

Successful Meeting on Palestine

Packed Hall — Lively Discussion in East End

REPORTED BY R. RALPH

A highly successful public meeting on Palestine was held in East London on August 19th. This was the first public meeting to be organised by the East London Branch of the R.C.P., and the hall was filled, the audience numbering about 150.

Keen interest was sustained throughout the meeting, and the period of questions and discussion was most lively.

Comrade Ajit Roy, who spoke first, dealt with the 'divide and rule' policy of British imperialism in Palestine, and showed how the struggles of the masses there was linked up with the anti-imperialist struggle in India and the other colonial countries.

Comrade Dan Tamary, of Palestine, who spoke next, dealt with the Zionist policy of racial discrimination against the Arabs, in the establishment of separate Jewish economy, and the exclusion of Arabs from workshops and trade unions.

The third speaker, Comrade Jock Haston, exposed the reactionary role of the Labour Government in carrying out the old imperialist policy, and in its refusal to dismiss General Barker (the G.O.C. in Palestine, who recently issued a rabidly anti-semitic diatribe to the troops there) and to cleanse the General Staff of reactionary and anti-semitic elements. He also referred to the growing anti-

semitism in Britain, pointing out that only a united working class, both Jew and Gentile, on a programme of militant socialist struggle could effectively counteract tendencies towards a new fascism.

He said that no British Socialist worthy of the name could demand that the Arabs open the gates—theirself an oppressed people of our own imperialists. He concluded with the point that to open the gates of Palestine was not even an immediate solution to the problem of the homeless Jews in Europe. We must, on the other hand, demand that the opening of the gates of Britain, America, South Africa, South America, the Soviet Union and all other countries that could easily absorb such an influx of refugees—which Palestine, in any case, could not. But there could be no final solution to the Jewish problem while capitalism remained.

In the lively questioning and discussion that followed, Zionists of various shades, as well as local Communist Party members took part.

An important point relating to C.P. policy was raised by an Austrian Jewish refugee in the audience, who pointed out that Stalin refused to allow refugees to enter Russia, when they most needed refuge, from 1933; on the contrary refugees were still streaming to the West.

This meeting was a greatly encouraging feature in the development of the Party in the traditionally militant East End of London.