

★ The First Week Of Interim Government
 ★ Its Present To "Common, Forgotten Man"
 ★ Power-Dizzy Ministers And The Masses

Many Indians, whether in this country or abroad, who heard the first broadcast of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as the Vice-President of India's Interim Government, must have been thrilled.

the hit the nefarious and murderous conspiracy hatched by the D.S.P. in complicity with local millowners against the workers.

Mr. Kher, therefore, made the amazing statement that the Communists wanted all police officers to be removed so that the people should be left to be terrorised by the Communists! He even went a step ahead to make the lying accusation that the Communists stabbed persons to disrupt Congress meetings!

Fantastic Charge

In the Orissa Assembly, the Communist MLA Baldyanath Rath moved an adjournment motion to discuss the failure of the Government to bring about a just settlement of the press workers' strike which had resulted in the closing down of all the dailies of Orissa for six weeks (5-9-46).

The Premier Harekrishna Mahatab had little to say about the starvation wages which had driven the press workers to strike for better wages. He had even less to say about the huge profits which the press-owners were making and his own duty

to effect a settlement. The Communists had of course engineered the strike merely to paralyse the Congress dailies! Not satisfied with this the Premier made the fantastic charge that the Communists extorted money by blackmail and the blackmailed persons are supposed to have passed receipts, which he claimed he could produce!

It is not an accident that in the very first week of the Interim Government three Premiers should launch such openly lying attacks upon the Communists.

In reality, under cover of attacking the Communists, the Congress Ministries are attacking labour, seeking to organise itself for winning a living wage. The coming of the Interim Government has made the vested interests behind the Congress power-dizzy.

New Struggles Ahead

Birla's Hindustan Times has written an editorial on "Communist Menace" (7-9-46) in which it seeks to prepare the ground for the eventual "legal repression" of the Communists.

Years ago the imperialists tried by these very methods and excuses to destroy the rising working-class movement and to isolate it from the common stream of the national freedom movement. The Communist and working-class movement which will survive and gain strength out of this first round of bitter struggles will be faced with new and fierce struggles.

On the one hand, it will have to face a far more severe repression and slander campaign than it ever faced before. On the other hand, it will have to save its base and class unity from the rising tide of the communal frenzy and war which arises out of the compromising and disruptive policies of the Congress and League leaderships.

The Communists will be able to defend the common class movement of the workers and peasants, solidify its unity and organisation despite these attacks, only if they remain steadfast and true to the interests and cause of the toiling masses and fearlessly defend them at all cost.

The fratricidal war between the Hindus and Muslims, bet-

Assembly, moved an adjournment motion on the events of September 5 in Golden Rock. He described in detail the reign of terror which the police had instituted in the Golden Rock workers' colony.

He then called upon the Ministry and the members of the Legislature to go to Golden Rock and investigate for themselves the brutal atrocities of the M.S.P.

How does Mr. Prakasam, Congress Premier, respond to these facts? The erstwhile Lion of Andhra is not angry at the atrocities of this notorious police force which has to its credit an unspeakable record of repression against Congressmen in the past. He could not challenge the justness of the strike and the correctness of the demands put forward.

Brazen-Faced Lies

Instead of appointing an Inquiry Committee to investigate into the behaviour of

the police, instead of coming forward as the champion of the just demands of the workers as against the S.I. Railway management and the Railway Board, Mr. Prakasam turns round upon the workers themselves and openly attacks the Communists who are leading the strike and the Union.

Mr. Prakasam has not one word to say about the police atrocities and terror which preceded the clash and police firing at Golden Rock. He has not denied or challenged a single fact given by Venkateswaralu.

He has outdone the worst White bureaucrats in inventing a completely lying defence of the police: 'Communists make abusive speeches. They provoke a crowd of 3,000 to 4,000 workers who attack the perfectly peaceable police, who then fire in self-defence!'

Out of eight police constables and two officers, according to Mr. Prakasam himself, only two constables were injured, while the police officers shot dead four worker-leaders and wounded 100 workers. Over and above this Anandan Nambyar, MLA, was beaten to unconsciousness. A fine piece of self-defence!

To bolster up this open and unabashed defence of police murders Mr. Prakasam made brazen-faced lying charges against the Madras Communists.

In Prakasam's Footsteps

It is not Mr. Prakasam alone who has taken resort to such open and unashamed lying and slandering of the Communists in order to cover up the heinous atrocities of the police against workers, and to damn their just struggle for bread and against victimisation.

Two other Premiers have followed in the footsteps of the Madras Premier, and exactly for the same reason.

In this very issue, we are publishing an account of the adjournment motion moved by S. A. Dange in the Bombay Legislative Assembly to demand inquiry in the murderous police firing in Amalner which resulted in the death of Shripat Patil and eight others.

Neither Mr. Kher, the Premier, nor Mr. Morarji Desai the Home Minister nor Mr. Nanda, the Labour Minister, was able to challenge a single fact in the well-argued statement which Dange made proving to

Editorial

Lesson Of Bombay Riots

FOLLOWING Calcutta, Bombay saw the worst communal frenzy and orgy of murderous assaults and stabbings. Once more the face of the civil war lifted its monstrous head in the streets of Bombay. Everyone recognised that the riot was not communal, but political. It originated in the protest and the silent contempt which the League wanted to demonstrate on September 2 for the Interim Government.

Responsibility Of League Leadership

Its ground was laid by irresponsible League leaders who had thundered against the Hindus and the Congress and by equally inflammatory editorials of some League papers who left no doubt that what they wanted was blood of the other community.

Today when the League leaders and the irresponsible editors protest that their intention was only to organise a political demonstration against the Cabinet Mission's proposals, they only reveal their utter contempt for truth.

Had it been so, the League leaders would have been the first to come out with a strong warning when in Muslim areas attacks had started against innocent Hindu passengers in trams and buses.

They would have condemned immediately the wanton savagery of those goondas who rushed into the J. J. Hospital after innocent passengers.

They would have denounced those who set fire to a Hindu Pathshala—and did not allow the inmates to escape.

Once the riot started, the Congress and the Hindus also behaved regardless of consequences and threw every cherished principle to the winds. Within half an hour of the starting of the riot in the Muslim localities, the Hindu goondas appeared on the streets freely murdering innocent Muslim passers-by.

Treacherous stabbings, cowardly assaults by 50 or 100 on one or two Muslims became a common occurrence.

So mad was the frenzy that even Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, or any other Nationalist Muslim leader, would have found it dangerous to walk in the Hindu localities in those days.

Congress Failed To Act As Unifier

Congressmen take a great pride in the fact that in the Frontier, the land of Pathans, a Congress Ministry rules the Province, that Dr. Khan Sahib and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan are strong pillars of the National Congress.

And yet, no Pathan's life was safe in the Hindu localities of Dadar, Lal Baug or Parel. Hindu goondas would pounce upon a stray unsuspecting Pathan and murder him and none would interfere.

In these localities the Pathans, the countrymen of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, were the special victims of the goonda stabbings. This is enough to prove the attitude of the Congress following and of the local Congress leaders.

Equally glaring is the fact that the Congress as an organisation—the Provincial Congress Committee—did not come forward as the unifier of the people. It forgot the elementary fact that continuation of the riot brought discredit to the Congress Ministry.

During the days of the RIN mutiny when the masses in Bombay were unitedly fighting the military excesses, the Bombay Congress Committee deemed it necessary to send a propaganda van under military escort asking the people to observe peace.

On the day of the sympathetic strike for postal workers, the Congress-sponsored Textile Union took out a lorry and propagated against the strike.

But during the days of the riots, there was no propaganda, no firm call for keeping united, protecting individual Hindus and Muslims from assaults—no call to the Hindus to defend Muslim homes and thus reply to the game of provocation.

Instead, there was only a call for self-defence which, in the present atmosphere, people interpreted as a call for stray assaults.

The first results of this civil war are already seen. The Bombay League, who only the other day talked about a Jihad against the British, are now demanding more British army to protect their lives.

In Calcutta during the course of the riots, Sri Sarat Chandra Bose made the same demand for more British troops. Only the British can hold the balance even—only the British troops can protect us—such is the common conclusion to which both the leaderships are coming. What more does imperialism want?

Working Class Must Intervene

A country torn by civil war, and each section of the people alternatively relying on British troops to crush the other, such is the grim prospect held out by the bourgeois leaderships before the people. Must all our woes and sufferings end in a mutual civil war in which only the British bayonets appear to grant us safety?

It need not, if the people and the working-class do not allow themselves to be stupified by the flames of civil war, if they remember that the common battle of freedom is yet to be fought.

In Bombay, the working-class masses kept away from the orgy of murders, but they did not strongly intervene to stop the game of hoodlums who were shedding innocent blood. The worker cannot remain a passive spectator of this civil conflict.

It is a conspiracy to divide his ranks, to divide his people, to divide the country and destroy his—fight against capitalists, destroy the fight of the peasants against the landlords. It is a conspiracy against the freedom of the people.

The working-class must intervene and fight the promoters of civil war; the unity achieved in the course of the day to day fights, the common suffering shared by Hindu and Muslim workers alike, must enable it to fight the flames of civil war actively and by decisive united intervention.

Every industrial area must ring with a joint call for fight against the civil war. Against the goonda gangs it must advance joint Hindu-Muslim volunteers to stop individual attacks and murders, and free the working-class locality from the pest of civil war.

Its determined call in the name of common class interest and its decisive action to rout the incendiaries will hearten other democratic elements to put out the flames of civil war and foil the game of the enemies of Indian freedom.

between the Congress and the League, which continues in all its bestial grimness, is eating into the glorious traditions of common struggle of the masses against imperialism.

The bleak darkness of this fratricidal frenzy is now and again relieved by bright flashes of common battles of workers, peasants and of the States peoples which burst forth here and there.

It is these bright flashes, ren-

dered even brighter by the heroic martyrdom of fighters like Shripat Patil and the other martyrs of Amalner and Golden Rock, which will light the path of that other India—the India of the common people which wants to break with the imperialist plan and wants to develop a united revolutionary struggle for a real sovereign Constituent Assembly based on adult suffrage and self-determination of nationalities.

First Test

In the very first week, almost in a few hours after this thrilling broadcast, the Interim Government was called upon to fulfil one of its promises to "the common and forgotten man", this time the railwayman.

It was called upon to intervene in their favour by the workers of the S.I. Railway who are conducting a heroic strike struggle against the attack of victimisation launched upon their Union by the management.

The General Manager of the S.I. Railway was trying to break the 9-day old strike by illegally threatening to terminate the services of some 4,000 workers of the Golden Rock workshop.

It was a perfectly legal strike for just demands backed by all the S.I. Railway workers as well as by leaders of the A.I.R.F. and by other railway unions.

The management and the Provincial Government authorities were trying to break it by sheer repression and intimidation.

Amazing Callousness

The Interim Government being in charge of the Indian railways was called upon to intervene on the side of the workers.

The answer given by Mr. Asaf Ali—the Member-in-Charge of Railways, was an amazing example of bureaucratic callousness and identification with vested interests which would do credit to any White Blimp!

"The General Manager of the S.I. Railway is always willing to receive representatives of the Union.... It is for the Union to call off the strike and request the management to examine any legitimate grievances in constitutional manner...."

This reply which was given to Guruswamy, the General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, on September 7, tells the workers point-blank—stop your strike and submit to the management if you have any legitimate demand.

It was two days after the Madras police had launched a murderous assault on the Golden Rock strikers in which they killed four worker-leaders and wounded 100, including Anandan Nambyar, MLA, Secretary of the Union (see story on page 1).

The speed with which the Interim Government has forgotten the common man and his demand for relief and rise in living wage, and identified itself with the White bosses of the Railway Board, is really amazing!

Prakasam And The MSP

And what was the attitude of the Madras Congress Ministry headed by Mr. Prakasam? It was even more callous and vindictive.

Venkateswaralu, the second Communist MLA in the Madras

PATIALA LANCERS REBEL AGAINST AUTOCRACY

Fraternise With People; Set Free Their Arrested Leaders

By wire from Hardev Singh Sandhu

Lahore, September 7.

On August 23, the people of Patiala saw the almost unbelievable spectacle of 500 Lancers in full uniform marching through the streets carrying the Tri-colour, the Green and the Red flags and shouting "Inquilab Zindabad," "Indian National Congress Zindabad," "Muslim League Zindabad," "Communist Party Zindabad," "Hum Aur Ap Bhai Bhai" (We are your brothers), and "Release All Army Prisoners."

THE war-tested veterans of the First Patiala Lancers were in revolt against the conspiracy to curb their spirits and victimise their leaders.

After a record of glorious service abroad they had returned to India only last March.

Their struggle began the day they landed in Bombay. As soon as they disembarked, the authorities ordered a thorough search of their persons.

In Europe and the Middle East they had seen the new freedom movement of the people and had themselves been fired with a new urge.

They resisted this humiliating order and forced the authorities to climb down.

When they arrived at Patiala, the authorities employed another trick to subdue these soldiers. They sent them on leave. Another regiment which had refused to fight against the Indonesians was also recalled to Patiala and sent on leave.

The plan of the State authorities was to keep the soldiers dispersed while they victimised their leaders.

When the men of the First Patiala Lancers returned after their holidays they found that their leaders, Ram Singh, Har-nala Singh, Chanan Singh and Gurdev Singh, had been arrested.

They took a deputation to the authorities. The authorities arrested the leaders of the deputation—Pritam Singh and Gurbhajan.

Lancers' Procession

Infuriated, the Lancers paraded on the main roads in a procession and on returning to the barracks they themselves set their colleagues free from the lock-up. Nobody dared to come in their way.

Next day, on the 24th of August, the Chief of the General Staff came to "redress" their grievances.

The Lancers put all their demands before him (see box). The Chief was shocked out of his wits and quietly turned away.

Two days later, the great Maharaja himself sent for the representatives of the soldiers.

Instead of sending their leaders alone they marched to the Raja's Palace all together in a procession.

The Raja also refused to accept their demands. At night they were locked up in their barracks. The city was declared out of bounds for them and communications between the city and the cantonment were cut off. Then a vain attempt was made to handcuff them.

A hundred and twenty four lancers smashed through the cordon and triumphantly marched to the city.

In the city they went to the Prajamandal, Muslim League and Communist leaders for assistance.

Both the Prajamandal and the League leaders asked them to give them in writing that they would abide by their award. The Lancers agreed to do this if their demands were accepted.

But the Maharaja and the Chief of the General Staff refused to negotiate with either the Prajamandal or the League in this connection. Hence both these organisations also backed out.

Only the representative of the Communist Party came forward and pledged the fullest support of his Party and the Patiala people in the fight of their courageous sons and brothers in the army. Prajamandal and League leaders kept away, afraid of this new spectacle when the people and the army had become one.

Ram Singh ended the meet-

DEMANDS OF PATIALA LANCERS

- (1) The Patiala Government should demand from the Government of India the immediate and unconditional release of all INA, RIN and other army prisoners;
- (2) The Patiala State Forces should be given the same pay as is given to their corresponding ranks in the Indian Army, and the pay of the Indian Army should be equal to that of the British Army in India;
- (3) Family quarters should be provided to all army men;
- (4) The quality of food given to the forces should be improved;
- (5) Alternative services should be provided to all those who are discharged;
- (6) Libraries should be opened in the barracks and all representative newspapers and magazines should be supplied;
- (7) When they are off-duty, army men should be given the freedom to attend any political meeting they like, and nobody should be victimised for his political views;
- (8) The committee elected by the lower ranks should be recognized by the authorities for representing the demands, grievances, etc., of the army men.

The Prajamandal Secretary said, "Nothing can be done now. Get discharged and go home"; and a leader of the Muslim League unashamedly declared, "Our fight is against Nehru's Central Government and not against the Maharaja".

Public Meeting

Disgusted with these leaders, the Lancers called a public meeting on their own for which they sent written invitations to all the parties. There was tremendous tension in the capital.

Five thousand people defied military police pickets and rallied in the meeting. Ram Singh, the leader of the Lancers invited the leaders of the popular parties to speak.

ing with a stirring speech. He said:

"The leaders of the Prajamandal and the League have not thought it fit to support our struggle. But, here you are, common people, supporters of the Prajamandal and the League and fountain of all strength. With your help and together, we shall march forward and we are bound to win."

Hunger Strike

Afterwards, the Lancers marched upto the Maharaja's palace where they are on hunger strike now. To a man, the common people of Patiala are behind them in their just and historic fight.

In C. P. & Berar

Police Raids On Communist Offices, Residences

By wire from H. K. Vyas

Nagpur, 3rd Sept.

News has just come that the police raided the offices of the Communist Party and residences of Communists in the whole of Berar. Papers and documents were seized from the offices and from the Communists.

B. N. Mukherjee, Secretary of the C.P. and Berar Provincial Committee of the Communist Party, has issued the following statement:

EARLY in the morning of September 1, a posse of police constables and Sub-Inspectors accompanied by Magistrates surrounded and raided the offices of the Provincial Committee of the Party, the Nagpur District Committee, the Commune (residence of the Communist workers), the Kisan Sabha Office and the residence of Bardhan, Vyas, Masurkar, Shirke and others.

They had warrants to seize documents and papers connected with the activities of the Communist Party, because according to the Congress Ministry the activities of the Communist Party are supposed to be 'prejudicial to public peace.'

Earlier the Premier and Minister Patil had warned O. P. Mehta that if "you do not stop organising strike in the Government Depot, of servants like peons of Government press, etc., we will take serious action."

Provocative Behaviour

The behaviour of the Police Inspector Kabir was highly provocative. Members of the Provincial Committee of the Party who had come for the meeting were not allowed to move out. Mote who was suffering from acute stomach trouble was also not allowed to visit the doctor and the Sub-Inspector used indecent language in the presence of the Magistrate. Only when he sharply snubbed the Inspector was Mote allowed to go.

Information received in the Provincial Committee office shows that searches were Province-wide. At Raipur, Jabulpore, Akola, Badnera, etc., all Communist centres, offices, and residences were searched.

Thus opened the first-session of the Assembly under the Congress Ministry. The ostensible reason given by the Ministry

for this offensive is that Communists constitute "threat to peace".

Have the Ministers forgotten that under this very plea under the Adviser Regime untold crimes and brutalities were perpetrated on our people, which the present Ministers rightly resented and opposed? Was it necessary for them to stoop to the same level?

Instead of enquiring into the just demands of the workers and its employees and settling them, the Ministry, and a popular Ministry at that, is using the same old plea that Communists are instigating strikes.

The Ministers raised their own salary from five hundred to a thousand rupees, and I understand from unimpeachable sources that two lakh rupees have been spent to furnish bungalows for them; but when the workers or their employees demand an increase of wages in view of the rise in prices the Ministry turns round and says that they are instigated by the Communists and tries to suppress them by brutal force.

Attack On Civil Liberties

Attack on the Communist Party is not an attack on them alone but attack on civil liberties of the people, on the civic rights of the working-class organisations, and a reactionary blow to the working-class movement.

The Ministry's proposed bill regarding settlement of industrial disputes which in effect almost deprives the workers of the right to strike is only the culmination of this pro-capitalist policy.

The Ministry knew that the workers would resist the imposition of such a monstrous legislation. An attack on the Communists is an attack on such a movement, it is an effort to side-track the issues.

We appeal to all Congressmen and patriots to raise their full-throated voice in defence of the people's rights.

Unless they assert themselves with vehemence by making common cause with the struggles of the people and censure the Ministry for such attacks, the Ministry would further slide down and become the tool in the hands of vested interests and bureaucracy, and more and more attack and oppose every genuine people's movement.

study facts, even in his own Province, he would not have talked so glibly about workers' responsibility in strike but sought the cause elsewhere, exactly where his Bill does not trace it.

The strike in the Lucknow Cotton Mills, for instance, took place because the management dismissed the workers' leaders the day they made some demands.

The Benares Mill workers struck because the owner dismissed their leader to forestall their submitting of demands.

Workers of the St. John Mill (Agra) downed tools because one of them was kicked in the back by an insolent official.

● Before holding the workers responsible for strike did Dr. Katju care to know that the employees of the Shahjehanpur Army Clothing Factory struck because 9,000 (out of 12,000) of them were suddenly thrown out on the streets?

● That Lucknow Gun Factory discharged 4,000 out of 6,000 employees?

(Continued on page 4)

U. P. Trade Disputes Bill

PERPETUATING ANTI-STRIKE MEASURES OF D.O.I. RULES

(By our Special Correspondent)

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the Second Schedule of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, any Police Officer may arrest without warrant any person, who is reasonably suspected of having committed or of committing or of being about to commit, a contravention of any order made under this Act."

"No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of any order made or deemed to be made under this Act."

And further, "No suit or legal proceedings shall lie against the Crown for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything which is in good faith done in pursuance of any order made or deemed to be made under this Act."

SHOCKING as it may seem India Rules will expire on this is Dr. Katju's (U.P. September 30, 1946, and the Labour Minister) draft of a "United Provinces Trade Disputes Bill" designed to save "suffering all round, to workers most of all."

With two members of the Congress Working Committee on the Ministry this is the first fruit of that body's latest resolution on labour policy and it is only the first!

Why is the Ministry rushing this Bill through? Without the slightest shame, Katju answers: Because "the Defence of

Katju refuses to leave any loopholes:

"Any person who attempts to contravene or abets a contravention of any order made or deemed to be made under this Act shall be deemed to have contravened that order." And threatens him with "imprisonment upto one year or fine, or both."

Even British imperialism dared not plan out its peace-time legislation so shockingly or give its hated police such powers!

No Provision For Workers

Does the Labour Minister make any provision there for a minimum wage, old age pension, maternity benefit, etc? Does he even so much as refer to compulsory recognition of workers' unions? Of course, not. And why should he?

According to Katju "possibilities for industrial unrest were great during the war for various reasons." Now that a popular Ministry is in power, everything should be all right. If it is not, well, it is the fault of the workers, and they must be taught a lesson, thinks Dr. Katju.

Instead of blinding himself with prejudice, if only the Labour Minister had cared to

THOSE WHO FOUGHT TO SAVE BROTHERS

Stories Which Do Not Hit The Headlines

(Two weeks ago we published a despatch from our Calcutta Correspondent narrating instances of rare heroism on the part of the workers and the common people in fighting flames of fratricidal war in Calcutta. Here is a further instalment of the same undying saga, which shows that the greatness of our people both Hindu and Muslim, can never be destroyed despite all the bloody carnage into which the country is plunged by the policies that our leaders pursue—EDITOR).

As Calcutta slowly returns to normalcy, there is being salvaged out of the appalling wreck a treasure of precious gold: it is the heroic deeds of men and women who, amidst savage butchery all around, refused to let brother fight brother. In some cases, they banded themselves into groups, while at other places they fought single handed, risking their very lives.

In TOLLYGUNGE, where 6,000 Hindus and Muslims have lived together for generations, August 16 saw the invasion of mob fury. The same night a bustee, a little way off, was set on fire, but the people of the locality rushed to put it out.

A Peace Brigade of 800 Hindus and Muslims was formed, which split itself up into 18 squads and kept day and night vigil against all attacks and provocations and rumours from outside, and fostered peace and harmony among all.

On the 17th, a Muslim bustee was attacked by an outside mob, but the volunteers, many of them Hindus, rushed and ward-off repeated attacks.

The same day, when the military opened indiscriminate fire, this Muslim bustee gave shelter to 150 Hindus. In the afternoon, a joint meeting was called, 1,500 people turned up, but Section 144 prevented the meeting, though everybody went back determined to save peace.

Joint Peace Committees

In Linton Street, a joint peace committee of Hindus and Muslims was formed, but a goonda group from outside attacked a Siva temple in the area. Muslim brothers came forward and got wounded while defending this temple. The temple was thus saved and goondas could only loot a few shops on their way back.

In MANICKTOLA, where started the first clash of August 16, the whole area was plunged into a regular battle. The same night, however, local leaders got together, and the next morning could be seen a small procession of Congress, League and Communist workers with their own flags shouting 'Hindu-Muslim Ek Ho.'

Tempers were high then and many resisted. But the peace squad was also the Defence Committee of the locality, which warded off over a dozen attacks from outside in course of a day.

As the tension subsided, they at once took up the work of providing relief to the homeless. A fine record of service since the cloth agitation of 1945 led them on to this new work at the height of the storm.

Shrimati BARNA KUMARI DEBI, the 98-year old surviving sister of Tagore, was living at the Muslim-dominated locality of Entally. When things became menacing on the night of the 16th, HAJI MOHD. YUSUFF, the Corporation Councillor next door, and SHEKH SALAUDDIN, Secretary of the local Anjuman School, at once set out to rescue Hindus, between two to three thousand of whom were saved, many having been housed in the Anjuman School.

Next day, Haji Sahib himself gave Barna Kumari Debi and her family shelter in his own house. For five days they stayed on defended by the Muslims and it was on the 23rd that a Muslim hackney carriage driver risked his own life to reach them to a Hindu area of North Calcutta.

by
Nikhil Chakravarty

In a letter to the Press, Barna Kumari Debi's grandson has acknowledged their gratitude to the Mussalmans of the area.

Professor Risks Life

In BALLYGUNGE, Prof. NIRMAL BHATTACHARYA rescued a wounded Muslim from a Hindu mob and even when his house was besieged gave him shelter, tended to his wounds and arranged for his removal to hospital.

A few Muslim families were marooned in Dover Lane, Ballygunge, for two days, and the police did not bother to protect them despite repeated S.O.S's. It was only a group of school-boys with lathis who defended them all through, so that the Muslims eventually refused to go away and stayed on.

In PARK CIRCUS, Mr. REHMAN, an old Muslim gentleman, fought with an infuriated mob for more than an hour and saved 36 out of a family of 39 Hindus, and moved them to safety.

A Swami of a famous Hindu Ashram in Calcutta, preferring to remain anonymous, risked his life at the hands of a mob while he saved 12 Muslims.

A rescue squad organised by the I.S.D. Employees Association reports an unforgettable story:

With Her Own Sari

"We reached Bhnkailas Road, Kidderpore, within a couple of hours of a large-scale massacre. A Muslim boy, 12 year old, ran up and stopped our moving car and whispered in haste—'We have kept many Hindus in hiding. Follow us quick'. Within a few yards, he signalled us to open a manhole, underneath which we rescued two Hindus.

"He next beckoned us to a drain behind a mosque, from where we rescued six people.

"Next, entering a narrow lane, the boy quickly looked round and dropped a key at our feet and whispered 'Open that shop door,' inside which we found a Hindu doctor's family.

"Little further, he pointed to another door, on opening which we found a Muslim girl of about 26 years, bandaging four wounded Hindus, tearing portions from her own sari.

"In this way, with the help of a group of boys and girls all between 12 and 16, and also of a local Imam, we could rescue 114 lives in a few hours."

Workers' Trail Of Glory

More stories of tram workers' heroism are available: in Park Circus, about 40 Hindu tram workers were guarded by Muslim tram workers against a huge Muslim mob for three days when they were rescued to safety. The Hindu tram workers paid it back in Ballygunge, where Muslim tram workers were protected by their Hindu comrades dressing them up as Brahmmins.

In KIDDERPORE, the story of the Seamen's Union keeping away from rioting is already told.

But the next day, they brought out a peace squad along with

tram and the Brooke Bond Tea Company workers. Joining up with another local peace squad, they, while shouting "Hindu-Muslim Ek Ho," faced attacks from mobs.

Big Crowd Pacified

In Ibrahim Road, they even succeeded in pacifying a crowd of over 1,000, but soon after the military came and started indiscriminate shooting which made it impossible for them to move about. But they did as far as possible to keep the peace of the area.

At the other end of the city, the jute workers of Alam Bazar from the very beginning pledged themselves to save their bustees, housing both Hindus and Muslims.

A local committee was formed with local Congress and League leaders together with the Communist workers on the 17th. But the same night, outsiders started trouble, and peace was broken.

But the Hindu and Muslim workers showed remarkable unity: keeping away from riot, they again brought out a peace squad in which both Hindu and Muslim workers participated and faced attacks in course of

which RAGHUNATH and HANIF were wounded.

The 700 strikers of the Standard Pharmaceutical Company kept away from rioting, and began helping the People's Relief Committee centre for the homeless and the distressed.

Similarly, the 300 strikers of the National Tannery did not join the rioting; instead they hoisted the Red flag on the factory gate, and one worker commented:

Red Flag Guarded Them

"Red flag is guarding our factory, and that is why this riot could not touch our workers."

A worker of the Bengal Pottery said: "Our Union had warned us, that is why we did not go in for this riot."

Many of them, however, suffered heavily, as rioters had burnt down to ashes one of the workers' bustees, which made 22 families homeless. A worker leader remarked:

"Those who started the riot suffered no loss, while we suffered both with our lives and all that we had."

At a Rescue Home in Ballygunge, Communist Nani Bhowmick interviewed a Hindu post-

man who had to flee from a Muslim area. But he would not talk about his own loss, worrying all the time about the Muslim workers—"Will they be with us now? We may have to strike again, but our unity, can we have it back?"

"We Have Our Union"

As if in answer to this query comes the story from a Muslim Rescue Centre in Park Circus where Communist Ghulam Qudus met a number of Muslim workers of the Brooke Bond Tea Co. and Joya Engineering works, anxious to get back to work. "But," asked Qudus, "there are Hindu workers inside, how can you work together now?" Swift came the reply from them, "Inside we have got our Union"

Murder and hate possessed Calcutta, but they could not break the granite unity of the toilers born out of years of struggle together.

Such stories may not strike the headlines today, but it is they who will build a new and greater Bengal to-morrow—and not the leaders who even after all that has happened refuse to leave their respective paths, strewn with the corpses of our own brothers.

In Chittagong

"DIRECT ACTION" DESTROYS HINDU-MUSLIM UNITY

Magistrate's Field Day Against Red Flag ★

From Our Correspondent

Chittagong, Sept. 3.

The League's "Direct Action" in the overwhelmingly Muslim district of Chittagong was marked by a full-blast attack on the Communist Party.

ON the 16th August, there was complete hartal in Chittagong town as also in the villages, even Hindus closed their shops partly in terror and partly in sympathy. Realising the extreme tension prevailing, the Communist Party appealed for the maintenance of peace, urging the Hindus not to be provoked and the Muslims to direct their struggle against the British.

The same evening a huge meeting of 50,000 was addressed by the local League Secretary, Fazlul Quader Chaudhury, who made a bitter communal speech which alarmed the Hindus present at the meeting.

A procession of several thousands then went round the town shouting, "Down with the Congress! Down with the Communist Party!"

The police station was within 50 yards of the Party office, but the police merely watched the raid, refusing to intervene even when rung up. President of the Bar Association, Atul Dutta, sent word to the Commissioner, who replied, "Go to the Congress."

Next day, the District Magistrate when approached by Kalpataru Sen Gupta, District Secretary of the Communist Party, denied all knowledge of the raid despite the fact that he was seen passing by the Party office several times when the raid was on.

The fury was next directed against the Communist Party office, where the mob led by League workers, made eight consecutive attacks. The battle went on for two hours, during which most of the Communists present were wounded. Tables and chairs were broken, books worth over 3000/- burnt, and pictures destroyed even including one of Mr. Jinnah.

The Communists were thrown out on the street, their fountain pens and wrist watches and

Government's Manoeuvres

This officer, F. Karim, I.C.S., was posted in Chittagong soon after the unprecedented united demonstration of the Hindus and Muslims of Chittagong against the barbarous military atrocity in the Muslim village of Kasalpara, in January last.

He immediately began hobnobbing with the League leaders, attending League meetings, entertaining League leaders to

tea, and gave the impression that he was a staunch friend of the League.

While in this way he was trying to get the Muslims away from the popular united movement, the local Communists, who were already strongly entrenched in the confidence and esteem of thousands of Muslim kisans of the district by their untiring service during the famine and the invasion dangers, succeeded in getting the Muslims to fight together with the Hindus in the common battles as over the postal strike and for the building up of labour unions, including the one in the tea gardens.

Exposure Of Relief

During the recent severe floods, the Government tried to bluff the public by a bogus display of relief being dropped by Dakota planes, and it was the Communist Party that exposed both in Chittagong and in Calcutta the fact that most of the relief so supplied consisted of rotten stuff or was wasted in the dispatch, while the corruption of local officers and agents was also shown up.

Hunger marches, attended by Muslims, faced the District Magistrate, who faked. His assistant, Mr. Aziz, addressing the Muslims said, "You Muslims have fallen into the clutches of the Communists. The District Magistrate is a Muslim, and by agitating against him you are acting against your own man."

The "Direct Action" Day gave the District Magistrate the chance to attack the Communists, and the reactionary section of the Leaguers became his instrument.

Among the Chittagong Muslims in general, the Red flag has held a unique position, and in some places in East Bengal, the Muslim kisans have com-

(Continued on page 7)

DANGE INDICTS BOMBAY MINISTRY FOR AMALNER FIRING

Kher Refuses Inquiry, Takes Shelter Behind Anti-Communism

The ghastly firing at Amalner which killed nine workers and wounded 69 more was "fully justified" by the Bombay Ministry on September 6, when it threw out S. A. Dange's (Labour M.L.A.) motion for adjournment of the Assembly to demand inquiry into that firing.

The case involved was simple. The Management of Amalner's Pratap Mill refused to re-employ an illegally discharged worker. After trying for consolation for six months the workers went on a legal strike which was stopped by Section 144 within 24 hours. After 30 days when the workers defied it, the police opened fire. Dange demanded an inquiry into it.

Three Ministers of the Government took the floor to support the motion—Labour Minister, Home Minister and Premier. And none of them deprecated even a single statement of Dange's.

Yes, in barely an hour and a half, a matter that concerned the deaths of nine men and the mutilation of many more, was liquidated!

Dange's Charges

"In bringing this motion," Dange began, "I have certain reasons and definite charges to make against the Ministry."

The Ministry's statement of Labour Policy (May 22) contains Governmental pretensions to every legal strike. And yet, throughout this legal strike of Amalner workers, the only protection the Home Minister offered was of Section 144.

"The Government's best action in this legal strike was to order the police to open fire," Dange said. "The District Magistrate promulgated Section 144. But when Dange's reply, 'Very strange that the Home Minister should not take responsibility for his District Magistrate's action' was made, the Home Minister refused to intervene further. The District Magistrate threatened action against the strikers with machine guns if the strike was continued. The military or local a helping hand in this prosecution was shown on the night of the firing to between 1,500

of the peace was feared. And yet Section 144 was imposed and the Home Minister refused to withdraw it."

Dange charged the Ministry with "wasting to give a blood-bath to the Great Kanhera Temple because this Union is led by the Red Flag." It is a representative Union even under the S.I.D. Act, (membership above 50 per cent of the total) and the unity of the workers behind it could not be broken by the firing. Dange had all the testimonials of the Labour Minister.

The Home Minister, now the Minister of the Home Department, said that he had no objection to a meeting of August 21 were followed by the D.S.P.—"He wanted them to sit in a place so that he could hear them in an open fire on their right in the style of General Lyster."

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LET FACTS SPEAK

In the Assembly debate, the Congress Ministry did their best to give the impression that the police were taken unawares, that they were surprised, that they had to fire to save themselves, etc.

"Did they care to fire?" "No, they did not care to fire. They were surprised to find that the police were taken unawares, that they were surprised, that they had to fire to save themselves, etc."

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Describing the indignities

In Madras Assembly Congress MLAs Speak Up Against Police Atrocities Under Prakasham Ministry

(From our Madras Assembly Correspondent.) For the first time since it took office, the Prakasham Ministry of Madras, had to listen to several Congress M.L.As (themselves loudly condemning the police atrocities in the Province and criticising the Congress Ministry for relying on the "imperialist police.") The Budget debate on the "Police" demand for Rs. 217 lakhs (an increase of Rs. 126 lakhs over the police expenditure under the Section 93 regime) on September 2 gave the opportunity to the Legislators to speak up.

It is a pity that the Prakasham Ministry, which has been in office for some time, has not yet taken any steps to reform the police. The police are still the same as they were under the Section 93 regime. They are still the same as they were under the Section 93 regime. They are still the same as they were under the Section 93 regime.

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WHO WERE WOUNDED

Of the nine workers who were wounded at Amalner, one was the District Magistrate of the Amalner District. Two were members of the Union's Executive Committee. One was the Union Secretary of the Union. Five were its local leading organizers.

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U. P. TRADE DISPUTES BILL

(Continued from page 5)

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amount to continuation of the injuries done to labour during the war" and this "after" he had "recalled other Labour Members in the Assembly."

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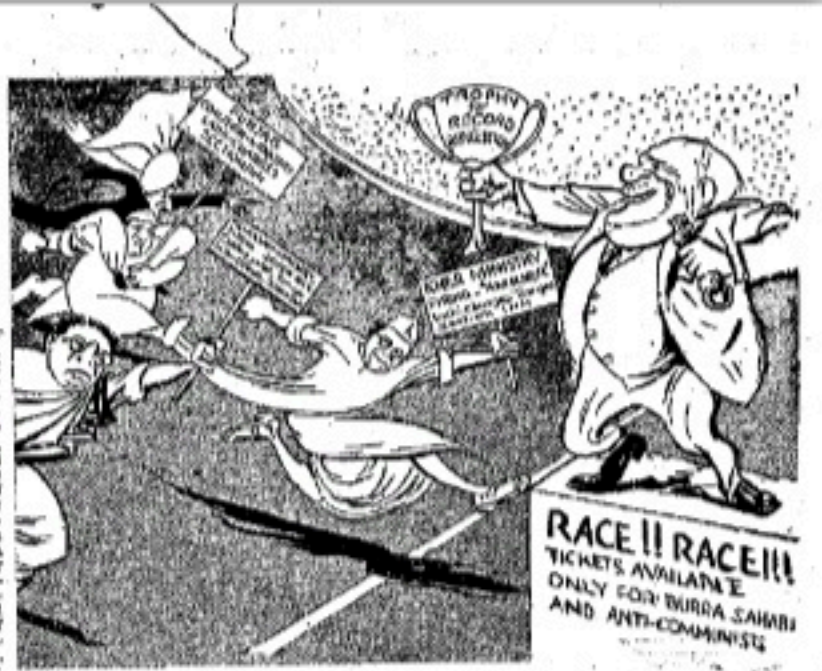
This comprises Bill will soon be on the anvil. The question of the Bill, no matter to what political party they belong, going to allow the Ministry to pull it through? That would mean not only the greatest states for the Congress, but would destroy all the democratic standards of our national movement.

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It is not only the working class of the U.P. that is faced with a menace. The very freedom-loving traditions of the U.P. are being set at naught. The Ministry must not be allowed to set this dangerous precedent for the rest of the country. Let every citizen, worker or no, raise the slogan "Death to the Black Bill."

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In Ramnad [Tamilnad]

LANDLORDS LET 10,000 ACRES OF WET LAND LIE FALLOW

100 Kisans Arrested For Ploughing Them

About a hundred kisans, men and women, were arrested last month and taken to the Police Station with their mature baskets and carts in Watcup Pirka, Ramnad, which is the most deficit and famine-stricken district in Tamilnad. And for what? For daring to plough 10,000 acres of wet land which the landlords had threatened to leave fallow just at a time when the food situation in the Province has become most acute!

This is how the Prakasham Ministry is carrying on its "Grow More Food" policy.

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to drag the carts themselves amidst shouts from the kisans: "New kinds of tools have come to Watcup!"

The kisans refused to take the police action lying down. About 100 of them marched to the Police Station with the slogan: "Kisans arrest all of us or release the arrested peasants." The District Magistrate was forced to release all.

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Later on, however, 25 kisans were again put under arrest. They were taken to the Police Station and put in the lock-up. They were taken to the Police Station and put in the lock-up. They were taken to the Police Station and put in the lock-up.

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Landlords Get Line Clear The landlords got their line clear from this. Rather than yield to the kisans a single inch, they would leave them at least half of the land. They were prepared to leave 10,000 acres of wet land to be ploughed.

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