but went out of the Congress during the elections, is now advocating the creation of a separate hill Province, which is exactly the thing that the Government is waiting for.

The Khasi Jaintia Political Association too in its memorandum to the Cabinet Mission appeals to the British Government, recalling "the pledge" of Lord Willingdon to safeguard their interests.

Even Rev. Nichols Roy himself, though elected to the AICC, did not seem to me to be too sure of his own ground. And I understand that Governor Sir ANDREW CLOW has written to him commending his memorandum and has assured him support.

Another minor instance of traditional Imperialist machination is provided by the case of the Ahoms who are anxious that Sjt. Bardoloi should recommend one Ahom for nomination to the Council.

The Governor obviously with the idea of splitting Ahoms away from the Congress, nominated one Ahom to the Council over Sjt. Bardoloi's head who protested against it. Mutual ill-feeling has gone so far that the Ahoms openly applauded Sjt. Bardoloi's snubbing at the hands of the Governor.

- by Nikhil Chakravarty

RAILWAY BOARD RAISES EXPENDITURE BOGEY

Popular Representatives Roped In Against Workers' Demands

New Delhi, June 14.

From talks with Mr. GURUSWAMY [General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF)] and my enquiries from other sources I am in a position to give a picture of why the Standing Railway Finance Committee (SRFC) was convened by the Railway Board, what it hoped to achieve and how the members of the Committee behaved in respect to the railwaymen's demands.

FIRST and foremost is the question: Why did the Railway Board decide to convene the SRFC and ask its opinion.

The SRFC was first set up in 1924. It was one of those powerless advisory bodies which the British Imperialists have a knack of setting up in order to give a democratic mask to their autocratic rule. Its functions were purely advisory.

All that it succeeded in doing was to give the members of the Committee a feeling of importance (not to mention a sumptuous daily allowance), and in return got for the Railway Board the seal of popular sanction.

Never before had this Committee been asked to conciliate any dispute or adjudicate any demands of the railwaymen.

Nor did the members of the Committee presume to have any more power than was actually conceded. They generally finished their consideration of the Railway Budget amounting to about 200 crore rupees in just two or three hours.

Why Committee Was Convened

Why then did the Railway Board convene this Committee on this occasion? My enquiries show that the Railway Board had cleverly calculated that the Committee would more or less pull in line with the Board because,

FIRST, in view of the political discussions being carried on by both the Congress and the League with the Cabinet Ministers, the leadership of both parties would be averse to the railwaymen's demands coming to a head at this juncture.

SECONDLY, that in view of the hopes entertained by both the parties of taking power in an Interim Government they could be frightened into opposing the railwaymen's demands by making it appear that the cost would be a huge one which no Government could possibly undertake.

It must be admitted that on both these points the Railway Board's calculations were not far off the mark.

The Board through the Financial Commissioner for Railways handed the SRFC a memorandum which as Guruswamy told me "exaggerated the financial implications of the AIRF demands" just to discredit the railwaymen in the eyes of the public and frighten the members of the SRFC into opposing it.

Attitude Of League Representative

In the SRFC the League MLAs were Mr. NAUMAN and Sir YAMIN KHAN. On the side of the Congress there were Messrs. ANANTASAYANAM AYYENGAR, SATYA NARAIN SINHA, LAHIRI, CHAUDHURI, etc.

Mr. Nauman, one of the champion reactionaries, took up a very clear-cut attitude of unyielding opposition to the railwaymen's demands. The reasons, I gather, are,

by
A. S. R. Chari

First, Mr. Nauman wants to impress the authorities with his good behaviour;

Secondly, he wants to prove that the official-dominated Muslim Employees' Federation is the sole representative of Muslim railwaymen and that they are opposed to the strike.

tified in refusing to sympathise with or support them now.

Nevertheless, it must be admitted that in the Committee the Congress MLAs differed from the League MLAs in that they said that the railwaymen's demands must be met at least in part.

I understand that Mr. Nauman was the bitterest opponent of the railwaymen's demands and argued,

First, that men who are taken as temporary employees should not complain if they are retrenched.

Secondly, that the claim to dearness allowance to the extent of Rs. 45 was thoroughly unreasonable.

It was pointed out to him that this claim was based upon the considered recommendations of the Rau Committee to which Mr. Nauman replied, "The

MUST THIS LOOT CONTINUE ?

Total Investment on Railways in 85 years till 1939	Rs. 739.53 Crores
Amount Paid by way of Interest charges in 16 years. (1924-40)	Rs. 485.89

THE SAHIB AND THE WORKER

Wages of a sweeper (B.B.C.I.)	Rs. 12 per month.
Salary of General Manager (B.B.C.I.)	Rs. 3,500 "
1659 Gazetted Officers get	Rs. 2.85 crores. (average over Rs. 1,400)
Over 6,00,000 Daily rated and inferior staff get	Rs. 21.33 crores. (average about Rs. 29/8)
A handful of Investors in England get (Interest charges)	Rs. 28.53 crores

Facts from 1943 Railway Budget.

Thirdly, he believes that the Rau Committee did not concern itself with the staff drawing above Rs. 30", and therefore he was not interested in the Rau Committee's report.

Fourthly, that there should be no change in regard to the railway's contributions to the general revenues.

Thirdly, he wanted the railway managements to cease giving grain shop facilities.

Fourthly, that there should be no change in regard to the railway's contributions to the general revenues.

Stand Of Congress MLAs

The Congress MLAs were, however, in a slightly different position.

I understand that the Congress MLAs received a whip to delay the decision of the Committee for a few days so that the question of the Interim Government might reach a more or less definite stage: for on this depended the attitude of the Congress.

If the Congress joined the Interim Government, they would oppose the strike; if the Congress did not enter the Interim Government, then the Congress would support the strike.

Apart from this there were other factors:

One of the members of the Committee itself was Mr. Satyanarain Sinha, President of the O. & T. Railwaymen's Union, and in that capacity, he had himself signed the Strike Notice.

On the other hand, another of the Congress members of the SRFC was Mr. Anantasayanam Ayyengar, who, in an off-the-record talk, had said that since the railwaymen followed the Communists and refrained from participating in the 1942 strike, the Congress would be quite jus-

Secret Meeting

On April 18th, a meeting took place between the General Manager, A. G. HALL and senior police and military officials. Here is an extract from the minutes of this highly secret meeting:

"Mr. A. G. Hall, M.B.E., General Manager N.W. Rly. said: 'Mirza Mohammad Ibrahim, an active Communist, a fitter in the N.W. Rly. Workshop and so-called Vice-President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation has been haranguing workmen at Lahore on the issue of Pay, Food and 6-Hour Day.'

"Two short but illegal strikes had already taken place and more were expected; one would probably occur on May 1st upto now the men had been perfectly orderly and were not at all truculent."

"Sir J. T. M. BENNETT, K.C.I.E., C.B.E., M.C., J.P., Jt. Secretary to the Punjab Government, said that the trouble

was entirely due to one man who was working outside the unions. He thought that the railway authorities were not putting enough counter propaganda. He said that it was difficult to take action against Ibrahim without increasing his importance or making a martyr of him. He asked if he could not be transferred or promoted."

Mr. Hall pointed out that promotion was out of question because "he is nowhere near the promotion zone." As for transfer, that too might make a martyr of him.

Mr. BAYLEY, the police chief, is then reported to have promised to take the first opportunity to have Mirza arrested.

Warn Congress!

The minutes then continue:—"Mr. Hall deplored the lack of influence of the unions and complained of their apathy. He said that efforts to get in touch with the workers to state their grievances had produced nothing and even efforts by the Railway Board to meet the AIRF had failed as the latter had not turned up in response to this invitation."

"Mr. Bayley suggested that the Congress Party might be warned that the Communists were scoring at their expense" (emphasis ours.—Ed.)

secretly advised "Muslims to run the trains if the strike materialises. He is seeking military aid and arms for would-be blacklegs. Naturally enough Cherrag Ali on his tours dices and feasts with the chibha Benthalls, the burra sahibs of the railway."

On M.S.M. Railway

On June 3, the Madras papers carried a 3-column advertisement for "temporary employment" in the MSM Railway on daily rates of pay. Every type of hand is "wanted"—typists, clerks, station masters, telegraphists, signalmen, guards, brakemen, pointmen, porters, watchmen, drivers, firemen, locomotives, boiler makers, machinemen, etc.

This is the first open call for blacklegs for the strike. It follows fast on Benthall's declaration that the strike will be illegal.

FALSE PLEA OF LACK OF FUNDS

What The Facts Show

The Railway Board says there is no money to meet the Railway workers' demands. What are the facts?

Depreciation Fund

THE so-called Depreciation Fund has risen from 21 crore rupees in 1921-22, 42 crore rupees in 1939-40 to 102 crore rupees today. What is the idea? Never in any single year has the total put into this Fund been used.

Sir ZIA-UD-DIN AHMAD, speaking in the Central Assembly in 1939 said:

"It is neither a depreciation nor a reserve fund—May I ask whether such a big amount is kept in the Depreciation Fund anywhere outside India?... Are you going to increase this fund for an indefinite time to an indefinite amount? Is it the idea that when an earthquake shatters all these railways, you will require several hundred crores from this fund to rebuild our railways 'de novo'? The idea of building up an indefinite reserve is against the practice of every other country in the world."

The Railway Budget of 1944-47 shows that the following amounts are hidden away:

Depreciation Fund	102 crores
Reserve Fund	171 crores
Settlement Fund	12 crores

A TOTAL OF OVER A HUNDRED AND THIRTY CRORES.

The Government's own Committee—the Wedgwood Committee—recommended that not more than EIGHTY CRORES should be kept under these heads.

Thus there are AT LEAST FIFTY CHORE RUPEES extra here which can be used to help towards human conditions for the men who created this fund with their labour.

But Benthall says there is NO MONEY.

Wages And The E. P. T.

Railway's Annual Wage Bill	38 crores
Annual Revenue from Excise Profits Tax	95 crores

Lastly, Mr. Nauman quite shamelessly asserted that the pre-war employment level would be the basis on which the questions of retrenchment would be decided, particularly in view of the fact that war employment on railways did not maintain the communal proportions.

Benthall can't increase the wages of the railwaymen, who live in perpetual starvation.

But he CAN put an end to the E.P.T.

Seventy-five crore rupees, twice the wage bill. Every worker could get a 200 per cent rise, if the Mirza and Tatas and all their kind continued to pay the E.P.T. But NO....there is still no money.

Cheap White Freight

White companies pay freight charges which are a fraction of the normal rates paid by Black companies. Why? Because it is the British who rule the roost in India.

Put the White companies on the same rates as everybody—and get lakhs into the railways' coffers, to meet the urgent needs of the railwaymen.

Draining Our Wealth Dry

Thirty crore rupees Benthall sends out every year as "Interest charges" to British Big Business, who happened to own the railways once.

The White lords sitting in England have eaten enough. Stop this drain on our people.

Even if these exorbitant charges are cut by HALF, the railwaymen can get a 40 per cent rise from here alone.

Blow Up This Swindle

But still Benthall can't see where he can get this money.

No Imperialist can see. For if he sees, he has to cut at the very base of Imperialism itself—the preferential freight charges, the excessive interest charges, the special cheap rates for the army of occupation.

But the Indian people can and must see.

The railways are a BRITISH FINANCIAL SWINDLE, cheating the passenger and the railway worker alike.

Blow up this swindle! Victory to the Railwaymen!

BENTHALL PREPARES FOR BLOOD

A regular military organisation is being prepared to fight the general strike.

A recent circular addressed to military officers by one Major Trevor of this body just before the historic NWR Strike on May 1st, says clearly that "It is felt that military aid will be required to protect trains as also loyal staff."

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"Mr. Bayley suggested that the Congress Party might be warned that the Communists were scoring at their expense" (emphasis ours.—Ed.)

This meeting took place two months ago. Since then the NWR's plans to crush the strike have gone ahead.

Recently three Communist workers were arrested for selling copies of People's Age and Naya Zamana to railway workers. They have been refused bail.

On B & A Railway

STRONG military guards are being rushed in special trains and posted at vital centres like Dibrugarh with a view to creating terror among the 35,000 railwaymen of Assam.

The Madras Railway Employees' League has been pitting itself against the strike by invoking rank communal feelings. It is only playing the "bosom" game. CHERRAG ALI, their organiser, is openly advising "Muslims to run the trains if the strike materialises. He is seeking military aid and arms for would-be blacklegs. Naturally enough Cherrag Ali on his tours dices and feasts with the chibha Benthalls, the burra sahibs of the railway."

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tate their policy primarily to the interests of the Soviet Union."

It was Blum and the Socialist Party General Secretary, DANIEL MAYER, who in fact inspired and led the anti-Communist campaign in the elections.

Yet so great has been the criticism of the results of this policy among the lower ranks of the Socialist Party that even Blum, in his speech as a fraternal delegate to the British Labour Party Conference, 'speaking with great emotion', openly said:

"The only homogeneous government in a country like France or the rest of Europe—the only government which could get a clear majority in the country or in parliament—would be a government of proletarian unity as a result of fusion by the Socialist and Communist parties." (Bombay Chronicle, June 15).

Thus there appears to be a better chance of the Socialists and Communists working closely together—in which case there is no doubt that DE GAULLE'S wish to return to French politics as France's leader (expressed in a speech on June 16) will not be fulfilled.

Socialist Premier?

The present position is that while the M.R.P. (Centrist Popular Republican Party) is asking for the Premiership, the Communists want a Socialist Premier, and are also insisting on one of the three key portfolios as France's leader (ex- and Interior, being given to a Communist.

It is therefore possible that if Socialist-Communist cooperation increases, the new Government will be headed by a Socialist Premier as before and on the same tripartite basis. June 18.

LEFT PARTIES DO WELL IN ITALIAN ELECTIONS

By Cable. London, June 14. THE plebiscite on the Monarchy and the results of the elections to the Italian Constituent Assembly show an overwhelming victory for the democratic parties.

In the voting on the monarchy, 12,672,797 voted for the transformation of Italy into a Republic, while 10,688,905 voted for the retention of the Monarchy. Former King Umberto has reluctantly accepted the popular verdict and left Italy.

Over twenty million Italians voted and the latest figures available are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Party Name and % of total vote. Includes Christian Democratic Party (Centre), Socialist Party (Left), and Communist Party (Left).

The four parties of the Right together polled only 18.9 per cent of the votes—i.e., their total vote is only slightly more than the votes polled by the Communists alone, while two small Left groups, the Republican Action Party and the Republican Democratic Party, polled nearly seven per cent of the votes.

The Communists and Socialists did well in the industrial north; the Communists were the first party in Genoa, Florence and Bologna, the Socialists in Milan.

The Christian Democrats were the first party in Rome (where they polled twice as many votes as any other party), Naples and Venice.

The composition of the Government is unlikely to be changed.

The Christian Democratic Party with the Rightist Parties has an absolute majority (54 per cent of the votes) and many Right-wing reactionaries in that party would no doubt like to have a Right-Centre Coalition, excluding the Socialists and Communists.

This, however, is unlikely since the still-influential Left-wing in that Party will refuse to line up in a coalition with the Right but will insist on cooperation with the two great working-class parties.

The elections, therefore, do represent a success for Italian democracy, but the large vote for the Monarchy (45 per cent) shows that Italian democratic parties have yet to consolidate their position and most of all this will depend on democratic elements in the Christian Democratic Party, many of whom have already protested against anti-democratic manoeuvres of the Right-wing leadership, inspired by the Vatican.

Labour Party Conference—Reaction's Victory Socialist-Communist Co-operation In France?

THE decisions of the Bournemouth Conference of the Labour Party mark a new and dangerous stage in the development of British politics; they record the temporary smouldering of British labour behind the present policy of the Labour Government.

The immense majority that the Labour Party won in the last General elections showed the desire of the overwhelming mass of British workers for a change from the old Tory policy of anti-Sovietism and strengthening Imperial might abroad and subservience to British Big Business at home.

The Labour Government came to power, pledged to reverse this policy, to go forward towards Socialism in Britain and cooperation with the Soviet, and liquidation of the Empire abroad.

Pledge Betrayed

In fact, it has not carried through such a policy.

In Britain itself its methods of nationalisation have meant only a formal change in ownership; the newly-formed Coal Board that is to run the mines on behalf of the State, contains more big mine-owners than workers' representatives.

At the same time the Government's policy on both the workers' demands for higher wages and the frequent sporadic strikes has been no different from that of the Tory Government.

In foreign policy, there has been virtually no difference between Bevin and Eden; support for the Fascist-monarchist elements in Greece; refusal to take action against Franco; open line-up with the avowedly-capitalist U.S. against the Soviet Union; support to projects to keep alive Big Business in Western Germany—all are part of both Tory and Labour foreign policy, of an Imperialist policy.

Inside the Empire too, there has been no change; new constitutions have been framed for Ceylon and Malaya which retain British Imperial power intact; Transjordan is 'independent' with British troops and British bases remaining.

In India the Cabinet Mission has played the traditional game of "divide and rule", dressed up in more democratic language.

In the West Indies, it is under the Labour Government that whipping with rhinoceros hide whips has been introduced.

GHETTO ACT

(Continued from page 10)

Prominent European democrats, Senator BARNER, Senator BROOKES, Mrs. BELLENGER, M.P., Reverend MICHAEL SCOTT, and others have also rallied to the Indian cause.

The battle, however, will be bitter as both Smuts' United Party and the formerly pro-Hitler Nationalist Party are going to fight tooth-and-nail to retain the Ghetto Act on the statute book.

Much will depend on the support the Motherland, India, gives her oppressed children in South Africa; and, in the moving words of Dr. G. M. Naicker's (President, Natal Indian Congress) cable to Indian leaders published in People's Age last week—Editor):

"We (in South Africa) look to you (in India) in this grave crisis that threatens our very existence, for light, inspiration and succour. The sufferings, inevitable in our struggle, will be borne more easily in the knowledge that deep in the bosom of every Indian wells sympathy and oneness in our just cause."

Official Campaign

Thus the issue before the Bournemouth Conference was whether this reactionary policy which in all essentials carries forward Toryism was to be approved or rejected.

And this policy was approved by an overwhelming majority.

Thus the highly-organised British working-class by its vote at Bournemouth, gave its full consent to the reactionary policy of the Labour leadership and showed that it yet believed that the Labour Government was putting through its pledged policy. How did this happen?

In the main, this was due, first, to the demagogic anti-Communist campaign carried on by the biggest of the Labour leaders and, secondly, to the apparent advances made by the Labour Government in its home policy.

Attlee, Morrison and Shinwell tom-tommed the nationalisation plans as establishment of Socialism, and it is clear that the mass of the workers today believe this.

Bevin and Laski condemned any criticism of their policy as "Communist" while hypocritically paying lip-service to their desire for friendship with the Soviet, when in fact on every issue they were lining up with the anti-Soviet policy of U.S. Imperialism.

By this campaign, backed by widespread publicity, which during the past six weeks had received the support of the entire British capitalist Press from the extreme-Right Daily Mail to the 'Liberal' News Chronicle, the Labour leadership effectively managed to smother its critics and win a resounding vote of confidence in its policy.

Temporary Set-Back

It was inevitable then that with approval for official policy, went rejection of the Communist demand for affiliation to the Labour Party, for working-class unity.

On a par with this rejection, was the complete omission of any discussion on India and the withdrawal of a resolution sharply critical of Labour Colonial policy.

Thus the Bournemouth Conference registers the temporary triumph of the reactionary leadership of British Labour.

ABROAD, it can only lead to further subservience of Labour foreign policy to America's anti-Sovietism and to attempts to retain the Empire as of old.

INTERNALLY, the growing incapacity of the Government to stand up to the financial barons and put through a democratic policy of nationalisation will inevitably lead to new attacks on the living-standards of the working-class, and finally lead them in the tail of American Big Business into a first-class economic crisis.

Already warning voices on the Left of the British Labour movement have been raised against this policy.

At the Conference itself even "Reuter" describes the 'anger' of many delegates because India was not discussed and the resolution on the colonies was withdrawn; in contrast, it also comments on the "enthusiastic applause for references friendly to Russia."

The Communists in particular have warned that the Bournemouth decision "is a serious decision against the working-class" and will "encourage reactionary forces"; they are

pledged to fight for a Progressive policy at home and abroad.

Their position and that of many Left-wing critics still remains strong in the trade unions (particularly railways, engineers and miners).

Though the Labour leaders have won this first round, there is no doubt that the opposition to them will rise as life itself shows how bankrupt, weak-kneed and reactionary is their entire home and foreign policy.

Negotiations In France

THE negotiations for the formation of a new Cabinet in France are continuing.

The Socialists, in contrast to British Labour's bitter anti-Communist policy, appear to have learnt something from the results of the last elections when a virulent anti-Communist campaign barely affected the Communist vote but led to a serious decrease of the Socialist vote.

Six months ago a majority of the Socialist Party Executive, led by LEON BLUM, opposed fusion with the Communists on the ground that "Western democratic Socialism has a distinct mission" while "the Communists have not ceased to orient-

French India Elections DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE'S MAGNIFICENT VICTORY Will Support Communists In French Constituent Assembly

Pondicherry, June 14. IN the election of one member to represent French India in the French Constituent Assembly, the candidate of the National Democratic Front, Professor LAMBERT SARAVAN, scored a great triumph, defeating the reactionary candidate ZIVARATTIANAM by the astounding figure of 64,853 votes to 20.

Zivarattianam won the elections held last October—by using two methods; first, he organised such goondagiri, particularly in Karaikal, that thousands of voters kept away from the polls and false votes were cast for them; secondly, through the Election Commission he got 3,000 votes of Saravan's invalidated to give him an absolute majority and victory.

Zivarattianam, who is an old opportunist and toady, prominent in the Indo-Francophone Party sponsored by Hitler's friend Daladier, exposed himself still further by his articles in Paris papers during the last six months. In them he stated that the people of French India do not want independence but only a slight widening of the powers of the bogus French Indian Assembly.

Saravan's Campaign

Saravan in contrast campaigned for the right of the people of French India to independence and the right of all settlements in French India to rejoin their natural national homelands in India—i.e., Pondicherry and Karaikal to become part of Tamilnad, Chandernagore of Bengal, etc.

Saravan was supported by the very powerful textile trade unions of Pondicherry and by the Kisan Sabha; in addition

the National Democratic Front (NDF) whose candidate he was, united together people of all shades of political opinion, including the Communists.

The election itself was a demonstration and festival, hundreds and thousands of voters marching in procession to the polling booths with huge Red banners.

Free Elections

For the first time in the history of these elections, votes were polled freely owing to the now great popularity and strength of the National Democratic Front (it was only formed ten months ago), and also to the fact that the new Governor M. BARON, sent out by the new Government of France, did not seek to influence the elections (as the old true-blue Imperialist Governors did) by putting all the strength of the bureaucracy behind reactionary candidates.

Of course, both in Mahe and Chandernagore, where unlike Karaikal and Pondicherry, the working-class core of the NDF is weak, the reactionaries did their best to campaign against Saravan by pointing to his close association with the Communist leader, SUBBIAH, but their attempts to whip up anti-Communism have failed miserably.

Saravan has pledged to do his utmost to win independence for the people of French India and has cabled to Professor BARBE, Secretary of the Colonial Section of the French Communist Party, that in the French Constituent Assembly he can be counted on to work with the Communist group, the stoutest champions of liberty and freedom for the colonial peoples.

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GHETTO ACT

Last Brick In Prison For Indians In S. Africa

The Ghetto Act, as it is called, is the logical culmination of the terrific drive against Indians in South Africa launched by the European-dominated Union Government. It marks the climax of the anti-Indian-anti-African racial policy of the present Union Government.

It is a big step towards perpetuating the infamous political system by which twenty lakh Europeans keep disfranchised and rule autocratically eighty lakh Africans and two and a half lakh Indians, imposing heavier and heavier burdens on them.

WHEN immigration of Indians started in 1860, they were not at all eager to go to S. Africa.

It was on the express request of the Natal Government that the first batch of Indian labourers went to South Africa; the semi-official paper, Natal Mercury, described their entry thus: "Coolie immigration is the vitalising principle."

So eager was Natal for immigrant labour that when in 1870 even the alien Indian Government was reluctant to send Indian labour to Natal because of the inhuman conditions there, the Natal Government promised £10,000 for cost of transport.

How Restrictions Began

From 1880 onwards, however, as economic difficulties grew in Natal, the English ruling-class began to direct the rising discontent against the Indians. In 1897 the first Indo-European riots took place. And it is from about that time that the restrictions on Indians in South Africa started.

Before 1898, Indians had the right to vote in both National Parliamentary and Local Municipal elections in South Africa.

In 1896 they were deprived of the Parliamentary franchise on the ostensible ground that since Indians in India did not have the right to vote, Indians in South Africa should not have it.

In 1924 they were also deprived of their Municipal franchise.

Thus today Indians are simply not represented on any Government or Local Government bodies and consequently Indian interests have been grossly neglected.

Treated As Separate Subject Race

In addition to all this Indians are treated throughout as a separate subject race.

- There are separate schools for Indians; no Indians are allowed into the Natal University College.

- In railway trains they occupy separate and inferior coaches.

- In posts and telegraphic offices, there are separate non-European counters where Indians must go.

- Indians are debarred from employment in Government and Municipal Service except (!) in menial services as teachers in Indian schools or as Indian interpreters in courts.

In 1948, came the next big blow: by the Pegging Act, the freedom of Indians in Durban to occupy or purchase landed property in urban and rural areas was restricted.

And the latest Ghetto Act, passed only this year, is the biggest blow of all, climax to the campaign of hate launched by the Europeans.

It does the following.

- In Natal, the Pegging Act only restricted the right to buy property from Europeans and that too in Durban only. The Ghetto Act restricts the Indians' right to buy property, from Europeans AND Africans, Chinese, Malays, and other non-Indians and applies to all urban and rural areas in Natal except certain specified areas.

From Our Special Correspondent

● The old Pegging Act did not apply to Transvaal. The new Act does—and segregates Indians not only as regards their place of residence (as in Natal) but also as regards their trading activities; these also are to be confined to certain areas and clearly the Indian trader, accustomed to trade freely, will face new ruin.

The Ghetto Act also affords 'representation' to the Indians in Parliament. By it Indians in Natal and Transvaal, will be allowed to have three Europeans to represent them in a house of 150! (Similar 'representation' is allowed to Africans, eighty lakhs of them being allowed to elect three Europeans to represent them).

This Act therefore climaxes



in bold relief the Smuts policy of permanent deprivation of normal human rights that any citizen of any country possesses. This is why the Natal Indian Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress have decided to launch a campaign of passive resistance, aimed to force the withdrawal of the Ghetto Act.

In this battle the Indians are not alone.

Dr. A. B. XUMA, President of the African National Congress, representing eighty lakh Africans, has pledged that Afri-

cans will "not only sympathise but will support in all possible manner the Indians in their struggle against this inhuman legislation."

MOSES KOTANE, African General Secretary of the Communist Party of South Africa, which is the only political party in South Africa to have amongst its members persons from all races in the Union, has also declared that the Communists wholeheartedly support the first struggle of the Indians.

(Continued on page 9.)

INDIANS AND THEIR ORGANISATIONS IN S. AFRICA

THERE are two and a half lakh Indians in South Africa, mostly Tamil labourers from the South and merchants (Gujeratis and Khojas predominantly) from the west coast.

They live principally in Natal (nearly two lakhs), Transvaal (about 40,000) and Cape Colony (about 10,000).

They are mainly engaged in factories, mines, shop-keeping, etc., few are lawyers or doctors, and some market-gardeners.

Their main organisation is the South African Indian Congress, whose two biggest sections are the Natal Indian Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress.

These organisations were started under Gandhiji's leadership at the beginning of the century, and from 1906 to 1914 they fought a bitter and long drawn-out battle of passive resistance which finally resulted in the Smuts-Gandhi agreement of 1914.

By this agreement the poll-tax of £3 per head was abolished and redressal of other grievances promised. However, this was not done and the position of Indians gradually worsened.

Battle Between Progressives And Moderates

Between 1940 and 1945 inside the Indian Congress a big battle was fought between the Progressives and the Moderates.

The former stood for an uncompromising opposition to the attempts of the White Government to enslave totally the Indian population and for unity with the rest of South Africa's non-European population (eighty lakhs out of a total population of one crore) to fight this threat.

The latter wanted to temporise and try to find some middle road by which a limited form of segregation was accepted but total segregation averted.

Finally, as the South African Government seemed determined to go forward with the most drastic anti-Indian legislation, the leadership of the Congress passed over more and more into the hands of the Progressives, particularly under Dr. NAICKER of Natal and Dr. DADOO of Transvaal, who is a well-known Communist.

Today all sections including the old leadership have rallied behind the new young Progressive leaders and are jointly launching the biggest passive resistance movement ever seen in South Africa.

Around the World

GOOD-BYE TO THE HOUSE OF SAVOY

Home where he was received with open arms by the King.

With this godsend, the landowners and big business men filled the coffers of Mussolini to destroy the constitution and every vestige of democracy. Trade Unions were banned, political parties outlawed, the so-called Corporate State was set up—and to all this the King willingly agreed; from now on the monarchy and Fascism proceeded hand in hand in everything.

Mussolini's Apologist

In 1924, Mussolini got the young Socialist M.P., MATTEOTTI, murdered because he symbolised the fighting spirit of democratic Italy.

"Give me proof that the head of the Government has really had anything to do with this barbarous murder," said the King. "and I know what my duty will be," he added hypocritically. The proof adduced created a world sensation, but Victor Emmanuel showed no reluctance to declare Mussolini not guilty.

Fresh in public memory is the murderous aggression of Fascist Italy on Abyssinia. With complete cynicism, Victor Emmanuel adopted the pompous title of 'Emperor' of Ethiopia.

In 1939, he became 'King of Albania', when that small country was set upon by Mussolini's fascist bands.

In June 1940, Mussolini stabbed a bleeding France in the back and the man who became Commander of Mussolini's armies for this was no less a person than the heir to Victor Emmanuel, Crown Prince Umberto.

And were the Italian Kings well paid by the landowners and big business? The position of the monarch carried with it the enormous salary of 11,250,000 lire per year, between two and three lakh rupees per month—something that might well arouse the envy of even our biggest Highnesses, royal, exalted and all the others—and Victor Emmanuel reigned for 44 whole years!

I do not think any democrat—inside or outside Italy—is going to waste any tears over the departure of this family, traditionally the willing tool of reaction.

Churchill's New Plot

A RECENT nation-wide broadcast of the well-known American liberal radio commentator, STEEL, has shown up that there was more than we have been told by the Imperialist Reuter about Churchill's visit to the U.S.A., in course of which he made his Fulton speech calling for an Anglo-American military alliance against the Soviet.

(Hindustani Times, Special Correspondent, May 23)

Steel disclosed that Churchill was there to revive his post-1918 plot against the Soviet Union. For this he had offered to pay one million dollars—price offered for his War Memoirs—as his contribution to an Anti-Bolshevik Anglo-American Union to be set up in the U.S.A.

Among the organisers of this body, to be headed by prominent U.S. Big Business figures, he named the reactionary Senator, BERNARD BARUCH. To serve this organisation as an expert, the old Whiteguard General DENIKIN made his way to the U.S.A. at about the same time as Churchill. Denikin was one of Churchill's "favourites" during the War of Intervention.

Visit Of Bor

Another piece to this anti-Soviet plot is the visit of General BOR, of the Warsaw uprising 'fame',—and another of Churchill's 'favourites'—to organise an American Legion of Fascist Poles.

—So much for Churchill's "sincerity" in wanting to work with the Soviet Union. It seems that Churchill is harping back to the days when in 1918-21 he spent 100 million gold pounds of the British people's money to organise the invasion of the young Soviet Republic by the armies of fourteen States.

I suppose the blindly-prejudiced Imperialist mind finds it impossible to understand that what he failed to do when the Soviet Republic was young and weak, he will not certainly succeed in doing today, in the year of grace 1948, when the Soviet is No. 2 Power in the world!

—Sharaf Athar Ali

WITH the June 2 vote in favour of a republic, the Italian monarchy has been relegated to the historical dustbin—and just why, a brief glance at the record of the House of Savoy will show clearly enough.

As far as we of the 20th century are concerned, the Italian monarchy has meant the reign of VICTOR EMMANUEL III who came to the throne in 1900.

His father Umberto I was assassinated in that year. The assassination was the climax to a policy of furious repression—reminiscent of the 'black and tan' regime of Governor Anderson in Bengal.

Intriguer Behind Scenes

So, for fear of the people's anger, Victor Emmanuel began' ostentatiously. He stressed he was a constitutional monarch—"King by the Grace of God and the Will of the People." For the first ten years or so, the mask was well worn.

But then came the period of World War I and hectic moves for alliances and counter-alliances among the rival Imperialist powers. It was found that Italy from being on the German side, a member of the Triple Alliance, suddenly crossed over to the Entente, the side of the Anglo-French Imperialists.

Little did it become known then among the Italian people that the man who was thickest in this intrigue of selling Italy to the highest bidder was the retired-looking country gentleman and good family man, Victor Emmanuel III!

The Italian landowners and big business wanted immediately rich in the war. Lining up with the giants of Anglo-American Big Business meant undreamed of profits for them. But for the masses of the Italian people the war was the biggest calamity ever.

A Fascist King

There were mutinies in the army, strikes in the factories.

In 1917, far away in the East, the Russian workers and peasants took over State power into their own hands.

The Italians too looked East; and by the twenties they occupied many factories—it looked as though Italy too would throw out her King, her corrupt landed aristocracy, her parasitical men of Big Business.

And once more the King 'by the will of the people' was turned to by the 'people' whose real servant he was—the landlords and capitalists.

And immediately this so-very constitutional monarch, put aside the whole pretence of constitutionalism and democracy and sent his famous 1923 telegram to Mussolini. Mussolini "marked" on

STUDENTS' CHARTER OF DEMANDS

Struggle For Advanced, Patriotic Education

Here are reports of the Convention of the All-India Students' Federation held at Nagpur from June 6th to 9th.

It was a great Convention rounded off by a "Students' Report to the People's Rally" at Chitnis Park, attended by 6,000 people despite rain.

JAIDEV KAPOOR, comrade-in-arms of Bhagat Singh, recently released from prison, paid a tribute to India's revolutionary youth and drew thunderous applause when he said:

"The Cabinet Mission has drawn up its charter and asks us to sign it. Real freedom can come only when we draw up our charter and ask the British to sign—and quit!"

the Miri area which has a population of two lakhs but only one high school.

The Educational Charter adopted by the Convention says therefore:

"...Education in our land has reached the stage of an acute crisis...Pre-occupation with planning for the future—however noble the goal—must not prevent immediate action now. Without immediate action to deal with pressing problems we shall be thrown back by a generation and any future progress and expansion will become doubly difficult."

The Charter then details the AISF's plan for beginning the struggle to make our education patriotic and advanced.

End Imperialist Control

The Charter calls for immediate removal of all traces of Imperialist control over education by ending the practice of Governors being Chancellors of universities, freeing the school and college governing bodies from the control of all Government officials except of the Education Department and removing all restrictions on the political activities of students.

It then goes on to demand the immediate opening of new schools and colleges, the highest priority being given to specialised colleges like medical, engineering, teachers' training, etc. without which no scheme for housing, literacy and public health can be put through.

Before being finally adopted the Charter had been discussed in 11 groups composed of delegates from different Provinces and Indian States. These discussions underlined the urgency of the demand for expansion of educational facilities.

In Madras last year 4,000 students could not get admission into any college. In Bombay 230 were admitted into its two medical colleges while 1,100 had applied in one medical college alone. Every Province told the same story.

Erect New Buildings

The Charter next demanded that,

"The erection of buildings for educational institutions and hostels must get a high priority in the housing programme of every Ministry and Municipality... college and school buildings taken over by the army must be returned."

It urged the Ministries to arrange for speedy import of scientific instruments lack of which during the war years had greatly handicapped science and technical students.

It called for a rise in the pay of teachers so that education does not suffer any longer because teachers are half-starved or are forced to go on strike.

The Charter also points out that corruption in the governing bodies of universities, colleges and schools must be rooted out by freeing them from the grip of vested interests.

It calls for an inquiry into the whole system of examinations.

It demands more facilities for students of backward communities and the abolition of social discrimination against students of any community inside educational institutions.

It asks for greater opportunities for military training to the student youth, and finally, points out to the Ministries the need to start State development schemes to absorb the army of educated unemployed.

The discussions in the Provincial delegations brought forth nearly 80 amendments—

addition of other demands showing how many were the hardships that had piled up on the students' shoulders.

Many were adopted but after careful study, for this Charter was meant to be a fighting weapon in the hands of the students to concentrate the attention of the public and the Ministries on the most vital and pressing problems of the students.

These are the ones the Ministries must take up NOW so that our badly-strained education can find its feet again and be ready for new strides forward.

Problem Of Specialised Studies

A vitally important offshoot of this discussion on education was the discussion, in commissions led by First Class students, of problems of advanced, specialised studies.

Medical students from Bengal, Bombay, Madras and the Punjab, engineering students from Benares, Sibpore and Jaidavpur in Bengal and Bangalore, commerce students from Calcutta, Bombay, Jodhpur and the Wardha College of Commerce—all took part.

Demands were put forward which will be the starting point for all-India agitation for better education for these future builders of our industry and commerce.

WHEN the colleges and schools reopen in a few weeks' time, you will see something new.

In every town and city, students will go round with posters and placards in processions to rally the people to support the railwaymen. There will be a one-day strike in the institutions declaring students' solidarity with the railway workers.

If students are lucky and workers' leaders have the time, for the first time in history, on a national scale, railway workers will walk straight from the yards and workshops into colleges and schools to speak to students about themselves and what they are fighting for.

This is what the Convention decided about the railway workers' struggle.

Not that the students took the prospect of strike lightly. They were very worried about the coming famine.

But, they said,

"The Government of India tries to make out that there will be famine only if there is a railway strike and our land will run with milk and honey if there is no strike. The railway workers have offered to run food trains. But what is the Government doing to fight the famine?"

In any case, the Railway Board is least popular with the students. Too many of them have to travel by trains to get to their hostels. So they lashed out at the Board's sudden concern for "Third Class passengers."

"What have they done to improve our lot in the last six years?"—they asked.

"The Board has been exploiting both us and the workers and making huge profits. They won't feel anybody by saying that they will have to raise our fares and rob us to pay the workers. They have been robbing both and it is high time their own profits were looked for the benefit of workers and passengers—all."

The resolution said the railwaymen's demands were just and should be accepted. Failing that, all the demands should be referred to adjudication. If even this was refused, students would back a railway strike and work for it.

Resolutions

- **TRANSFER REAL POWER**
- **WITHDRAW BRITISH TROOPS**

WHEN the Convention of the AISF met at Nagpur on June 6th, nobody knew what would come out of the talks between the Cabinet Mission and the Congress and League leaders. Everything seemed uncertain. Everybody felt puzzled.

But when the delegates marched out in a procession through the streets of Nagpur on the last day of the Convention, they certainly looked like young people who knew their own minds. Their slogans were full of confidence and determination. "Bhule Mat" (Don't forget) the whole procession would shout in answer to some of their comrades who were marching outside the ranks and giving ringing cries like these: "Ja Cripps ke Walde Jute Hain," "Azadi Larkar Leni Hai," "Bhai Bhai Mukar Leni Hai" (This Cripps' promise is all a hoax; Freedom must be fought for and won; Brothers must unite to win freedom). There were other slogans greeting the struggle of the Kashmiri people, of the RIN ratings, and pledging support to the railwaymen.

The slogans gave a clear index to the political stand adopted by the delegates at the Convention; the Cabinet Mission's proposals were designed to perpetuate Imperialist rule—and all support to the united struggle of the people which were breaking out at the way forward.

Before the resolution on the Cabinet Mission's proposals was adopted, there was plenty of debate on it.

One section of delegates was for outright rejection of the proposals and demanded that a call for struggle against the imposition of the proposals be given.

Others reflected the opinion of students who were dead against the proposals as they stood, but felt that the Interim Government should be accepted to fight the famine. They argued that, whatever its limitations, the pressure of popular forces would compel the British to transfer full powers to the Interim Government.

ARUN BOSE, Joint Secretary of the AISF, summing up the discussion said that the AISF must put forward a policy which could unite the broadest sections of students in one fighting front against the British.

The resolution that was finally accepted, therefore, had these main points.

FIRSTLY, it condemned the Cabinet Mission's proposals for not being based on a real transfer of power to India and containing within it seeds of perpetual Hindu-Muslim and Inter-Provincial conflict. It pointed out that the Princes, "autocratic puppets of the British, have been left entrenched in positions of decisive influence."

SECONDLY, it strongly urged the Congress and the League "to insist on a clear-cut declaration of independence, the transfer of full pow-

ers to a National Government, the early withdrawal of British troops and the recognition of the right of all Indians—both in British India and the Indian States—to decide their own constitutional future on the basis of adult franchise and full freedom and democracy without any outside interference."

Finally it called on students to strengthen the struggles of the masses ranged behind the main political parties for their economic and political rights so that they would lead to a final united struggle to force the British to quit India.

FREEDOM TO STATES

"YOU of British India never think of us who are suffering under a double slavery. It is only when the British start using their Princely puppets against you in all-India politics that you wake up. The big leaders might do anything for the sake of 'diplomacy'. But how could you, our comrades, let us down, leave us at the mercy of our autocratic rulers?"

This was the direct appeal made by student after student from the States to the All-India Students' Convention. There were 38 of them at the Convention, a smaller number than at the last Conference, but much more representative of fighting youth. Gwalior, Jodhpur, and Indore from Central India and Rajputana; Hyderabad; Mysore and Travancore from the South—all were represented. Even Cooch-Behar in Bengal—scene of militant student action against army atrocities—was not left out. Everyone was looking for the Kashmir student leaders who could not come because they had been rounded up.

Nobody at the Conference could fail to be struck by the grim earnestness of the States students. They fought every inch of the way—made some of the best speeches in the Convention—to drive home a single point: British Indian and States' students must stand together and fight!

Every act of Princely brutality had made the deepest impression on them. They spoke of the brutal murder of Sri Sagarnal Gopa, who was burned in kerosene oil in Jaisalmer Jail. They reminded the Convention that there was still a student undergoing life imprisonment at Indore in Mysore—for taking part in the 1942 Movement. Above all, they spoke of Kashmir.

The Convention passed a resolution halting the glorious new awakening in the States, pledging British Indian students' support in the States' people's fight. It also passed a separate resolution supporting the demand of the States' peoples for immediate Responsible Government, for complete freedom to decide their own constitutional future.

Serious Crisis In Education

Engineering students of today will be the key men tomorrow when the Ministries want to implement their plans of housing, irrigation, and new industries.

But there must be something seriously wrong with our education if young, brilliant students on finishing their college are not fired with the confidence that they know how to change the face of India.

Krishnan himself described in his speech conditions in the Mysore Engineering College (from where he came) and elsewhere, which explain why students like him feel that they have been taught nothing which can be of real use to their country.

Two hundred students, he said, were taught machine-drawing—a most complicated, and yet most vital subject—in a sin-

gle class by one professor. Professors in his college started on a pay of Rs. 80. Models of boilers and engines so necessary for engineering students were almost nil.

The problems that Krishnan has raised about engineering education (though elsewhere the position is slightly better than at Mysore) sum up the crisis of college education as a whole all over India—ever-increasing number of students and too few colleges, ill-paid and overworked teachers, lack of necessary equipment in science and technical branches.

Popular Ministries have come, and Education Ministers, as in Bengal and Assam, have already begun to discuss tentative plans regarding educational reconstruction.

From The Wrong End

The AISF Convention met to bring to the notice of the Ministries the most urgent problems that need solution if plans for a new education are to go forward.

Delegates from Bengal and Assam raised the point that their Ministers were planning for education from the wrong end.

In Assam, for example, some Ministers wanted to decide first which basic principle to adopt—the Wardha scheme or the Sargent scheme—before doing anything. Whereas the real need in Assam was to immediately open technical and medical colleges of which Assam has none, and more High Schools in the backward tribal areas such as

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