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# The Hunger-March of the German Working Class.

By Gustav Sobottka (Berlin).

The financial dictatorship of Schacht, Reichs Bank President, and of the German coalition Cabinet has led to an enormous increase of unemployment in Germany. Already at the end of December 1929 there were registered 2 million unemployed in receipt of unemployment and crisis benefit. This number had increased by 200 000 in January of this year. In addition there is great number of unemployed, amounting to at least 1 500 000, who do not receive any unemployment benefit, so that at present there are over 3½ million proletarians without work and bread.

The further "development" of capitalist economy in Germany, the increased rationalisation drive, the ruthless cutting down of credits, will further augment the army of unemployed.

In view of this situation the unemployed masses and the German proletariat are beginning to realise that the struggle against unemployment and hunger cannot be restricted to demanding an increase of unemployment benefit, but that it is in the first place a political mass struggle against the whole capitalist society and its apparatus of power. As a result there have taken place in various towns of Germany, under the leadership of the Communist Party, hunger marches and fighting actions of the unemployed and of the workers in the factories against the regime of plunder and exploitation.

In Berlin, on February 1st., the mass march of the working class once again trampled underfoot the prohibition of demonstrations. In spite of the actual state of martial law, in spite of armoured cars, in spite of the greatest preparations of the police and the wildest attacks, thousands and thousands of hungry proletarians marched in closed ranks in all districts of Berlin. At Wedding, where again and again fresh processions of demonstrators were formed, many workers were arrested but only to be wrested by the masses from the hands of the police. In Moabit the demonstrating masses put the police to flight. In the centre of Berlin the workers showed by several demonstrations that for them there exists no ban-mile or prohibition of demonstrations. On the Lausitz Square huge masses of workers gathered together, which the police was unable to disperse. In Nieder and Ober-Schöneweide the demonstrating workers were masters of the streets until the late hours of the evening. In the old barricade quarters of Neukölln the workers erected a barrier in order to prevent the police from marching into the workers' streets.

The bourgeois and social-democratic press, which before the 1st of February, raised a great outcry over the "punch plans" and "attempts at insurrection" of the Communists, has

become very quiet in view of the success of the Communist action in Berlin. It is now trying to minimise this action. "The Communist demonstrations a failure", "Only tumults in Berlin", "Failure of world revolution on account of lack of participants", such were the big headlines of the bourgeois and social-democratic press after the 1st of February. The democratic "Tempo" however blurted out the truth when it wrote: "The Lausitz Square was almost empty at half past five, but overflowing with people at six o'clock. From all the converging streets smaller and bigger groups streamed into the Square. The Communists were not to be driven away but put up energetic resistance to the police".

The hunger march of the unemployed to Hamburg was a powerful demonstration. In Hamburg itself there are 100,000 unemployed. In all the neighbouring towns and villages it was decided to march to Hamburg on the 1st of February. Several days ago great masses of unemployed began their march from Kiel, Lübeck, Itzehoe, Flensburg etc. The Hamburg bourgeoisie and the social democracy were seized with panic. Schönfelder, the social fascist police president of Hamburg, and Grzesinski, the Prussian Minister for the Interior, mobilised all the police forces not only of Hamburg but of the whole of Schleswig-Holstein.

In spite of this extraordinary display of police forces whole processions of demonstrators succeeded in getting to Ham-

burg. On the road from Flensburg a delegation was proceeding to Hamburg. It was attacked by mounted police, the demonstrators were arrested, placed in waggons and transported back to Flensburg. In the meantime another procession of demonstrators from Flensburg succeeded in marching to Hamburg by another road.

The most brutal persecution and the use of batons could not prevent the unemployed from marching into Hamburg, where a big demonstration of the unemployed and the Hamburg workers took place in Holsten Square. The police tried everything in order to crush the workers. In the ensuing fight between the police and the workers one unemployed was killed and six workers wounded.

In Pirna (Saxony) over 2000 unemployed marched on the 28th January from the surrounding localities to the chief market square and demonstrated against the government of hunger and war, for work and bread. Here also the police were helpless in face of this demonstration. The same week, the unemployed of the district of Königsberg determined on a march on Königsberg. Similar decisions were adopted in many other places.

The German working class, headed by the Communist Party, by arranging these hunger marches is expressing its determination to put an end to a system which literally exposes millions of proletarians to death by starvation.

## The Rising Wave.

### The Central Organ of the C. P. S. U. on the Hamburg Fights.\*)

In Hamburg—the unemployed are fighting against the police. In one of the streets of this proletarian centre the workers began to build barricades. The Hamburg social fascist authorities answered the demands of the unemployed with a rain of bullets. Workers have been killed and wounded. In view of the action of the unemployed in a number of other countries the Hamburg events must rivet the attention of all revolutionary workers, all sections of the Communist International.

Under the conditions resultant on the growing economic crisis and the increasing revolutionary upsurge, the demonstrations of millions of unemployed together with the mass strike movements can become the starting point for big class struggles.

The number of unemployed has reached colossal figures: in the United States there are five million, in Germany three and a half million, in Great Britain two million. The percentage of unemployed in relation to the total number of workers is growing continually. In Germany this percentage increased in the period from July to October 1919 from 8.6 to 13.8, and by December was already over 20. In Great Britain this percentage increased in the same period from 9.8 to 11. In Italy the number of workers actually unemployed amounts to nearly a million. Unemployment is continually growing in Poland (in Lodz alone there are more than 50,000), in Czechoslovakia, in Austria (20 per cent), in Hungary, Japan, China, India, Indonesia and other countries of the West and of the East and also in South America. Unemployment has already made its appearance in a number of countries where formerly it was unknown.

In many countries a great many workers are on short time. In Germany, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia and Poland hundred of thousands of workers are working only two to three days a week, the number of unemployed—not reckoning China, India, Indonesia—already exceeds 15 million, which means that reckoning their families 60 million people are delivered over to starvation. The prospect for the future is an inevitable further increase of unemployment.

Unemployment is not only one of the most striking characteristics but also a powerful factor in accelerating the process of the shaking of capitalist stabilisation, and accentuating the general crisis of capitalism.

In addition to the growing strike movement, there is proceeding a rapid revolutionisation of the unemployed. Demonstrations and bloody collisions of the unemployed with the police in a number of towns in Germany and Poland, unemployed demonstrations in front of government buildings

and town halls in Czechoslovakia, mass demonstrations of unemployed in the Balkans, and a number of other facts indicate a great growth of indignation of broad masses of unemployed who will no longer listen to the reformist trade union bureaucrats. Although the bourgeoisie and the social fascists are conducting a policy of splitting the workers and the unemployed by inciting them against each other, cases are becoming ever more frequent of joint demonstrations of workers and unemployed, which goes to show the sound class instinct and growth of class consciousness of both these sections of workers.

The Communist Parties and the revolutionary trade unions must place themselves at the head of the growing activity of the proletarian masses, both of the unemployed and of the workers in the factories, and place upon the agenda the complete uniting of their fight. The question of unemployment, as well as the question of economic struggles, must occupy the centre of attention of the Communist Parties, the Young Communist Leagues and the revolutionary trade unions, and these organisations must mobilise all their forces for the struggle against unemployment.

The chief slogan of every meeting and demonstration of the proletarian masses must now be: The struggle against unemployment is the cause of the whole working class, the struggle against unemployment is the struggle against the whole capitalist system.

All workers, headed by the Communist Party, must actively defend the following slogans: **cessation of mass dismissals; against capitalist rationalisation; abolition of overtime work; unemployment insurance by the State; payment of unemployment benefit amounting to the average wage, to be borne by the employers and their State; unemployment benefit for the whole term of unemployment; payment of benefit from the first day of unemployment; actual means to liquidate unemployment; for the sevenhour working day for all and six-hour day for miners working underground and for all workers in dangerous trades.**

There is not a single demonstration of the unemployed and factory workers which the capitalists and their social fascist lackeys would not meet with terror. The mobilisation of the masses for the struggle against unemployment is closely linked up with the struggle against fascism and social fascism. In regard to unemployment, social fascism exposes itself as the **advance-guard of the bourgeoisie.**

The broad masses must clearly realise the connection between unemployment and the general crisis of capitalism—the connection between unemployment and the Young Plan, capitalist rationalisation and the attempts of the capitalists

\*) Leading article of the "Pravda" of February 2, 1930.

place the burdens of the economic crisis on the shoulders of the working class; the connection between unemployment and the general foreign policy of imperialism, the preparation of new imperialist wars and in particular war against the Soviet Union; the connection between unemployment and the suppression of the colonies, and that it is impossible, under the present conditions, to solve the crisis of unemployment by emigration. The masses must realise that it is impossible to separate the struggle against unemployment from the struggle for the complete annihilation of the rule of the bourgeoisie, for the dictatorship of the proletariat, for socialism.

For the broad masses of the capitalist countries it is of extreme importance to know how the problem of unemployment is practically solved in the Soviet Union. In this living example the masses can see the difference in the conditions under which unemployment arises and is combated in the capitalist countries and in the Soviet Union.

In the capitalist countries we witness the uninterrupted decline of the total number of workers as a result of closing down of factories and works in connection with the market crisis; the ousting of hundreds and thousands of workers, among them being highly skilled workers, from the factories, and the lack of any prospect of their returning to work; at the same time we perceive the violent suppression of the unemployed movement.

In the Soviet Union we see the decline of the surplus rural population, this chief source of unemployment, with a simultaneous uninterrupted growth of the working class on the basis of the rapid development of industry, on the basis of the seven and six hour day, in connection with the introduction of the uninterrupted working year, with grandiose works of construction; we observe there a shortage of skilled workers, combating of rural overpopulation by collectivisation of agriculture, social insurance for the unemployed, a constant improvement of the standard of living of the working class.

Despite the fact that as a result of rationalisation skilled male labour power is more frequently replaced by unskilled female labour power, the struggle against unemployment must meet with a response among the toiling working women. The attraction of these masses into the struggle against unemployment is all the more important as International Communist Women's day (March 8) is approaching which must bear a general proletarian character.

The young workers especially suffer as a result of unemployment and capitalist rationalisation and at the same time are being deprived of any unemployment benefit. By attracting the broad masses of the working youth into the struggle against unemployment, the Young Communist Leagues will carry out more successfully that task which for them is the fighting task of the day.

In the struggle against unemployment the revolutionary trade unions and the trade union oppositions have to play a special role by organising the unemployed and the factory workers into a united class force, according to the decisions of the VI. session of the Central Council of the R. I. L. U.

The Hamburg struggles, which are an episode of the rising struggles of the unemployed, show the imperative necessity of extending the united front of the workers. The movement of the working class for the raising of its standard of living and against unemployment is developing in all corners of the world: in Europe, America, Australia, in the colonies of Africa and Asia — everywhere the young workers, who are not even accustomed to the fire of struggle of the Communist Parties, are standing at the head of this movement. But what has been done hitherto is too little. It will depend upon the activity of the Communist Parties to what extent we shall succeed in extending the front of the class struggle, to what extent the Communist Parties and the revolutionary trade unions succeed in drawing the decisive strata of the working class into the movement. Only by uninterrupted work at extending the fighting front, by drawing ever broader masses into the movement, only when they give this movement ever more revolutionary forms, will the Communists succeed in deeply penetrating the working masses and winning the majority of the work class. The whole course of events in the Capitalist world demonstrates that the Communists will fulfil this task, that by the class struggles developing on the basis of the economic crisis they will everywhere become mass parties of the working class.

## POLITICS

### Change of Dictators in Spain.

By Vincente Arroyo (Barcelona).

Primo de Rivera's policy has brought Spanish economy into a state of bankruptcy and complete disintegration, which the government itself could not conceal and which aroused all the social forces against it. Even the big bourgeoisie and the big banks, which pocketed enormous profits as a result of Primo de Rivera's policy, realised that this policy would inevitably lead to an outbreak of a revolutionary movement.

Primo de Rivera felt the ground giving away under his feet, as the forces upon which he supported himself — the army, the banks and the big bourgeoisie — turned their back on him, because their interests were not safeguarded to the desired extent.

The unconcealed policy conducted by Primo's government, of protecting the big industries, his monopoly policy, especially in regard to oil, necessarily led to an estrangement of France and England whose industries were severely hit by this policy.

Spain, which has to import its raw material, is economically dependent on England for the granting of credits. The withdrawal of credits on the part of the foreign countries necessarily led to a shaking of the Spanish valuta. During the year 1929 the depreciation of the Peseta proceeded uninterruptedly and became particularly marked in the last few months. The English Pound, which in 1929 stood at 29.77 Peseta, rose to 36.58 Peseta in the last few weeks. On the day preceding Primo de Rivera's resignation the Pound had risen to 37.35 Peseta.

This depreciation of the valuta had a disastrous effect on the whole economy, and especially on the foreign trade balance, which shows a great deficit.

Primo de Rivera's government offered neither politically nor economically any security for the interests of the banks and of the big industrialists. Both needed foreign credits, which they could not obtain, and at the same time they required a government which subjected the proletariat to their rationalisation policy, i. e. they needed an apparently liberal but actual dictatorship government. This government the big bourgeoisie thinks it has found in Berenguer.

Primo de Rivera's replacement by Berenguer will not change the situation in Spain, either politically or economically. General Berenguer's government does not in any way mean a return to "normal constitutional conditions". Rather is it a government which resembles the overthrown dictator government like two peas. Economically Berenguer's government will continue the policy of protecting big industry and the banks, while it will attempt to regain the credits from abroad in return for some concessions; for which purpose an increased exploitation will be necessary at home. In order to carry out this increased exploitation, the Spanish big bourgeoisie needs a government of the mailed fist — a dictatorship. The fact that General Marzo has been appointed Minister for the Interior, clearly indicates the character of the government which has just been formed. It is a government of militarists, in which the few civilian ministers, of an extremely reactionary type, are in the minority and playing second fiddle, while the whole State power remains in the hands of the militarists.

The Spanish working class has no illusions whatever regarding the true character of the new government. The protest demonstrations in Madrid, Barcelona, and in other great centres clearly prove that the Spanish proletariat is not willing to tolerate a dictatorship any longer. The promises of the new government to return to "normal conditions" and to issue an amnesty for political and military prisoners will not deceive the working class. The movement against the capitalist regime is daily gaining ground.

The leader of the "Left" socialists, Indalecio Prieto, has issued an anti-monarchist Manifesto. He is not a socialist, but a liberal Democrat, a Republican. The Socialist Party itself has not uttered a word officially. It will adopt towards the new government the same loyal attitude of "expectations"

which it had hitherto adopted towards Primo de Rivera's government, of whom it was the most faithful collaborator.

The **Communist Party of Spain** has issued an appeal to the workers peasants and soldiers, calling upon them to fight against the new government, against the monarchy and against the new government, against the monarchy and against the capitalist regime and for a workers' and peasants' government. The Communist Party is facing a serious period in which it will have to prove its revolutionary readiness to fight and its political maturity. In the approaching big struggles the Communist Party will place itself at the head of the broad masses of workers and peasants who are exploited and plundered to an increasing extent and whose discontent is growing from day to day. The Party will know how to lead the struggle of the Spanish proletariat against the bourgeoisie and its auxiliary troops to a victorious issue.

## France on the Road to Fascism.

By J. Berlioz (Paris).

Some recent events, such as the shameful speech delivered by **Tardieu** in the Senate, the pardoning of the royalist **Daudet**, who had gone to Brussels after having escaped from the Santé Prison in Paris, the appointment of the notorious General **Weygand** as highest officer of the French army, have caused disturbance among the petty bourgeois elements, who are now beginning to cry out about the threat to the "republican institutions" and parliament by the big bourgeoisie.

The Report which the Central Committee of the Communist Party will submit to the next National conference contains in the first place an estimate of this situation, which fresh events are confirming every day. The report states: "Various announcements on the part of the Government of late show with particular clearness the tendency of the big bourgeoisie to proceed as quickly as possible with the liquidation of the 'remnants of democracy' and the complete fascistisation of the State, even by 'legal parliamentary' means. It is in fact clear that this gradual advance from the methods of parliamentarism and legality to a regime of brutal terror will proceed the more quickly the more difficult the economic and political situation of the bourgeoisie becomes.

The development in the direction of fascism is shown most strikingly in the increased persecutions and the extension of the means of suppression exercised by the bourgeoisie. In 1929 the number of comrades accused was 1127. Of these, 213 were charged with anti-militarist propaganda and 176 with taking part in "conspiracies" 597 comrades received sentences amounting in all to 260 years' imprisonment and one million francs in fines. The whole of the Central Committee of the Party is accused of "conspiracy against the inner and outer security of the State"; no concrete charges are brought forward, but general communist activity is made the basis of the accusation.

The legal possibilities of persecution are used to the extreme limit, including all laws dating as far back as a hundred years. It is intended to introduce in the Chamber a number of more comprehensive laws: against espionage, in order to stop our exposures regarding production of war material; against worker correspondents, in order to be able to proceed against our papers; against "threatening territorial inviolability", in order to cripple our activity in Alsace Lorraine and in the colonies; on freedom of the press, in order to be able to suppress our organs, before all the "Humanité", which they already tried to ruin by the attack on the Workers and Peasants Bank. But already one notices no limits when it comes to using illegal means such as wholesale preventative arrests, dissolution of meetings, of nuclei, and trade unions by the police, plundering of party and trade union premises, attempts to drive our papers off the streets and to prohibit any distribution of leaflets, monstrous police provocation etc.

We are rapidly approaching the illegality of the Party and even of the revolutionary trade unions. The police forces are constantly being augmented and provided with more effective weapons. An intensive political "enlightenment" work is being conducted in the army and the police force. The police exercise despotic rule over the whole country and can murder workers with impunity. Of the 1172 million francs allotted to the Ministry of the Interior 808 millions were expended on the police (an increase of 200 million in four years). Street demon-

strations of workers have long been forbidden. We are witnessing at the present time a monstrous campaign on the part of the big newspapers aiming at terrifying the petty bourgeoisie and the backward workers with the spectre of a frightful revolution, and at the same time finally discrediting all parliamentary institutions. In his speech in the Senate on December 12, Tardieu set the tune by launching an attack on the "contradictory rumours" emanating from the Chamber and the slow pace of parliamentary procedure. The "left" radicals and the (Right) Republican Democratic Union are disintegrating in face of this manoeuvre and their fragments are developing into a big centrist formation.

The "National Economic Council", embracing "the productive forces of the employers and the workers" (the big capitalist magnates and the reformist leaders), is being lauded to the skies by the ruling class.

We have arrived at a decisive point in the political development in France. In a country which has very lively democratic traditions it is certain that the fascist regime will be the more easily accepted by the social strata which have been uprooted by the economic crisis if it is exercised by people of the "Left". It is therefore probable that it will assume the outward form of social fascism.

The French socialists are actively preparing to play their part as last defenders of the capitalist regime. Left wing or Right wing, they are all united in order to become active agents in the preparation for war, in the attack on the Soviet Union and persecution of the proletarian movement. They are at the head of the fight against communism, and their co-operation with the police at the demonstrations in Japy and Champigny and in the collisions between the police and the revolutionary workers was specially noticeable. There is more than one Zörgiebel in their ranks!

If in the near future the Tardieu Ministry adds one or two Radicals to its ranks, and even if in the further course of the crisis the hour approaches when the bourgeois power is exercised by the socialists, it will be solely in order that capitalism may have the most suitable means for oppressing the working class and the C. P.

Finally it should be mentioned that at the moment when all fractions of the bourgeoisie are dropping the democratic mask, when we must concretely face the problem of the political mass strike, and when the development of the crisis can definitely raise the question of power, bourgeois "democracy" finds its last defenders in the ranks of the opportunist renegades. Thus, the party (!) of the liquidators clings to the formation of the "Lefts", which it wishes to oppose to the reaction. Thus, Dumois proclaimed in the organ of the right trade union opposition, that "democracy is not absolutely devoid of a real content" and is worth while defending. Thus the capitulators wish to hold back the workers from the real fight by cloaking the actual facts.

## The Fascist Dictatorship in Poland in the Struggle against the Rising Revolutionary Wave.

By H. Mar (Warsaw).

On the 12th of February there will take place in Sosnowice a great political trial of the Central Committee of the P. P. S. Left. 26 workers of this party will appear in dock; they have been tortured in the prison by the fascist hangmen while awaiting trial.

The P. P. S. Left was founded in the middle of 1926, and soon developed into a great mass party, which exerts great influence on the working masses and comprises 20,000 members. In the same period there took place the increased merging of the P. P. S. Right with the apparatus of the fascist dictatorship and its evolution to fascism.

To the extent to which the revolutionary movement grew and the fascist nature of the P. P. S. Right became obvious, to the same extent the P. P. S. Left became more dangerous to fascism. Fascism wished to settle accounts with this party, and in January last year almost the whole Central Committee was arrested; in the districts mass arrests were carried out.

While the rank and file of the party courageously

withstood the attack of fascism, some leaders, among them being Czuma, deserted over to the enemy. The group of renegades, numbering six members, soon sank into the bog of basest treachery and entered the service of the political police — the Defensive. The news of Czuma's treachery aroused tremendous indignation in the whole Party.

All the districts stood behind the imprisoned Central Committee. Only one local branch (led by Pruskov), out of several hundred, went over to the renegades. The Party Conference, which took place in June 1929, elected a new revolutionary Central Committee.

Several weeks after the Party Conference the new Central Committee was imprisoned. At present the first and the second C.C.'s are in the dock, charged with violating paragraph 102 of the Tzarist penal code, involving sentences up to eight years' imprisonment. The Public Prosecutor accuses the whole party of being but a cloak for the Communist Party of Poland, basing his case on the statements of the provocateurs Czuma, Rozycki, Legomski and Buczek.

The fascist dictatorship in Poland is undergoing a severe economic and political crisis. All industries are paralysed by this crisis. The number of officially registered unemployed amounts to 250,000, in addition there are 150,000 short-time workers. The rural districts are shaken by a deep crisis, the number of unemployed in the rural areas, who are not registered by the authorities, has increased enormously. The prices of industrial products are continually increasing, while the prices for wheat are declining. Fascism is crushing the peasants by taxation, by the merging of the small plots of land, by taxes for military purposes. The manufacturers and employers are casting all the burdens of the crisis on to the workers and peasants. The recently published arbitration award for agriculture, which was declared legally valid with the active assistance of the Right P.P.S., means a worsening of the standard of living of the agricultural workers by nearly 50 per cent. Wages have been reduced by 20 per cent., the number of cows is limited to one, and the land for the cultivation of potatoes restricted.

As a result of this crisis a great revolutionary movement in town and country is developing. No day passes without stormy meetings and demonstrations, where demonstrators are killed and wounded. Under the leadership of the C. P. of Poland the unemployed are being organised in unemployed committees. The anti-fascist, the anti-sejm and the Lenin-Liebkecht-Luxemburg campaigns were characterised by stormy demonstrations. The activity and the fighting determination of the masses are increasing. The workers are putting up determined resistance to the police. The blood of the proletariat is being shed (in Warsaw, Strykov, Rava Ruska, Soltysy, Gruziadr). In the rural districts new fierce struggles of the peasants are breaking out against the merging of the small plots of land, against the administrative punishments, against the high taxes and military requisitions. Blood is also being shed in the villages.

Fascism is trembling with fear of the revolutionary movement and is increasing the bestial white terror. All the revolutionary organisations of the proletariat and of the peasantry are attacked; the unemployed committees are arrested wholesale the revolutionary delegates are thrown out of the factories, the Left factory organisers are persecuted and imprisoned. The fascist hangmen have decided to settle with the P.P.S. Left at all cost.

Fascism is endeavouring to exterminate the C.P. of Poland. Our comrades are being murdered not only in the streets and at demonstrations, but also in the Defensive and in the political prisons. Last year alone the following comrades fell in the heroic struggle with the jailers: Plak in Sosnowice, Lapon in Wronke, Königsberg in Vilna, Holender in Boryslav and three other comrades, the names of whom we do not know, in Pruzany, Kielce and Lublin. The agents of the defensive fire in the streets upon Communist speakers, literature sellers etc. Thus in Lodz, Comrade Harnam, who was seriously wounded by police bullets, continued his speech until he collapsed and died. The Communist deputies deliver their speeches under a rain of bullets. Comrade Zarski, who only recently became deputy, was fired on by a fascist fighting unit near the Warsaw arsenal. Comrade Rosiak was repeatedly wounded at meetings and demonstrations. The same fate was shared by Comrades Kierusalski, Sypula etc.

No power on the earth can check the rising revolutionary

wave. The C. P. of Poland is penetrating deeper into the factories, into the villages and agricultural estates. The leading role of the Party in the developing struggles is growing and consolidating.

## Hitler Fascists in the Thuringian Government

### The Coming Big Coalition in Prussia.

By A. Norden (Berlin).

On the 23rd January the German People's Party entered for the first time into an official government alliance with the National Socialists in Thuringia, and precisely on the same day the Social Democratic Party opened negotiations regarding the participation of this same People's Party in the Prussian coalition government.

This synchronisation of events is not devoid of a certain inner logic. For in Prussia, as in Thuringia, the extension of the government towards the Right is nothing else but a reaction to the radicalisation of the proletarian masses which is proceeding at a rapid pace.

It does not say much for the strength and solidity of the capitalist system when it is compelled, in addition to the police and Reichswehr, to surround itself with yet a third wall of National Socialist troops and to appoint as Minister for the Interior and Education in Thuringia that Dr. Frick who, by his active participation in the Hitler Putsch and in the forging of passports for the fame murderers, had for a time made himself impossible even in good bourgeois society. But just as little as Louis Napoleon did not hesitate to form a coalition with the scum of society in order to crush the revolution, just as much as a matter of course, and for the same purpose, big capital to-day allies itself with those declassed elements whose declared Party is the National Socialist Party.

In Prussia there hitherto ruled the Weimar Constitution, i. e. a ministry of the Social Democracy, the Democrats and of the Centre. Now the leaders of the Socialist Party of Germany do not doubt that after the acceptance of the Young Plan the bourgeois bloc tendencies in the capitalist parties will become much stronger than at present, and that it is by no means impossible that the Socialist Party will be kicked out of the Government.

**Therefore, everything must be done in order to avoid such a possibility!** Therefore, new concessions to finance capital in the shape of taxes, protective duties, and the match monopoly. Therefore, surrender of further positions to the People's Party. Therefore, suppression of the revolutionary movement and preparation to suppress the Communist Party of Germany by a campaign of calumny which is as cynical as it is mendacious. All this in order to demonstrate to the bourgeoisie that the reformists are an indispensable government factor in the fight against the class conscious workers.

But the economic facts will upset the cunning calculations of the triple alliance of big capital, the Socialist Party of Germany and the National Socialists. For by admitting the Fascists into the Thuringian provincial government they hopelessly compromise themselves. They enter into a pact with heavy industry, by means of their sham fight against which they gained the support of the masses, and at the same time they take over the responsibility, the full responsibility for the Young Plan.

The Thuringian provincial policy is only a part of the policy of the Reich; the ruthless cutting off of the financial grants from the Reich to the provinces in order to meet the 2,000 million marks payable annually under the Young Plan compels the Thuringian Government, which already has a budget deficit of 16,500,000 marks, to impose new taxes, which are to be paid by the workers and the small and middle peasants. It should be noted by the way that this National Socialist Government in Thuringia is not in any way interfered with by the Müller-Severing Government, whose predecessor six years ago sent the Reichswehr against the same Thuringia when two communists entered the provincial government.

The increased price of the municipal services, which affects the pocket of every worker when he has to pay the higher car or underground railway fare morning and evening and on the 1st February next the increased price for gas and electricity; the rapacious custom duties, the practical meaning of which every proletarian woman realises when she goes marketing and often has to pay 50 per cent. more for vegetables, potatoes and meat than she did a few months ago; the plan to

pay off the current debts of the Reich by raising the taxes on articles of consumption and further cutting down the unemployment benefit, and in addition to all this the wholesale dismissals in all branches of industry have evoked a wave of political actions which the social democratic ministers and chiefs of police will not be able to break with prohibitions of demonstrations and state of emergency proclaimed throughout Prussia, Hamburg and the industrial districts of Saxony. Perhaps it was with a view to meeting this rising wave of political activity that the German People's Party were invited by the Social Democratic Party to enter the Prussian Government. There can be no doubt that, for the purpose of consolidating the starvation dictatorship in Germany, preparations are being made for the formation of a united front extending from the social to the national fascists, which is in fact already realised in the furious anti-Bolshevist incitements conducted by the fascist „Völkischer Beobachter“ and the „Vorwärts“, an incitement by means of which it is intended to divert the attention of the masses from their own sufferings and misery.

In this situation, when all parties, from the extreme Right to the „Left“ social democrats, have compromised themselves in the eyes of the toiling masses, the Communist Party of Germany has extraordinary opportunities, which it must make good use of by strengthening the anti-fascist campaign and by initiating struggles for wage increases and shorter working hours and for increased unemployment benefit.

## CHINA

### The Actual Facts Regarding Chiang-Kai-shek's "Victory".

By A. Ivin.

\*\* Chiang Kai Shek published a circular telegram in which he boasts of having gained a victory over Feng Yu Hsiang and Chang Fa Kui and promises shortly to settle Shi Yu Hsiang and Tang Shen Chi. As two other leaders of the Kuomintang, Sun Fo and Hu Han, maintain, all these insurrections have their „good sides“. The insurgent troops were disarmed, and by this means the plan of the government regarding disarming the army is being realised.

Several weeks have already passed since all these boastful declarations were published, and one can now sum up the results of the „victory“ of the Nanking government.

According to exact reports from the province of Kwantung regarding the bloody fights which were waged for the possession of Canton, Chang Fa Kui and the Kwantung troops were not crushed. Having exhausted all their ammunition they retired to the province of Kwangsi. They lost only a few thousand soldiers, i. e. just about as much as the defenders of Canton.

On the North-West front, on which the Nanking government had to fight General Feng Yu Hsiang, the war ended in a „draw“. Feng, who does not trust Yen Si Shang, is said to have agreed to an armistice with the evacuation of Loiang in return for certain compensation. This armistice, however, prevents his open followers, the president of the government of the province of Anwei, Shi Yu Hsiang, and the president of the government of the province of Honan, Hang Fu Tiu, from proceeding against Nanking. When they were joined by Tang Shen Shi, Nanking found itself in such a critical situation that Chiang Kai Shek and his friends began to think of transferring their „central government“ to the province of Chekiang. At the last minute however Yen Si Shang's intervention came to their aid and gained them a respite.

This respite, however, had to be dearly paid for. The troops of Feng, Chang Fa Kui and of the province of Kwantung are no more disarmed than those of Shi Yu Hsiang and Tang Shen Chi. Hang Fu Tiu, who recognised the authority of Yen Si Shang, thereby continued to remain the head of the government of Honan.

Hence the position of Yen Si Shang has become considerably stronger. His power at present extends over the province of Shansi, to a portion of the province of Honan, and finally to the province of Chih, whereby he possesses an outlet to the sea and therewith immediate connection with the outer world.

It is true the Nanking government, by its „victories“, still retained Canton, but on the other hand it has lost practically the whole of Northern China, whereby the achievements of the so-called „second campaign against the North“, which led to the occupation of Peking, are now to a great extent lost.

Nanking now rules more or less the provinces of Kwangsi, Chekiang, Hupeh, Kwangsi, Fukien, Kwantung and the southern portion of the province of Anwei. At the same time, however, the province of Kwantung is still threatened by the Kwantung troops and the troops of Chang Fa Kui. The province of Fukien is still unable to overcome the IV. Corps of the Red Army led by Chu Teh and Mao Tse Tung. In addition, the commander of the recently organised Second Red Division has suddenly surprised nearly half the members of the Fukien provincial government and is holding them as hostages.

Nearly the whole of the imperialist press is now obliged to admit the considerable decline of the authority of the Nanking government. The Japanese government, which is annoyed at the attempt made to reject its newly appointed Ambassador Obata, has not even hesitated to give expression to this annoyance.

From the political point of view the mutually warring cliques can be divided into two main groups: The feudal-bourgeois, uniting the militarists, the big landowners and the big bourgeoisie; and the bourgeois national reformist, representing the interests of the middle strata of the national Chinese bourgeoisie, and to some extent the discontented elements of the small landowners and the exploiting strata of the petty bourgeoisie in town and country. The so-called „reorganisationists“ express the interests of this second grouping. All other cliques belong to the first grouping.

The Chinese counter-revolution, which is more and more rent by inner antagonism, is inevitably approaching its decline, and no reorganisationist, nor any of their leaders, such as Wang Chin Wei will succeed in checking this process or preventing the growth and welding together of the revolutionary forces, or avert that storm which is rising as a result of the wars of the feudal-bourgeois camp.

## HANDS OFF THE SOVIET-UNION

### The New Wave of Anti-Soviet Actions on the Part of the Imperialists.

Leading Article of the „Pravda“ of January 29, 1930.

There can be no doubt that we have entered a phase of fresh aggressiveness on the part of world imperialism against the Soviet Union. It suffices to quote a few facts in order to prove this.

In a whole number of capitalist countries the monopolistic Concerns and Trusts have, with the support of the governments, organised the fight against industrial exports from the Soviet Union. The capitalists do not wish to permit that great growth of exports from the Soviet Union envisaged in the Five-Year Plan of our foreign trade. With the aid of special customs tariffs, by the creation of special monopolistic organisations, expressly for „trade“ with the Soviet Union, by demanding contingents and a net trade balance in the trade with the Soviet Union, by raising a great outcry against „Soviet dumping“, by the immediate prohibition of the importation of this or that article of Soviet export (Swedish match monopoly in Germany), the capitalists are endeavouring to break through our foreign trade monopoly.

At the same time the old legend of „Communist propaganda“ and of „interference“ of the Soviet economic organisations in the inner affairs of the capitalist countries is raked up again. Thus, according to newspaper reports Henderson recently complained to Comrade Sokolnikov of infringements of the agreement regarding propaganda, because the Comintern sent a message of greeting to the new Communist paper in England „Daily Worker“. A little while previously the Diehards among the Conservatives accused the Soviet Government of propaganda because Negroes rebelled in South Africa.

Finally it was announced yesterday that the Mexican Government, which proceeds with bloody terror against the

workers and peasants of Mexico, has recalled its ambassador from Moscow allegedly as a protest against the Soviet Government, which (just think) is responsible for the fact that in Argentina, Brazil and New York communist workers protested in front of the Mexican embassies against the White Terror in Mexico. At the same time it is perfectly clear that this act of the "independent" foreign policy of Mexico is only the dutiful fulfilment of immediate instructions from Washington, whither the newly elected president of Mexico, Ortis, has to-day taken his departure in order to take the oath of allegiance.

In all the capitalist countries there is a wave of "protest" against the "religious persecution" in the Soviet Union. In England, in Switzerland, in America and a number of other countries the Catholic priests unite with Anglican clergymen, protestant pastors orthodox Greek popes and Hebrew rabbis under the command of generals for common action against the Soviet Union. Needless to say at the head of this "movement" we find our old friends among the English Diehards, **Joynson Hicks** and **Lord Birkenhead**.

From Geneva is heard the demand of the general secretary of the Committee for National Minorities at the League of Nations, a certain **Mr. Amende**, that an international protest be organised against the "persecution of German minorities" in the Soviet Union. What Mr. Amende has in mind in this connection is the abortive, counter-revolutionary attempt of a handful of Mennonite kulaks to organise a mass emigration of German peasants from the Soviet Union.

A new feature is undoubtedly the increased part played by the U.S.A. in the anti-Soviet imperialist front. Three facts constitute irrefutable evidence of this. Firstly the leading role of the American Government in the attempts at diplomatic intervention in connection with the conflict on the Chinese Eastern Railway. Secondly, the particular energy with which American capital is working to bring about an rapprochement between Germany and Poland and to remove all antagonisms between them. Finally, the role played by America in the action of the Mexican Government against the Soviet Union is of special importance.

Another new feature is the circumstance that the **German bourgeois press** is ever more definitely lining up in the Hicks and Chamberlain anti-Soviet front. It is significant that the otherwise peaceably inclined "democratic" press ("Frankfurter Zeitung", "Berliner Tageblatt") is especially energetic in its incitement against the Soviet Union.

Finally, we have the fact that international imperialism is concentrating against Soviet exports, and is endeavouring thereby to deal a blow against the Five-Year Plan.

The imperialists want to undermine our Five-Year Plan; they do not intend to permit the final liquidation of the remnants of the exploiting classes; they are striving against the final uprooting of capitalism in the Soviet Union. Hicks and Chamberlain, Henderson and Severing fully realise how the thorough collectivisation of agriculture is bound up with the tremendous pace of industrialisation, how the fight for the liquidation of the kulaks finally annihilates their (the imperialists) allies in the fight against Bolshevism in the Soviet Union itself. Hence international imperialism is now mobilising its forces against the Soviet Union. Hence there is now setting in a fresh wave of anti-Soviet activity. To save the last positions in the Soviet Union and not to permit the fulfilment of the Five-Year Plan, both in the sphere of economy and the sphere of social relations, — that is the aim of the imperialists.

Simultaneously therewith world imperialism is beginning to pay greater attention to its hinterland, for here there is to be seen, in connection with the growing economic crisis and the worsening of the material position of the proletariat, an increase of revolutionary mass activity which is hostile to capitalism. It is precisely this that the capitalists fear. They are preparing their machine guns and poison gas against the working class of their own countries, and are endeavouring, primarily with the aid of the church, social fascism and Democracy, to undermine the ideological firmness of the masses who are becoming more and more revolutionary. "It is the fault of the Soviet Union that the social crisis is deepening". — that is the slogan with the aid of which they hope to terrify the petty bourgeoisie and the backward elements among the working class, in order to prepare a

favourable ground for further work of the machine guns and cannons. That is the second aim of world imperialism.

The working class of the whole world and its communist vanguard will not allow themselves to be intimidated and demoralised by this fresh wave of anti-Soviet activity. They will expose the real aims and the new methods of deceiving the masses of the people, all the cry and hullabaloo about "Soviet proganda", or "Soviet dumping", religious "persecution" in the Soviet Union etc. And should the imperialists really venture to stretch out their claws against the Soviet Union, to proceed against world communism, then they had better remember the sad end of the "crusade" which was undertaken against the Soviet Union in 1919.

## There are Still Judges in Paris!

The "Isvestia" of 30th January publishes a leading article under the above title, from which the following is an extract. Editor.

The petty thief and rascal, who had stolen money from the Embassy, who climbed over the railings and afterwards declared that he has had "political" differences of opinion with the Soviet Power, is being petted and pampered by the bourgeois Republic, has become the hero of the day and is publishing his dirty inventions in the most popular press organs. The authorities of the Republic do not in the least think of handing this common criminal over to the Soviet Republic. On the contrary, they have taken him to their bosoms as their own son. He has unexpectedly acquired a new fatherland. The three rascals **Savelj Litvinov**, **Joffe** and **Laborius**, who have issued bills amounting to millions drawn on the foreign institutions of the Soviet Union and put them into circulation, get the support of the press, are elevated to the position of heroes of the day, obtain the services of the best and most famous lawyers in Europe, and after they have been acquitted leave the court building with heads proudly erect.

The acquittal in Paris and the hospitality granted to Bessedovski, Litvinov and consorts is not at all astonishing. Everything is in perfect order . . . . But this case has another purely political aspect; and this aspect imparts to these events the character of a crude and blunt challenge. Every rascal and thief enjoys the benevolent support of French law whenever organs of the Soviet Power are the victims of these rascals. Every robbery and swindle will in such case not only go completely unpunished, but will also be adorned with a halo, will be made the desired opportunity for a wild incitement, for a vile attack on the Soviet Regime, for an unbridled and insolent propaganda against the Soviet Union.

Even the Public Prosecutor, who in view of the convincing evidence found it impossible openly to avoid supporting the indictment, considers the most convincing proof of the forgery of the bills to be the fact that "the Soviet Government is paying its propaganda abroad not with forged bills but in hard cash".

These gentlemen dare to talk of "propaganda" at the very moment when the whole meaning of the court decision is nothing but open, flagrant, cynical propaganda — propaganda for forging of bills and for every kind of common crime which is directed against the Soviet Power. The guilt of the accused was so glaringly apparent that even the most shameless French papers did not venture to deny the fact of the forgeries. Even the unprecedented representative of the State Prosecution was compelled to characterise the statements of the accused as "ridiculous".

The decision of the court in Paris is an attempt to place us outside the law, to deprive our organs abroad of the normal "protection" of the law. Everything is permitted against the Soviet Power and its organs. There are still judges in Paris! The Paris jury, who are petted and approved by the whole Press, plainly and loudly announce: Steal and swindle as much as you like provided the victim is the Soviet Power.

They are attempting to place us outside the law. But do not burn your fingers in so doing, you friends, companions and protectors of the scum of society of the Soviet Union. The power of the proletariat in our country is less than ever in a position in which one can with impunity let loose and incite any band of thieves against it. The Soviet Power succeeded a few years ago in wresting from our enemies a more dangerous weapon and smashing it to pieces. It will also prove capable of frustrating this propagation of theft and of every common crime.

# STRUGGLE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

## International Fighting Day against Unemployment.

**To all Workers and Unemployed in Town and Country!  
To all Revolutionary Trade Unions, Trade Union Opposi-  
tions and Revolutionary Factory Councils!**

Comrades!

World unemployment is growing enormously. The army of the unemployed and short-time workers is daily increasing in the capitalist countries. Capitalist society is neither willing nor capable of caring for the victims of its profit system. The million masses of unemployed are exposed to misery, starvation and cold. Broad sections of the workers, who are still employed in the factories, are threatened with the same fate. Hence the unemployed, together with the factory workers, have in the last few weeks taken up the fight against the bourgeoisie with ever increasing energy. **Demonstrations and hunger marches in all capitalist countries of Europe show the fighting determination and the common proletarian solidarity of the workers and unemployed.** The Communist Parties, the red trade unions and the revolutionary trade union oppositions are in all countries at the head of this struggle.

The international struggle against unemployment has become one of the most important political tasks of the proletarian class struggle. The Conference of European Communist Parties held on the 2nd February in Düsseldorf resolved to conduct this struggle and to **prepare an International Fighting Day for the 12th of March against Unemployment.**

Capitalist rationalisation was already hitherto accompanied by increased exploitation of the working class, chronic unemployment and a general depression of the standard of living of the working class. The approaching world crisis is intensifying competition between the world trusts, which leads to a further concentration of production and closing down of less profitable works in order to secure high dividends for other works. Great masses of workers are being permanently ousted from production: the wages of the workers remaining in the factories are being depressed. New taxes are imposed, prices are rising, social insurance is being cut down. A general lowering of the standard of living of the whole working class is proceeding.

The unemployed are condemned to starve, freeze and die. Unemployment has reached such dimensions in almost all the European countries, that there is hardly a workers' family in which there is not at least one unemployed, and thousands of workers' families consist only of unemployed. Whole towns have become unemployed towns.

The social fascists, both those in the countries where they are in office and in those countries where they are in "opposition", are in favour of capitalist rationalisation, and against the struggle of the masses for the improvement of their standard of living. The social fascist parties and the reformist trade unions are in favour of maintaining the capitalist system and against the strikes of the workers and the demands of the unemployed. Their Ministers for Finance -- Hilferding, Snowden, Englis -- are imposing new taxes upon the workers, are cutting down the means for social welfare and for unemployment benefit.

Only one Party -- the world party of Communism -- stands at the head of the working class struggle against the lowering of the standard of living and against world unemployment, and thereby against the whole capitalist system of exploitation and suppression. The radicalisation of the toiling masses, their determination to attack and fight against the bourgeoisie is growing. Great class struggles in all countries herald the approach of a new revolutionary wave. The working class has become stronger and more firmly welded together in these struggles under the leadership of the Communist Parties. This is the reason why exceptional laws against the Communists are issued, why the suppression of the Communist Parties and of the Red trade unions is being prepared and partly carried out. But the mass struggle against

capitalism cannot be prevented by any exceptional laws, by any prohibition and martial law, or the cossack methods of social fascist police presidents.

The whole working class, both those who are still in the factories and the unemployed, must unite under the banner of the Communist International and of the Red International of Labour Unions for the common struggle against the attack of the bourgeoisie on the material standard of living of the working class and against world unemployment.

Therefore, the Conference of representatives of the European Communist Parties and of the Red Trade Unions calls upon the working class of all capitalist countries of Europe to carry out

**an International Fighting Day against World Unemployment on the 12th March of this year.**

The Conference requests the Communist International and the Red International of Labour Unions to render this day a fighting day in all countries of the world.

This fighting day must become a common day of struggle of the unemployed and the workers to mobilise for the following international demands:

Against capitalist rationalisation, against dismissals!

For the seven-hour day!

Unemployment benefit, amounting to the level of full wages, for all unemployed working men and women for the whole term of unemployment!

Full wages for all workers on short time!

These demands must be supplemented in every country and every locality by the concrete demands of the locality in question, consideration being had to all sections of workers, in particular the women, the young workers, the employees and agricultural workers.

In every country the struggle for the demands of the unemployed must be at once organised by the setting up of unemployed organisations, committees and councils. These must become the organs of the common struggle of the workers and unemployed. Therefore, the unemployed committees must be extended by attracting the representatives of the workers in the factories, of the working women and young workers. The unemployed committees must be set up at every labour exchange and in every locality; they must issue unemployed papers and prepare with all energy the international fighting day on the 12th of March.

The struggle of the unemployed for their demands must be closely linked up with all economic and political struggles of the whole working class, with the struggle for the streets, the struggle against martial law, against the exceptional laws, against the suppression of the Communist Parties and the revolutionary trade unions, and against the preparation of the imperialist war against the Soviet Union.

Workers, Comrades!

Organise the united revolutionary actions of the unemployed and of the workers!

Create organisations of the unemployed!

Fight against world unemployment and the lowering of the standard of living of the working class!

Prepare for the International Fighting Day on 12th of March!

Dusseldorf, 2nd February 1930.

**The West European Bureau of the Communist International!**

**The European Secretariat of the Red International of Labour Unions!**

**The representatives of the Communist Parties of Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Great Britain, Balkan Federation, Austria, Holland, Belgium and of the Young Communist International.**



## Nearly a Third of the Austrian Population Suffering from Unemployment.

By Guido Zamis (Vienna).

The latest figures regarding unemployment in Austria are as follows: **254,673 unemployed in receipt of benefit**; that is an **increase of 28,000** since the 31st December; **38,000 unemployed who do not get benefit** but are registered at the Labour Exchange, and about **44,000 old age pensioners**, i. e. unemployed who are over 60 years and get a pension of 50 Shilling a month (an Austrian shilling is equivalent to sevenpence). All these together make **336,673 officially registered unemployed**. But the actual number of the unemployed is much higher as there are a great number of unemployed who are not officially registered, and even the bourgeois paper "Der Tag" estimates the total number of unemployed at **400,000**.

Reckoning the dependents of the unemployed, there are about **1,500,000 people** in Austria directly or indirectly affected by unemployment. This means, in view of the low unemployment benefit which is paid out in the best cases—Sch. 21.70 for the family breadwinner—that **nearly a third of the Austrian population is actually starving**.

What is the government, the bourgeois parties and social democracy doing in face of this catastrophic misery? In a Ministerial Council of 17th January the Government decided to accelerate the construction of dwellings and to advise the unemployed—to emigrate!

That is all Herr Schober can suggest. The Austrian unemployed shall become slaves on the South American plantations if they do not wish to rot in Austria.

On the 25th January the leaders of the Trade Unions approached Schober in order to discuss with him the social democratic programme to combat unemployment. This programme contains, inter alia, the following items:

- 1 Acceleration of the orders by the Federal Government and the federal railways.
- 2 Extension of the scheme to provide work for the unemployed.
- 3 Establishment of a credit organisation and credit insurance for industrial orders from abroad with the assistance of the banks
- 4 Strict adherence to the eight-hour day law.

In view of the appalling misery prevailing among the masses of the unemployed it is necessary to set up quite different demands. Before all increase of unemployment benefit, which is to be granted for the whole time of unemployment; adequate grants for the winter on the part of the government and the municipalities. The social democrats do not even mention these demands. For the purpose of reducing unemployment it is necessary to **introduce the seven-hour day with full pay**, unconditional abolition of all overtime on the part of the factory workers. Further measures are, full pay for all short-time workers, payment of the difference between wages and unemployment benefit for three months by the employers to all the workers affected by closing down of factories.

These are the demands of the **Communist Party**; these are the demands for which the unemployed are fighting and for which they demonstrated on the 30th January in the whole of Austria.

For the Austrian proletariat the only real way out of the present catastrophe is the **mass struggle under revolutionary slogans and with revolutionary aims**.

## Unemployment in Bulgaria.

Unemployment in Bulgaria has at present reached a ~~heretofore~~ unknown extent. A number of factories have been laid idle or placed on short time. In the textile centre of **Grabovo** the smaller factories have closed down. In **Jambol** the six-hour day has been introduced in the factories, while the daily wage has been reduced by 45 per cent. In this town the workers of the pottery and tobacco works are 100 per cent unemployed, the textile workers 80 per cent.

The total number of unemployed is estimated by the independent trade unions at **150,000**. The workers in the tobacco industry are most seriously affected: the unemployed tobacco workers in Philippopolis, Haskovo, Kardshali, Stanimaka, Pazardzhik, Kustendil etc. have increased to 35,000, of whom 12,000 are in Philippopolis alone.

The unemployed are wandering in droves to the villages where they offer their services merely in return for food.

The municipal fraction of the workers' party in Philippopolis submitted to the town council the proposal to grant 5 million Leva for the unemployed; but the bourgeois majority granted only 700,000 Levass for the 1000 poorest unemployed families.

Many unemployed families do not in fact get any unemployment benefit. The great embitterment, especially among the women, finds expression in spontaneous outbreaks. Thus, for instance, hungry women in Philippopolis surrounded the house of a bourgeois town councillor, who refused to register these women on the list of those to receive poor law relief, and smashed all the windows.

It is only the independent trade unions which are conducting the struggle against mass unemployment. For the purpose of putting forward the demands of the unemployed—possibility of work, adequate unemployment benefit etc.—special **unemployed committees** are being established by the various trade unions. In all big cities local unemployed committees are being set up. These committees have the task of co-ordinating the unemployed movement, mobilising the masses and carrying out broad mass campaigns, demonstrations, meetings etc.

## SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION IN THE SOVIET UNION

### The Collectivisation of Every-Day Life

Moscow, End of January 1930.

There was recently held here an important Conference of delegates from various institutions and organisations, which had for its object to find ways and means for the improving the every day working and living conditions of the working and peasant women.

The necessity to hold such a conference arose from the changed conditions already brought about by the Five-Year Plan in town and country. The development of the rural districts to compact collectivisation requires a decisive change in regard to the conditions under which the working and peasant women are still living, who for the greater part still bear on their shoulders the burden of old family relations and domestic work.

The Conference was faced by a great number of problems and tasks, of which for the present only the most important ones were dealt with. Among these are the question of **children's upbringing**, the question of **meals** and of the **construction of dwellings**.

Comrade **Krupskaya** delivered the report on the question of Children's upbringing in the period of socialist construction and collectivisation of agriculture. She pointed out that the question of establishing rooms and institutions for children must be given much greater attention in the construction of factories and Soviet undertakings. In the collective undertakings an elementary mass movement for the organisation of children's creches and kindergartens is developing, and a number of children's collectives already exist in the rural districts. In many cases the children express the desire to leave the family and to found special children's communities.

In the socialist towns the problem of the protection of mother and child is in the foreground. The speaker on this item Comrade **Lebedyeva** (of the People's Commissariat for Public Health) stated: In the socialist town the chief type of dwelling is the block of five to six storey houses. As in the socialist towns the whole population is engaged in production, all the domestic functions and the bringing up of the children must be socialised. The child must be accommodated day and night in institutions like children's creches, kindergartens, boarding schools for children etc. This does not mean that the children should be artificially separated from the adults, i. e. their parents. The parents not only have the right but also the duty to occupy themselves with the children. The means for socialised children's education are to be obtained by the State saving so much by the socialist organisation of the life of the population (for instance the means for the support of mothers, pregnant women etc.). The cost of the food and education of a child is estimated at most at 60 Roubels

a month, of which about 50 per cent is to be borne by the State.

The question of the construction of dwellings and the transformation of the houses is a very urgent one. Comrade **Loshetchkina** emphasised in her report, that in the next two years already 30 per cent. of the new dwelling houses will be communal houses. These houses will not be dearer than the ordinary houses. The communal houses contain a communal kitchen, communal laundry and red corners.

Comrade **Molrova** dealt with the great mechanised kitchens, which render possible a far-reaching collectivisation of the supply of meals. At present there exist only ten such great mechanised factory kitchens, but the future belongs to them. It is necessary to train the appropriate personnel, the cadres for these kitchens: not cooks who have been trained in "French" restaurants, but trained experts, physicians, engineers, food experts, who are capable of organising the production and distribution of good meals for whole districts of a city.

The Commission for the improvement of the working and living conditions of the working and peasant women will now extend its field of activity to the whole Soviet Union and endeavour to solve numerous new problems which have arisen as a result of the reconstruction of industry and agriculture on a socialist basis. The Commission will attract to its support new forces which will participate in the work of transforming the life of the masses of the workers and peasants and in particular of the women and children in the new socialist society.

## THE WHITE TERROR

### Torture and Murder of Croat Nationalists in the Zagreb Police Prison.

(Letter from Zagreb)

End of January 1930.

In the underground cells of the Zagreb Police prison the arrested Croat nationalists are daily tortured in the most cruel manner. The mother of **Hranilovitch**, a private employee who was arrested on the occasion of the discovery of the "black-yellow conspiracy", has for weeks attempted in vain to see her son. All signs indicate, and it is generally presumed, that he has died as a result of the bestial tortures in the police prison, just as **Javor**, a shop keeper, who was arrested at the same time and whom the police tortured by burning his sex organs with candles.

In **Hrachtche**, a village near Zagreb, where the Croat nationalists **Pospischil** and **Babitsch**, charged with the murder of **Toni Schlegl**, chief editor of the Zagreb paper "Novosti", had hidden themselves, 18 peasants and peasant women were arrested, conveyed to Zagreb and subjected to the most frightful tortures. The peasant women were stripped absolutely naked, raped and beaten with batons.

The tortures were carried out by the detectives **First**, **Stefek**, **Golub** and chief detective **Rimay**, but the police officials **Slantchitch** and **Horvat**, as well as the chief of police **Janko Bedekovitch**, actively participated in the carrying out of the tortures.

As the police have repeatedly handed over to the court seriously wounded prisoners, to whom the court was obliged to give medical aid, the latter now refuses to take over any more wounded prisoners, so that the ill-treated political prisoners are kept for months in the police prisons until they either recover or die. People who have been arrested, beaten and later released, have to sign a statement to the effect that they have not been beaten by the police. Whoever refuses to sign such a statement is kept in prison and beaten until he signs the paper.

Even the relatives of the political prisoners are not exempt from the rage of the brutalised police. Some of them were arrested and tortured; among others **Hranilovitch's** sister, who must be beaten for several days in succession. The city council against thing hand in glove with the police and is ejecting the Communist political prisoners, of the emigrants and of those prepared and living in illegality from the town council houses.

Police raids are carried out in the whole town day and night. Whoever cannot produce identification papers issued by the police, is arrested. If anybody protests against his arrest he is at once beaten. Great indignation prevails among the population; the press is not allowed to publish any news regarding these happenings, which measure however only serves to increase the general resentment against and dissatisfaction with the regime of the Servian big bourgeoisie.

## AGAINST COLONIAL OPPRESSION

### Haiti, and the Struggle against U. S. A. Imperialism.

By Harry Gannes (New York).

Since 1915, U. S. imperialism has been sinking its fangs deeper into black Haiti. The conscious imperialists of Wall Street recognise in Haiti a strategic point in the future war plans of American capitalism. In a formal manner, Haiti's relations to the United States is "regulated" under the treaty of 1915, which was literally forced down the throats of the Haitian masses by U. S. marine bayonets. More than 2,000 Haitian workers and peasants were killed in the revolution which greeted the "peaceful" penetration of U. S. imperialism in Haiti.

Major General **Smedley D. Butler**, of the United States Marine Corps, who has had experience in every colony of American imperialism, on Dec. 5, 1929, told an audience of manufacturers in Pittsburgh how the job was handled. Referring to Haiti the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports him as saying:

"Regarding Haiti, General Butler told how the marine-controlled President had dissolved the Congress to prevent the legislative body from passing a new constitution. He (Butler) aided the president in drawing up the edict that dissolved the Congress."

Since then, U. S. imperialism has forged a ring of gold and steel around Haiti. In 1913 Wall Street investments in Haiti amounted to \$ 4,000,000. With the subjugation of the masses and the establishment of a financial and military dictatorship over the island, Wall Street investments jumped to \$ 30,743,000 in 1929. During the same time, U. S. commerce jumped 147 per cent; from \$ 6,909,000 to about \$ 17,000,000.

But the main reason for riveting the imperialist bonds tighter on this small island of 10,204 square miles, with a population of 2,300,200 is military. Haiti holds a strategic position with regard to the **Panamal canal**, the key to U. S. war plans.

On more than one occasion the American bourgeois and their military and naval heads have declared that the Caribbean Sea must be locked upon as an American lake. That the American lake is reddened with the blood of the Haitian, Nicaraguan, Cuban and Mexican masses, Stimson very skillfully attempts to hide in his flimsy role as world agent of peace and advocate of the Kellogg pact.

The recent revolt in Haiti was based on the growing suppression of president **Luis Borno** and the Wall Street military dictator, Brig. Gen. **John H. Russell**, U. S. M. C., American High Commissioner, who rules Haiti with an iron hand on the orders of **Hoover** and **Stimson**. Also, economic conditions during the past year have become very bad. The price of coffee, the main agrarian product of Haiti, dropped sharply. The conditions of the peasants have worsened. There developed the spontaneous strike of the students which was backed by the militant mass of peasants who wanted to go much further than the petty bourgeois students. Then followed a strike of the dock workers at **Port au Prince**.

The Haitian masses have been systematically disarmed by the U. S. marines. The marines have organised the **Garde Nationale**, composed of mercenary Haitian troops loyal to Wall Street and the **Borono** regime. In reality, the **Garde Nationale** is an arm of the United States marine corps and directly under the domination of the High Commissioner.

The **Negro masses** of Haiti have a long history of brilliant revolutionary struggle. Even with the overwhelm-

ing superiority of the armed forces of the American marines, backed by innumerable battleships and cruisers, the revolution in Haiti seethed for years. The revolutionary spirit of the masses was never broken.

Immediately after High Commissioner Russell announced that "all was quiet on the front" in Haiti following the general strike, on the occasion of a number of village and municipal elections the masses again expressed their revolutionary fervour and hatred of Borno and his imperialist supporters. In spite of the fact that the polling places were heavily protected by the Garde Nationale and marine troops, the peasants attacked them at many points.

The mass demonstrations in support of the Haitian uprisings that were held in New York, Washington, Philadelphia, and other parts of the United States, were by strict orders of the marine commander kept out of the Haitian press on the ground that the news would intensify the revolutionary struggles of the Haitian masses.

Meanwhile, on the recommendation of president Hoover, Congress has appointed an "investigating" commission to go to Haiti and report back on a more "stable" form of relationship between the United States and its black colony. At no time have the American capitalists permitted a national election in Haiti. The usual procedure, as followed in Nicaragua, is for the United States to call for a "fair, free and open election". In these elections, in the words of one of the chief participants, Major General Butler, "our candidates always win". "The opposition candidates were declared bandits when it became necessary to elect a candidate."

Yet with the assurance that its Wall Street candidate will win—thanks to the vigorous help of the marines—U. S. imperialism has not allowed an election in Haiti because it realises the revolutionary temper of the masses and the fact that even a marine-controlled election would be the signal for mass uprisings of a virulent nature.

The Haitian masses lack firm, revolutionary leadership. The struggles are usually led by students and petty bourgeois elements, who while opposed to American imperialism, do not offer a class programme for the masses, based on an anti-imperialist struggle together with the oppressed masses in other Latin American countries and in harmony with the revolutionary forces in the United States.

The Negro Haitian masses, though murdered, tortured, imprisoned and harassed have never submitted. They have put up the most persistent and continued revolutionary battle against U. S. imperialism of any of the colonial peoples under the yoke of Wall Street.

## ECONOMICS

### The Crisis of Czechoslovakian Capitalism.

By Alois Hahn (Prague).

"The situation in Czechoslovakia is dominated by the commencing economic crisis, which is the expression of the growing contradiction between the growth of productive forces and the small absorbing capacity of the market." That is how the resolution of the Central Committee of the C.P. of Czechoslovakia characterises the crisis of Czechoslovakian capitalism. The output of coal shows an enormous increase in comparison with last year, nevertheless in the last few months the coal export balance shows a deficit, with the result that some pits are already working short time.

In the iron industry the total production of raw iron amounted in the year 1929 to approximately 2 million tons, and the production of raw steel rose accordingly. It should be mentioned that the import of iron shows a constant increase as compared with the export of iron, and in the first ten months of 1929 had already reached half a million tons.

There exists a definite crisis in the textile industry, which is shown in the increasing number of unemployed textile workers.

The export of timber is an important part of Czechoslovakian economy, and in this branch of industry we witness a tremendous decline in the export of the most important varieties of wood.

The Czechoslovakian economic crisis is very plainly cha-

racterised by the balance of foreign trade. The following table gives the figures for the first eleven months of the last five years:

	Imports	Exports	Surplus	Trade Balance
	In thousand million crowns			
1925	15.6	16.8	1.2	
1926	13.6	15.9	2.3	
1927	15.6	17.8	2.2	
1928	17.3	19.1	1.8	
1929	18.1	18.3	0.2	

Imports are increasing whilst exports are declining, and if in the year 1929 the trade balance still showed a surplus, this surplus, amounting as it does to only 200 million, is already a sign of an economic crisis.

A further expression of the economic crisis is the number of insolvencies in the year 1929, which show a big increase particularly in the last quarter.

The bourgeoisie has been endeavouring for years to overcome the economic crisis by increased rationalisation of production, which is closely connected with the formation of cartels and trusts. The great efforts to form cartels, to carry out mergers, is to be seen especially in the textile and metal industries. In the armament industry, which plays an eminent role in Czechoslovakia in view of the preparations for war against the Soviet Union, attempts are being made to form a united concern, which attempts are expressed before all in the merging of the Skoda works, the Branner arms factory and the Kolben-Danek works.

This concentration movement is leading to the closing down of big works and factories, resulting in hundreds and hundreds of workers in the textile industry, the metal industry and all other branches of industry being dismissed, while rationalisation is being carried out in the factories still working.

According to the returns of the statistical office, the number of unemployed at the end of October last year amounted to 34,702, and at the end of November to 38,239. This is an increase in unemployment of 11 per cent., whilst in the same period of 1928 the increase amounted to only 3 per cent. At the end of November 1929 the number of unemployed was 30 per cent. higher than in the year 1928.

The helplessness of the bourgeoisie in face of this capitalist economic crisis, and especially the discussion on the question of the grain monopoly and of raising the customs duties, show how severely Czechoslovakian economy is shaken and how hopeless are all measures proposed to be adopted. One thing is certain, the "solution" of the crisis is to be carried out at the cost of the toiling population. The Minister for Finance, Mr. English, repeatedly announced this on the occasion of the conclusion of the Hague Conference and declared that it is necessary to reduce home consumption in order to pay the reparations debts. This means lowering the standard of living of the working population by increasing the customs duties, by the grain monopoly, rationalisation, wage cuts, partial abolition of the rent restrictions act—in a word, a starvation plan which will plunge the workers into the deepest misery. The budget provides for the reduction of direct taxation from 1,747 million crowns to 1,597 million; this 150 millions represents a present to the possessing class. The turnover tax is to be reduced by 130 million, which will bring them up to 7700 million crowns.

The working masses are replying to these attempts of the bourgeoisie to lay fresh burdens on them, by increased militancy, which is expressed in the ever more frequent spontaneous strikes, in which the unorganised masses play a decisive role. Following the November strike of the miners of North West Bohemia, there has taken place a whole number of strikes and lockouts, and the glass workers in Einsiedel, the metal workers in Tannwald, the textile workers in Warnsdorf and Theresienthal, the glass workers in Bleistadt and in Unter-Reichenau have already for some weeks been engaged in a struggle to repel the attacks of the capitalists.

In November and also in December 13 strikes took place, in 19 and 18 factories respectively. In November 4551 workers struck, and in December 6781 workers. The number of strike days in November amounted to 17,142, and in December to 41,583. This survey shows that the strikes are more protracted and embracing ever larger numbers of workers. The

activity of the unemployed, the solidarity actions of the rest of the workers, and the demonstrations all go to show that the strike movement is mobilising increasing sections of the workers for the fight; at the same time in all the fights there is to be seen a great accentuation of the antagonisms and a great tenacity and persistence on the part of the workers.

The social fascists, however, not only openly advocate wage reductions and strike-breaking, they not only conclude collective agreements which do not grant any wage increases, but for the first time in Czechoslovakia — and this under the social-fascist coalition — workers are being fired on, as happened in Gablonz at the demonstration of the unemployed and in Unter-Reichenau at the demonstration of the striking glass workers. This is the "new spirit" which is being introduced by the social fascist Ministers.

The government social fascists are aware that the struggle against the working masses and the red trade unions, as well as against the Communist Party, can only be carried out by means of violence. Therefore, it is precisely the social fascists who introduce the new press law, who raise the question of a fascist reform of the constitution. It is by this means that the fight against the revolutionary proletariat is to be carried out and intensified in order to solve the great task of international imperialism and fascism: To conduct war against the Soviet Union.

## IN THE INTERNATIONAL

### Resolution of the Polit. Secretariat of the E. C. C. I. on the Insurgent Movement in Arabistan.

Adopted in the Session of 16th October 1929.

\* The following resolution is published with the necessary abridgements. In particular the clauses dealing with the attitude of the Communist Party to the national revolutionary tendencies have been left out.

The uprising of the Arabians in **Palestine** and the events in Arabistan in general have fully and completely confirmed the correctness of the analysis of the VI. Congress of the C.I. and the X. Plenum of the E.C.C.I. concerning the accentuation of the struggle between imperialism and the toiling masses of the colonial countries, concerning the new upsurge in the national liberation movement in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, concerning the role of the "Labour" government, the process of transformation of the II. International into a social-fascist and avowed social-imperialist international.

National dismemberment of the Arabs, dismemberment of Arabistan into numerous small countries, the partition of Arabistan among the various imperialist powers, the complete disfranchisement of the basic mass of the population, violent Zionist colonisation, growing pressure of British and French imperialism of the Arabian countries — — this constitutes another list of causes of the revolt.

By plundering the land of the Arabian fellahs in favour of Zionist colonisation (often with the aid of the Arabian landlords) and also in favour of the Arabian landlords and foreign capitalists, the retention of the feudal latifundia by the Arabian landlords and the mosque, the rapid destruction and decay of the rural communes of the fellahs, the growing exploitation of the peasants in the form of rent, the growing taxes and usury, the relatively rapid development of market relations, the conversion of self-sufficing agriculture into money relations, the creation of big farms and plantations in place of tenant households, the grabbing of the pastures of the nomadic bedouins, the crowding out of the latter to the poorest land, their rapid settlement on permanent farming, the ousting of the latter from transportation and guarding the commercial routes, the comparatively rapid class differentiation of the bedouin tribes — — these are some of the main causes of the events in Palestine.

The maturing of the revolutionary crisis was hastened by the growth of unemployment, the worsening of the position of the Arabian as well as the Jewish workers, the crop failure of 1928, ferment in the Arab countries, the dissolution of parlia-

ment in **Syria**, a Government crisis in **Iraq**, ferment in **Trans-Jordania** owing of the oppressive treaty with Great Britain, ferment and rebellion in the territories of Ibn Saud, which is utilised by British imperialism, labour demonstrations and strikes in Palestine and Syria, the new Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, the need for British imperialism to strengthen its positions at the Northern approaches to the Suez Canal, the pending drive of ideologically bankrupt Zionism which has discarded its socialist mask and acts openly as an agent of capitalism (the decisions of the Zionist Congress in Zurich of July).

#### The Nature of the Movement.

The characteristic features of the movement are as follows:

1. The revolt in Palestine coincides with the revolutionary ferment in the most important industrial centres of India, the crisis of the Chinese counter-revolution, and a rising tide in the revolutionary labour movement in the West, and marks the beginning of an upsurge of a revolutionary liberation wave in the Arabian countries.

2. The all-national and all-Arabian character of the movement. It swept very quickly through the other Arabian countries (ferment in Trans-Jordania, Syria, demonstrations in Damascus, unrest in Nedje, intensified national movement in Iraq, sympathy in Egypt, Moslem movement in India).

3. The rapid rate of transformation of the movement. If during the first days the clergy and the feudals united in Medijlis Islam, succeeded in leading it along the channels of an Arabian-Jewish conflict, the masses later turned spontaneously against the Mosque, against Medijlis-Islam and the representatives of the Arab Executive Committee, condemning their treachery and surrender before imperialism. The Anglo-Zionist provocation engineered with the aid of the Arabian landlords and the clergy at the Wailing Wall, the national clash between the Jewish and the Arabian ruling classes, turned into an attack on the British police and the forces, into an attack on the British barracks, into a battle between the peasants and the British troops. In **Nablus** the Arabian national flag was raised. From a Zionist-Arabian conflict the movement rapidly became a peasant national movement in which the nationalist-urban petty bourgeoisie took part. The fellahs and particularly the bedouins were the most active participants in the insurgent movement.

4. The working class partly remained inactive, but at any rate it did not act as an independent force and naturally did not try to take the lead in the movement. Some of the Jewish and Arabian workers fell under the influence of "their" bourgeoisie and participated in the national-religious conflict under the leadership and hegemony of "their" bourgeoisie. Yet there were some cases of heroic manifestations of proletarian class solidarity on the part of Arabian as well as Jewish workers. Thus the insurgent movement, although it was called forth by an Anglo-Zionist provocation which the Arabian reactionaries (the landlords and the clergy) tried to answer by a pogrom, although in its initial stages it was under reactionary leadership, was a national liberation and anti-imperialist movement of all Arabians, and by its social composition — — chiefly a peasant movement.

5. The movement took place when MacDonald's "Labour Government" is in office. The "Labour" Government with the full support of the Independent Labour Party openly played the role of hangmen of the colonial revolution.

6. The movement displayed increased antagonism between British and French imperialism in their struggle for influence in the Near East.

#### The Nature and the Driving Forces of the Revolution in Arabistan.

The general position of the Comintern with regard to the nature of and the driving forces in the revolution in Palestine and in Arabistan in general was tested in the experience of the revolutionary mass movement itself. The socio-economic aims of the revolution are the overthrow of imperialism, the national unification of all Arabian countries, the agrarian revolution, and the solution of the national problem. These aims define the nature of the revolution as a bourgeois-democratic revolution in the Leninist sense of that term. The principal driving forces in the revolution are the working class and the peasantry. The bourgeois-democratic revolution can be led to its final conclusion out

the big peasants and the agrarian capitalists. The illusions which the Rumanian peasantry cherished in regard to the promises of the National Zaranist Party, the organiser of the Bucharest Congress, are being gradually dispelled. The government activity of the National Zaranists has already caused the Rumanian peasantry to realise that the National Zaranist Party only represents the interests of the capitalist big peasants and does not shrink from stifling the demands of the toiling peasantry with the most brutal means of white terror (bloody suppression of the numerous peasants revolts; suppression and persecution of the revolutionary peasant organisations in Dobruja, Bukovina and Bessarabia). The innumerable peasants' revolts of the last few years show how far this radicalisation process has already advanced. The preparations for the municipal elections in February have rendered this situation still more acute. The reactionary leaders both of the national zaranist and of the independent peasant parties demand in provocative appeals that the issue of the elections be settled by force of arms.

The Constanta Conference proved that the toiling Rumanian peasants are willing to take up the struggle against agrarian reaction and fascism. Against the slogans of agrarian reform issued by the Bucharest Congress of the agrarian capitalists and national zaranists, the Conference set up the slogans of the European Peasant Congress, of the common fighting alliance of all exploited peasants and workers. In an appeal to the Rumanian peasantry, the Conference emphasises the special importance of the European Peasant Congress for the Rumanian peasant movement.

Already some weeks before the Conference, committees of poor and landless peasants were formed in numerous villages of Great Rumania for the preparation of the European Peasant Congress. The appeal points out the importance of these committees, in which is expressed the quest of the non-party revolutionary peasant masses for new fighting forms and emphasises the necessity of supporting these committees. The appeal calls for the complete expropriation of the big landed estates without compensation, the cancellation of debts and complete exemption from taxation of the small peasant undertakings, and the common struggle of all toilers for a workers' and peasants' government.

The delegates to the Conference stressed the necessity of carrying on, precisely in the present situation and in the course of the election struggles in the next few months, the preparations for the European Peasant Congress and to gather the peasant masses who are dissatisfied with the Zaranist Party, under the slogan of the emancipation struggle of all suppressed strata of the population.

A National Committee, consisting of 12 representatives of the peasant committees and peasant organisations, was entrusted with the work for the European Peasant Congress and a delegation to this Congress elected consisting of peasants from Transylvania, Bukovina, Bessarabia, Old Rumania, the Banate and Dobruja.

## OBITUARY

# Ernst Meyer

By Wilhelm Pieck (Berlin).

On Sunday 2nd February, at five o'clock in the morning, in a sanatorium near Potsdam there occurred the death of our Comrade Ernst Meyer, at the age of 42, as a result of inflammation of the lungs following a serious operation. A life which was full of hard fighting is at an end. Our comrade was acquainted from his youth with the hard lot of a proletarian. Already as a student he joined the Social Democratic Party of Germany in 1908 and carried on agitation work among the students. At the beginning of 1913 he became political editor of the "Vorwärts" and soon received several months imprisonment on account of lese Majeste. In the late

summer of 1915 he was dismissed without notice by the S. P. Central Committee on account of his Spartacus propaganda against the war policy of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

During the war Ernst Meyer, under the leadership of Leo Jogiches, developed a very energetic activity within the Spartacus group against the war policy of the Social Democratic Party. In particular he undertook the publication of the Spartacus letters, which appeared at the beginning of 1916. His sickness, while it preserved him from being called up for military service, did not save him from preventive arrest, and towards the end of 1916 he was arrested along with Franz Mehring, as a result of continued denunciations on the part of the S. P. press, and kept in detention for nearly a year. There is not the least doubt that his ill-health was increased still further thereby.

In September 1915 Ernst Meyer was sent by the Spartacus group to the Zimmerwald conference in Switzerland. The political weaknesses and faults of the Spartacus movement within the opposition to the war policy of the Socialist Party of Germany consisted in the (at first) insufficiently ruthless fight against the continuous vacillations of the Centrists gathered round Haase, Ledebour, Hoffmann, Dittmann, and others, and in the evasion of an organisational break with the Socialist Party and the Independent Socialist Party of Germany. This was to be observed also in the political attitude to the war policy of the Socialist Party. But Ernst Meyer belonged to the circle in the Spartacus movement which was pushing forward. Lenin's slogan of ending the imperialist war by civil war was advocated by him without reservations and hesitation, in open contradiction to Ledebour and Hoffmann. After the Zimmerwald Conference the separation from the centrists was initiated, and a few months afterwards ruthlessly carried out. Ernst Meyer had actively participated in this action, for which reason he was sharply attacked by the Centrists. Unfortunately the Spartacus group did not join the Zimmerwald Lefts, formed at Zimmerwald under the leadership of the Bolsheviks, and at the second Conference, held at Easter 1917 in Kienthal, in which Meyer also participated, there were certain differences between him and the Lefts regarding the question of severing connections with the Bureau of the II. International.

Ernst Meyer unreservedly supported the October Revolution of the Bolsheviks and its measures in the carrying out of the proletarian dictatorship.

The November Revolution brought the release of the imprisoned Party leaders. Under the leadership of Rosa Luxemburg, Karl Liebknecht and Leo Jogiches, the "Rote Fahne" was issued as the Central organ of the Spartacus League; Ernst Meyer joined the editorial staff and the Central Committee of the Communist Party, which was founded at the end of December 1918. During the January fights Ernst Meyer was arrested and only narrowly escaped the same fate as Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. Several weeks later Ernst Meyer was placed under preventive arrest by the social democratic government and detained until the Autumn of 1919.

Ernst Meyer very often, especially in the last few years, followed his own political path and repeatedly found himself at variance with the decisions adopted by the Party and the Communist International. He was a keen logician and endeavoured by thorough study to approach the scientific problems of the revolution. This good quality, however, was unfortunately not supplemented by close connection with the masses and a knowledge of their fighting conditions so necessary for a revolutionary leader. It was owing to this lack that there arose the differences at which Ernst Meyer arrived with the majority of the Party. Ernst Meyer was truly devoted to the Party and the revolutionary movement. Sharply as he put forward his views deviating from the Party, just as sharply he respected the decisions adopted by the Party. He often opposed the anti-Party actions and anti-Communist views of the Brandler group, and he also recently severed connection with the conciliators. Nevertheless, by his views which deviated from the Party majority Ernst Meyer had manoeuvred himself into a passive role which prevented him from placing his great qualities at the service of the Party in the development of its Bolshevik line. At the same time there should never be forgotten the great services which he rendered the Party and its work.

In 1922, the Party sent Ernst Meyer to the Prussian Diet, where he was the leader of the fraction. From 1926 to 1928 he was a member of the Prussian Provincial Council and then again a member of the Prussian Diet.

Severe illness — tuberculosis of the ribs, which became continually worse — rendered Ernst Meyer less capable of active work in the last few years. In spite of this serious illness he worked at the task entrusted to him by the Party of issuing the works of Karl Liebknecht and the history of the C.P. of Germany.

Death has taken the pen from the hands of Ernst Meyer. The life of a fighter has come to an end.

## PROLETARIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

### Women Workers in Economic Struggles.

(Resolution of Sixth Session of Central Council of Red International of Labour Unions, adopted December, 1929).

1. In its resolution on Activities Among the Women Workers, the Fourth RILU Congress stressed especially the fact that owing to rationalisation there was an unprecedented growth in the number of women workers employed in industry. The women workers are now playing a far greater part in industrial life and in the economic struggle than ever before.

2. The masses of toiling women took active part in all the economic struggles of the last two years, their activity being of a counter-offensive nature. Beginning with the active movements of the women workers and the workers' wives in the Ruhr and Hennigsdorf and ending with the revent Berlin plumbers' strike, the women workers were in the first ranks of the fighting German proletariat.

The radicalisation of the broad strata of the women workers was seen very clearly in France, too, during the economic struggles of the last 18 months. Scores of thousands of women workers took active part in the textile workers' strikes of the North, Rouen and Darnetale, in the miners' strike in the Gard Department and in the metal workers' movement of the Paris District, working in the Strike Committees and fighting the scabs. The women workers took a prominent part in the Lodz General Strike and in many other strikes that broke out in different parts of Poland.

In Czechoslovakia, the women workers and the workers' wives gave a fine demonstration of their militancy during the miners' strike in Kladno as well as during numerous other strikes, the women workers themselves frequently initiating and organising the struggle. A remarkable example of militant readiness to shoulder the struggle was seen in the USA when the women textile workers of Gastonia came out on strike and put up such a heroic fight. And finally, a new development has been the way the masses of women workers have been participating in the economic struggles in the colonies: witness the heroic fight of the Japanese women workers against their slave conditions, the struggle of the women workers of China, hundreds of thousands of whom took part in the revolutionary struggles of Sanghai, Canton and Tientsin and the participation of the women workers of India in the class struggle (the heroic fight of the Bombay women textile workers being a case in point).

In many of these disputes the women workers themselves took the initiative and fought off the police, and the gendarmerie. All these developments point to the growing radicalisation of the toiling women in all parts of the world.

The growing world economic crisis (which will still further worsen the position of the working class and lead to a new drive to reduce the living standards of the workers) resulting in severer capitalist rationalisation measures, will still further worsen conditions for the women workers. There is no doubt at all that quantitatively, there will be a growth in the participation of the women workers in the impending economic and political struggles. The revolutionary TU movement should carefully note this factor when determining their immediate tasks and in preparing for the coming struggle.

The VI Session of the RILU Central Council places on record that the revolutionary TU movement failed to appreciate promptly and correctly the growing revolutionary wave among the broad masses of the women workers and toiling women, and that all the affiliated RILU organisations have failed to attract the women workers into the militant movement of the working class. In order that the radicalisation of the broad masses of women workers should not catch the affiliated RILU organisations unawares, it is of paramount importance that an energetic political and organisational campaign be undertaken without any further delay to unite the women workers on the platform of the class struggle. The pre-requisite for rallying all the women workers to take part in the economic struggles is to draw up and popularize concrete specific demands for the women workers. Events have shown that far from getting the women workers themselves to take part in drawing up their demands, our organisations frequently forgot to put up any specific demands for the women workers at all.

In order that the women workers take up their proper place in the economic struggle, to correspond with their position in industry, we must radically overhaul all our methods of work among the women workers and break once and for all with the traditional reformist outlook of ignoring the women workers and their interests. **We must now strive to gain the confidence of the women workers.** And this can be achieved not by making flowery speeches at meetings, but by fighting systematically, for the immediate interests of the women workers, encouraging their initiative and activity and getting women workers placed on the leading organs of the revolutionary TU movement.

In view of the maturing economic struggles, all RILU adherents must now set themselves the task of drawing all the women workers into the active struggle for the general interests of the working class. To this end it is essential:

1. To get women delegates elected by all the women workers to take part in drawing up the demands and in working out methods and forms of struggles.
2. To place women workers on all the preparatory and leading organs of struggle.
3. To get the women workers to take active part in the work of the Strike Committees and in the organisation of relief for the strikers.
4. In those enterprises and industries where women workers are in the majority, the Strike Committees should also have a majority of women workers.
5. Both prior to and during the strike, special steps should be taken to organise the workers' wives who should be urged to take active part in the struggle together with the workers themselves.

The Central Council calls the attention of all RILU Sections to the fact that practically in all countries our activities among the women workers are still insufficient and that such a passive attitude to this extremely important work is a direct violation of the Fourth RILU Congress decisions.

In view of the fact that the active participation of the women workers in the economic and political struggles will determine the progress and outcome of the working class struggle the Central Council of the Red International of Labour Unions instructs the Executive Bureau and the Women Workers' International TU Committee to verify how the decisions of the Fourth RILU Congress were carried out on this question and to what extent the affiliated RILU organisations were able to draw the women workers into the economic struggle.

### Change of Address!

The address of the "Inprecorr" is now:

**BERLIN C 25**

**Bartelstraße 1—5 III, Germany.**