

# AGAINST COLONIAL OPPRESSION

## To the Aid of the Bombay Textile Workers.

To the Workers of the Whole World.

To the Workers of India.

A general strike of textile workers has been declared in Bombay. Out of 150,000 textile workers, men and women, 100,000 came out on strike immediately. The vanguard of the Indian proletariat — the Bombay textile workers — have once more commenced the struggle after having, but six months ago, ended the heroic six-months strike, during which they suffered hunger and all possible deprivations.

The textile proletariat of Bombay, having from bitter experience learned the treachery of the reformist leaders, have turned from them. The influence of Joshi, Bakhale and other reformists, amongst the textile workers of Bombay, has been brought to nil. The membership of the reformist union, which formerly had 8,000 members, is decreasing from day to day. The Bombay textile workers have chosen for themselves new revolutionary leaders. The revolutionary trade union established by them during the course of a few months has already embraced more than 65,000 workers.

The British imperialists and the Anglo-Indian bourgeoisie have taken alarm at the incredibly rapid growth of the revolutionary trade union movement and hurried to arrest and hide in prison 31 revolutionary leaders, including the most prominent leaders of the revolutionary textile workers' union of Bombay. At the same time by nominating a special Fawcett Commission to "investigate" the situation in the textile industry, the Anglo-Indian-Government hoped to calm the workers and with the help of the reformists to organise the collaboration of labour with capital.

Neither in the one nor in the other, however, did the exploiters succeed. Neither repressions set on foot with regard to the revolutionary leaders nor the persuasions of the reformists as to the necessity for collaboration between classes, withheld the textile workers of Bombay from a new strike. The Fawcett Commission, which published a hypocritical report, in reality justifying the demands of the capitalists for wage cuts, proved to the workers that they have nothing to expect from the "non-class" commissions of the Anglo-Indian-Government.

The heroic proletariat of Bombay has once more thrown itself into the struggle against capital. It has brought forward from its midst new leaders in the place of the revolutionary leaders thrown into prison. These new leaders should take into account all the mistakes committed during last year's strike; must give a decisive setback to the reformists, who will attempt to join the strike in order to betray it: must once and for all expose the treachery of all these Joshis, Bakhales, and others, who have made an agreement with the employers and the government to wage a joint struggle against the revolutionary wing of the Indian trade union movement. Only by waging a most decisive struggle both against the employers and against the reformists will the young labour leaders succeed in bringing the Bombay proletariat to victory.

The struggle of the Bombay textile workers, will of course, not remain without assistance from other divisions of the Indian proletariat, in Bombay itself and in other industrial centres of India. This heroic struggle cannot but kindle the warm sympathy of the workers in all countries who know that the vanguard of the Indian proletariat — the Bombay textile workers — are fighting for their vital demands, are fighting against native and foreign capital, are fighting for the independence of India.

The Working Class of the World. — To the aid of the Bombay Textile Workers!

Long Live the Heroic Proletariat of Bombay!

Long Live the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement of India!

Executive Bureau  
Red International of Labour Unions.

Moscow, April 27, 1929.