

# IN THE INTERNATIONAL OF LABOR

## Reviews and News of the Working Class and Revolutionary Movements

### The British Scene

## National Government in Sharp Attack On the Workers' Standards

We can now turn to the present position in England: one that arises directly from the conditions outlined in the preceding article.

The National Government, returned by a majority of voters at the General Election, is now in an extremely strong position: its huge majority in the House of Commons guarantees for the ruling class a constitutional cover for all their activities against the workers. Whatever measures are "necessary"; however strongly the Government may attack the workers' movement; however great the misery and suffering inflicted upon the workers by the policy of the Government; all can be done in the name of "democracy", since the Government is constitutionally elected, was given a free hand by the majority of the electors, and, whilst wielding the iron hand of the capitalist dictatorship, can conceal it beneath the silken glove of parliamentary democracy.

What does the immediate future threaten? Not Fascism, as some would appear to believe; that can, and perhaps will, come in England, but only when Parliamentary Government no longer has the support of the middle-class and sections of the working class. Those obsessed with the possibility of Fascism are apt to overlook the problems of the present, the correct handling of which will, in advance, help to decide the tempo of England's advance to Fascism.

### National Government Lowers Workers' Standards

The policy of the National Government is one of wage-reductions, tariffs bringing higher prices, inflation, and a ruthless reduction in the number of unemployed drawing benefit. Part of this program has been realized already: the wages of Civil Servants, teachers, and of the armed forces have been reduced; the benefit of the unemployed has been cut and in one week alone, out of eighty thousand workers brought before the authorities, seventy thousand have been removed from the unemployed exchange register and from benefit altogether.

### WAR CHIEF ADMITS FAILURE AGAINST REDS

**NANKING, Nov. 10 (Fenprecor)**—To fight the "Red Armies" of Kiangsi Province, it is necessary to fight the people—and in this the Communist Extermination troops of the Kuo Min Tang have failed after eight months' ceaseless campaigning. Such is the gist of a report made here today by General Ho-Ying-Ching, minister of war in the Nanking government.

Two hundred thousand troops, General Ho reported, have been marching and counter-marching since last May and the announced objective "extermination of the Red Menace"—is as far off as ever. General Ho minimized. Nanking sent more than 300,000 into Kiangsi, including some of the best fighting regiments at the command of the government. For three months during the early summer they were led by Chiang Kai-Shek in person who directed operations from Nanking.

The War Minister revealed in his report that the inhabitants of the "bandit-ridden" areas gave their wholehearted support to the "bandits" and that "the government troops find it extremely difficult to obtain the assistance of the people in securing food or in the transportation of their ammunition and military equipment". He expresses optimism, however, over the fact that "the Communists are being driven towards complete destruction". This is being accomplished, he states, not by the government troops but because "diseases of epidemic proportions have broken out in their camps and because of lack of medical help many are perishing. With the approach of the cold winter their hardships are steadily growing worse as very few of the bandits have winter clothing."

General Ho, commander of the forces which for nearly a year have been waging open warfare on millions of Chinese peasants, sagely concludes his report with the statement that "the trouble has been caused by the frequency of internal warfare and the remedy is the cessation of all civil fighting and the restoration of peace in the country."

### In India

## The Significance of Kashmir

For the last few weeks the British Press and especially *The Times* have devoted enormous space to Kashmir, an Indian State. The Round Table Conference, which, on the surface looks far more important and is supposed to decide the future destinies of India, almost passed unnoticed, and has lately been relegated to a page principally devoted to Squash Rackets and Association Football. Kashmir is in the north of India. It is important as it guards one of the approaches to India on the North West Frontier. It forms an excellent air base from which to wage war against the U. S. S. R. Kashmir is the famous health resort of the English in India. In it oil lies hidden.

When the former ruler of Kashmir, the Maharajah Partap Singh, was told that there was oil in his state he said, succinctly, "Let it remain there." He knew that the moment oil wells were sunk the control as well as the profits would have to be passed to the British and that the best thing was to keep quiet about it. The oil yet lies unexploited and as the British Empire is deficient in oil the British are naturally anxious to get hold of it.

There were two candidates for the throne of Kashmir after Partap Singh died. One of them, who was backed by the British Government, unfortunately for the British could not secure the throne and thus made the way clear for the present ruler, who, though a great favourite of Partap Singh never found favour with the British.

Maharajah Hari Singh, the present ruler, was one of the representatives of the Princes at the last Round Table Conference. In the course of his speech at that Conference he said: "We are Indians first and Princes afterwards." The British Government must have noted this sentence carefully. Hari Singh seems to have had a very short memory. Had he so quickly forgotten the fate of his neighbour the Amir Ammanullah of Afghanistan? Ammanullah's defiance of British authority cost him his throne. The ruler of Kashmir is even more dependent upon the British than was Ammanullah.

The British are a very clever people and they have not forgotten the Indian War of Independence of 1857 (known to the British as the Indian Mutiny) and they will never again take steps against the Indian Princes in such a way as to antagonise the masses. They will only interfere when they profess to champion the cause of the Indian subjects, though in reality to gain a concession which they have long coveted.

### Living Conditions in Kashmir

Such at present is the case in Kashmir. We do not pretend to be the champions of Hari Singh, who is an oppressor. In a few years the iron boom of the proletariat will make a clean sweep of him. Kashmir State was a creation of the British and when they go, too, will disappear. The overwhelming population of Kashmir, as throughout India consists of peasants, but with this difference, that in Kashmir, 90% are Moslems. The peasant all over India including Kashmir is burdened by the debts he owes to the moneylender and the rent he owes to the landlord. The agrarian crisis has made his condition still worse. Life in a Kashmir village is worse than hell. The houses are of mud; there is no ventilation, and often the whole family sleeps in one room. There is no water, no sanitation. The men have nothing but the loincloth they wear, and the women their saris. Only an infinitesimal proportion of the population can read or write, although we are told that recently a few primary schools have been opened. No wonder there is a popular agitation against the Maharajah who is notorious throughout Europe as "Mr. A."

### FRENCH EVICT CHINESE

**SHANGHAI, Nov. 15—(Fenprecor)**—More than 1,000 poverty-stricken Chinese occupying mudhuts along Socoawai Creek bordering on the French Concession here, have been ordered to vacate by the French police. Two weeks is the time limit set on their evacuation under threats of forcible steps being taken to demolish the miserable hovels in which the people were seeking to achieve some protection against the coming winter.

"Civically" minded social welfare groups have raised a protest to the authorities—not demanding housing improvements—but merely asking that the paupers be permitted to remain where they are! An appeal was made to the local Kuo Min Tang branch which replied—"We will see what we can do."

### HANKOW COMMUNISTS EXECUTED

**HANKOW, Nov. 9 (Fenprecor)**—Ten Communists were summarily and publicly executed here today on the public square after "court martial" by the Hankow Garrison Headquarters.

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## Persecution of the Left Oppositionists

(Continued from page 1)

ber of the Bolshevik Party since 1910; member of the Petrograd Party Committee during the February revolution, participated actively in the October insurrection.

**Comrades Dingelstedt, Solnzev, Stojalov, Jakovin and Eizim** are all old Party members. All of them have written independent scientific Marxist works on economic and historical questions. They are no ordinary writers; they are the young theoreticians of the Left Opposition. But their theoretical work was always tied up with political struggle. After the end of the civil war they exchanged rifle for the book, to exchange it again for the rifle when the interests of Communism demanded it.

**Victor Borisovitch Eizim** joined the Party in 1917, and participated in the preparation and execution of the insurrection of October in Perm. In 1918 he was chairman of the executive committee of the Viatka Government. In 1919 and 1920 he was active on the Eastern front. After the liquidation of the Kozack adventure he worked as an economist. From 1922 on he attended sessions at the Institute of Red Professors and ended his studies in 1926. Since 1925 he has belonged to the Opposition and was one of its leading workers in Moscow, until his exile. He edited the collected works of Trotsky. Exiled in January, 1928 by Stalin, he has been in prison since 1929.

We ought to say a few words here about the whole Eizim family. **Boris Mienalovitch Eizim**, father of Victor Eizim, is one of the very old Bolsheviks, and went through imprisonment and exile under the Czar. He is one of the leaders of the Opposition. He signed the first platform document of the Opposition, the so-called "Statement of the Forty-Six", which became the center of the 1923 discussion. **B. M. Eizim** was arrested in Summer of 1929 and has been imprisoned ever since, completely isolated, entirely alone in the Sudaj jail.

**Joseph Eizim**, the second son of B. M. Eizim, has been in exile for more than two years in Old Crimea. He has tuberculosis in its most acute form, and the doctors assume that it means death unless his manner of living is not changed. A fourth member of this family of revolutionaries, the daughter, **B. M. Eizina**, is in exile in Siberia. The whole Eizim family is therefore not only under lock and key under the Stalin regime, but

its members have been torn apart from each other.

**MAN NEWELSON**—member of the Party since 1911; a Party worker since the beginning of the February revolution, active in the Communist youth organization of Petrograd, a member of the Red Guard during the October insurrection. From the beginning of 1918 to the middle of 1920 comrade Newelson fought in the Red Army, as regimental commissar, divisional political commissar and chairman of the Political department of the army. In economic work since 1923; already then a member of the Opposition. In exile since January 1928; in prison since the middle of 1929, first in Tobolsk, then in Verchne-Uralsk.

**J. M. Pomsunsky**—member of the Party since 1917, and an active participant in the October insurrection in Petersburg. At the front throughout the whole civil war; particularly as cavalry inspector at the Southern front he successfully organized the mounted forces there; wounded. In 1921 he fought before Kronstadt for the dictatorship of the proletariat. After the end of the civil war and until his exile comrade Pomsunsky was Trotsky's secretary (see "My Life"). Arrested in February 1928 and sent North by the U. S. S. R. for his attempt to follow Trotsky to Alma-Ata, in prison since 1930.

**Vladimir Ivanovitch Reschetnikenko**—member of the Party since 1911. Military worker and hero of the civil war (decorated with the Order of the Red Banner); Military Academy.

**Musja Magid**—member of the Party since 1917. She worked illegally in the Ukraine at the time of the struggle with Denikin, in prison for night from exile.

**Surnov**—old Party member; until his exile, Commissar for Agriculture of the Crimean Republic.

These brief items naturally give only a part of the revolutionary activities of the comrades named, but they give an idea of the "Verchne-Uralskiers" as a type of Bolshevik revolutionary. They took part in the October insurrection; they took part in the civil war; they were economic or scientific workers after the victory at the various fronts; they struggled for seven years against the Stalinist revision of Marxism and Leninism; exiled, and jailed. Always and under all circumstances courageous and devoted without limit to the cause without a thought for themselves.

## The Left Opposition in Switzerland

The Left Opposition of the Communist Party of Switzerland arose in Spring of this year out of the Communist fraction of the Marxist Student's Group of Zurich. In this group there had been heated discussions between Left Oppositionists and the comrades of the "general line", in the course of which we laid our platform before the Party. Later we by no means limited ourselves to discussions, but reached workers and Party members through the sale of Oppositionist literature.

On Easter Youth Day we sold comrade Trotsky's pamphlets at the Party celebration. The Party bureaucracy was caught unawares, but by the end of the celebration, when we had sold all our pamphlets, we were insulted by some functionaries as "counter-revolutionaries" and threatened with violence. After these events we were expelled from the Swiss Party.

We refused to be scared and continued our activity, distributing literature, carrying on discussions with workers, and after we had gained a few sympathizers, we began to hold public lectures and forums. The first lecture on "Fascism and Social-Fascism" passed without disturbance; the "general line" was silent. At the second lecture, on the "Trade Union Question", an unsuccessful attempt was made to disturb the meeting. Our third meeting, on the "Theory of Socialism in One Country" was broken up by the appearance of numerous "comrades of the general line" under the leadership of a cantonal councillor (!) The Stalinists were able to carry through their lecture "Against Trotskyism" only after they had cleared us Oppositionists by force out of the hall. The next time they tried it again, but failed; we left the hall and finally continued our lectures elsewhere without further disturbance. This was the end of the comedy, for the time being. Our next lecture, "On the Situation in the Swiss Communist Party", was received in a disciplined manner, although the majority of the audience were regular Party members. The same was true of the following lecture on "The German Situation". So far, we have won.

By this time we had made up our minds to reach a wider audience of Party members and workers, and from time to time mimeograph and sell our lectures. In this way we published an essay on "Fascism and Social-Fascism", which was well received. On August 1st we distributed a leaflet among the Party members which increased the tension between us and the Party. Our first newspaper contributed further to the tension.

### Publish Newspaper

We decided not to publish single articles, but to get out a newspaper which

should publish in each issue one fairly long article and a number of shorter items. The "Newspaper of the Left Opposition of the Communist Party of Switzerland" is the title of our organ.

The first issue of the *Newspaper*, which appeared in August, was devoted to the situation in the Swiss Communist Party, and helped make us known among the workers throughout Switzerland.

The *Kaempfer*, the Communist Party paper in Zurich, could find nothing to answer except a few provocative sentences, in which it vilified us as "agents and accomplices of the bourgeoisie". The *Arbeiter-Zeitung*, the Right Opposition paper in Schaffhausen, took notice of us in a clever way, but just as stupidly in essence.

The calm of the Party press however does not at all reflect the real feelings of the Party. Many Party comrades were undoubtedly stimulated to think by our paper. The Party mandarins are trying to work up a pogrom feeling against us, threaten us with blows, etc. The real feelings of the members of the party will be shown by future events. In the meantime, the second issue of our *Newspaper* has appeared, in which we state our position on the German situation. We have grown a little, a few workers have joined our group, improving its purely intellectual social composition.

### Composed of Young Comrades

We are all young comrades, and therefore for the next period will go out after the youth, first of all; the Communist and the Socialist youth organizations, other youth groups, etc. Definite Oppositionist tendencies are noticeable in the Communist youth organization, and we shall not delay in encouraging them. The same is true of the Socialist youth organization, which has several hundred members. Recently we spoke at one of their meetings, issued a leaflet for the Socialist youth, and made a good impression on them. "If we become Communist at all, then we shall become Left Communists", we have often heard them say. We also have sympathetic contacts among the "Free Sport Group", a youth sport organization.

In this way we shall continue our activity, for the time being. We hope and feel sure that, if we do our work intelligently, in the course of the coming winter we shall create a substantial, firmly-organized section of the International Opposition. We shall continue to report on our activities in the *International Bulletin*. We ask those comrades who wish to find out more about us, to order our newspaper through the International Secretariat, and will send it regularly by mail. Zurich, Switzerland

—WALTER NELZ.

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