

# Tasks of the Left Wing in India

(Continued)

## Preparing Strike Action.

"The general strike is an extremely powerful weapon, which the trade union movement must not shrink from using," states correctly the Trade Union Resolution of the All-India Workers' and Peasants' Party Conference of last year. However, in the propaganda for and preparation of the general strike the left wing should formulate clear-cut demands and thoroughly explain to the masses that the general strike is a political strike—a revolutionary mass struggle. The leadership of the general strike must be entirely in the hands of the militant workers and the left wing, and no reformist leaders (from Joshi to J. Nehru) should be admitted in the leadership of the strike.

The central as well as the local strike committees must not attract but rather eject all vacillating elements from their ranks. The strike leadership should not lose initiative and should not drift into defensive position. The strike committees and the striking masses must not accept or believe the empty promises of the British imperialist government or its agents. Finally, in connection with the general strike propaganda and preparations the left wing must remind and explain to the masses the treacherous actions and role of the British reformists, the General Council of the British Trade Union Congress in the general strike of England, 1926.

The practice of electing large strike committees by the striking workers and their active participation in the conduct of the strikes as, for example, is being done by the Girni Kamgar, should be further encouraged, and large strike support committees of non-striking workers organized. The strike support committees should not limit themselves only to the collection of funds, but also it must make wide propaganda, arrange meetings and mass demonstrations for the support and encouragement of the strikers, etc. The strike committee as well as the strike support committees should strive for contact with the peasants in order to obtain food supplies as well as to draw the peasants into the revolutionary struggle.

The defense groups already formed should be extended. Care against provocateurs should be exercised in the selections of the guards.

## Organize the Unorganized.

No effort should be spared in organizing the unorganized, especially in the key industries. Steps should be taken to organize the young workers, and the women workers in the trade unions on an equal footing with adult and male workers. No less stress should be laid on the importance of organizing trade unions for agricultural laborers and plantation workers.

The organization of factory committees and shop-delegate conferences should be stressed more determinedly than hitherto. The factory committees and the shop delegate conferences should be co-ordinated and united under centralized leadership. The left wing control of the factory committees and shop delegate conferences will accelerate the development of the every-day struggles as well as the struggles of a political nature. It will also create a broad and favorable basis for the growth of the left wing trade unions.

The already existing left wing trade unions, like the Girni Kamgar Union, though having developed from an organization of 500 to 65,000 within a short space of time should nevertheless be further expanded and consolidated organizationally and ideologically. A drive for increased membership of all left wing trade unions should be carried on systematically and energetically. The left wing, particularly during strikes and other mass activities, should strive strenuously to crystallize its influence into definite organization.

New unions should be set up where none exist, or where it is impossible to use the old unions because of complete reactionary control. It is also important that in all industrial towns Trade Councils should be established. At the same time the amalgamation of scattered or parallel trade unions into industrial unions under militant leadership must be pressed forward. However, in the campaign for trade un-

ion unity and industrial unionism the left wing should emphasize that the unification should be based strictly upon working class basis and fight against reformism.

The recent amalgamation of the Jute Workers' Union of Bauria and the Jute Workers' Union of Bengal, as well as the amalgamation of the two competing or parallel unions on the Great India Railway, is highly commendable in deed. Special attention should be paid without fail to the transport workers. It is particularly necessary to make timely preparations for the maturing railway workers' strike. It must be brought clearly before the masses that while at the present time the capitalists have centered the attack upon the textile workers, that, subsequently, the onslaught will be made upon the transport workers.

## Workers' Democracy.

The old bureaucratic system of appointing functionaries, delegates, and other officials in the trade unions, should be done away with and substituted by workers' democracy—a system of election from and by the rank and file. It is of paramount importance that the bourgeois intellectuals and politicians, occupying leading positions in the trade unions should be thrown overboard and in their stead militant workers elected. In addition to that the center of gravity of the trade unions should be transferred to the factories, that the so-called residential branches of the trade unions (branches organized where the workers live but not where they work) should be reorganized upon shop and factory basis, and interwoven with the factory committees and shop delegate conferences.

However, the organization of new unions, etc., does not exclude, but rather calls for more intensified propaganda and organizational activities of the left wing within the reformist trade unions. The left wingers must formulate strike and other demands for the rank and file and foster the fight for workers' democracy within the reformist trade unions. The left wing should, above all, win over the masses. Nor does this mean that the left wing should give up the fight within the All-India Trade Union Congress. On the contrary, our comrades should make timely preparations for the coming Annual Congress and should take up a much sterner attitude towards the social-reformists (M. Joshi, Bakhale & Co.) and nationalist-reformists (J. Nehru, Bose, Chaman, Lal, etc.), than was the case at the Annual Congress last year.

Without delay the left wing should launch a systematic and persistent ideological campaign against social-reformism. The treacherous character of social-reformism must be exposed at every turn and occasion. Not less persistently and sharply the left wing should criticize the nationalist-reformists, like J. Nehru, Bose, etc., as the exponents of the interests of the nationalist bourgeoisie within the labor movement, as absolutely unfit and unreliable elements to lead the labor movement. In this campaign we must not limit ourselves just to ideological criticism, but must also expose the reformist leaders before the masses by concrete facts. The united front proposals by the left wing should be always directed to the rank and file of the reformist unions, in order to build up a solid united front from the bottom. Upon such a united front basis a nation-wide campaign against class collaboration, the "Trades Disputes Bill," the "Public Safety Bill," as well as against the Whitley Commission, and against the mass arrests must be immediately intensified.

## Expose Reformists.

The campaign against class collaboration and reformism should be interlocked with a sharp attack against the Ramsay MacDonald government, against the General Council of the British Trade Union Congress, the Amsterdam International, the Geneva "Labor Office," and the "Asiatic Labor Conference" scheme. It is of paramount importance to persuade the working masses and peasants of India that no illusions should be entertained in regard to the MacDonald cabinet. Ramsay MacDonald & Co. will at all times serve and preserve the inter-

ests of the United Kingdom or British imperialism, ruthlessly persecuting and aiming to destroy the revolutionary independence movement of India. The so-called Labor government will trample upon the sentiments and rights of the colonial peoples. It will, likewise, crush strikes as well as smash left wing trade unions, etc.

At the same time the fight against participation in the "Asiatic Labor Conference" is one of the left wing's immediate tasks. Simultaneously the popularization of the program and aims of the R. I. L. U. (Red International of Labor Unions) and the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat should be the order of the day, and immediate affiliation to the R. I. L. U. and the P. P. T. U. S. fought more energetically than ever before.

An educational campaign based upon the decisions of the Fourth Congress of the R. I. L. U. should be launched, the leading cadres of the left wing increased and elevated ideologically. We should stress the necessity for the establishing of workers' schools, a left wing press, and the publication of pamphlets, written specially for the Indian workers. In a word, a systematic and energetic training of workers for leadership is extremely essential.

It goes without saying that the left wing cannot co-ordinate its activities and expand without having a consolidated organization and an authoritative center. Hence, the pressing need for an all-embracing left trade union conference. It is imperative, therefore, that the Girni Kamgar Union Executive should undertake to call a preliminary conference composed of representatives of the largest left wing trade unions to work out a plan for an all-embracing left wing trade union conference, namely, a conference embracing the representatives of all the left wing trade unions, minorities and factory committees and shop delegates. It is advisable that the all-embracing left wing trade union conference should be preceded by conferences locally and industrially.

EXECUTIVE BUREAU  
OF THE R. I. L. U.

Moscow, June 12, 1929.

(The End.)

## Hoelz, German Leader of Workers, Welcomed By Leningrad Workers

MOSCOW, (By Mail).—The German revolutionary Max Hoelz has arrived in Leningrad where he was welcomed by a delegation of the Leningrad workers. In his speech at the docks Hoelz declared that he had come to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the workers of the factory which bore his name. In the evening a great meeting took place in the "Max Hoelz" factory.

## Czech Govt. Suppresses Press of the Workers

PRAGUE, (By Mail).—One of the few papers of the Communist Party of Czecho-Slovakia which had not been forbidden yet, the "Svoboda" (Freedom) of Kladno has been warned by the district court of Kladno that if it continues to offend against the "Defence of the Republic Act" it would be prohibited. This action of the court is based on the fact that issues of the "Svoboda" have been already seized four times at different times and places.

The campaign of extermination waged by the Czech bourgeoisie against the revolutionary working class movement is growing more intense from day to day.

## FEARS POLICE, KILLS SELF.

HEWLETT, L. I., Sept. 3.—Fear of the possible consequences of a police summons for driving an auto without a license is thought to have caused Henry Weiland, 17, of 223 Gilbert Street, Inwood, to commit suicide here last night.

The boy was found dead from gas in the home of Edward J. Durr of 230 Old Mill Road, Hewlett, which he had been watching while the Durr family were out.

The summons was issued yesterday.