

P. C. Joshi's Election Tour—Mymensingh (E. Bengal)

FOR VILLAGE FREEDOM AND AZAD INDIA

Communist Legislators Will Fight For Concrete Measures To Abolish Zemindari And Mahajani

PEOPLES AGE

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As. 3

MYMENSINGH, Jan. 24.

On January 21, P. C. Joshi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, reached Kishoreganj in Mymensingh district, E. Bengal. In freedom's battle, Mymensingh perhaps leads all districts of Bengal and of all the sub-divisions of Mymensingh, Kishoreganj can claim to have sacrificed most. There is hardly a single family here which has not suffered for freedom's cause.

With an overwhelmingly Muslim population, Kishoreganj has seen remarkable Muslim awakening in the recent months.

It is here too that the Red Flag is solidly entrenched. Many of the fine products of Terrorism, the pride of Bhadrakol Bengalis, today are inside the Communist Party, while from among Muslim kisans, thousands have come to trust the Red Flag here through Communist work in the Kisan Sabha. In their villages, our leaders were given ready shelter in the underground days by Muslim kisans with a loyalty which no other Party can claim.

At the station, Joshi was received by a guard of honour of 300, composed of students, including girl students, and a contingent of Muslim kisans.

Throughout the afternoon, kisan jathas came from villages, some of them walking distances of 10 to 20 miles. Most of them were composed of Muslims and Scheduled Caste folk. By 3 o'clock well over 15,000 had rallied at Rathkola Maidan, over half of whom were Muslims. Outside the Muslim League, no other party in the country can claim to have attracted such a big Muslim crowd in recent years.

When these Muslim kisans were coming to the meeting, some agents of the Muslim zamindars tried to stop them on the way saying, "You are falling into the share of the Hindus by going to the Communists". Sharp came the retort from the bearded peasants, "And who are you yourselves but agents of the zamindars?"

The whole of Kishoreganj was stirred by this big rally. This attracted the Bhadrakol too, and many of the confirmed anti-Communists could be seen quietly coming to the meeting anxious to listen to what the Red Flag leaders had to say.

Dr. Rishi Chakravorty, one of the leading doctors of the town, who joined the Party only a few months ago, presided. Nibaran Pandit, the famous village bard, sang a song followed by another village bard, Akhil Chakravorty.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO AND NOW

After a brief introductory speech by Sjt. Chakravorty on the implications of Lenin Day, which fell on the same day, Joshi spoke. He said:

"Today I am very happy to come to Kishoreganj; in the district of Mymensingh, there is no home in Kishoreganj, which has not sacrificed in freedom's battle.

"Our Party never says that we alone can bring freedom, nor do we say to those with whom we disagree that they are dalals.

"Instead of fighting the enemy, we are fighting among ourselves. This is the picture of our freedom's battle today.

"Day by day, Muslims are keeping away from the Congress. It should provoke serious thinking among all patriots, why, from the biggest organisation for freedom's battle, powerful sections are keeping away.

"Today in our country, each is abusing the other; to-morrow each will stab the other. Not against brother, but against our common enemy—that is what it should be, and must be, if we have to win our freedom.

"It is the Congress that once preached the great message of Hindu-Muslim unity, but the unity that was achieved 25 years ago is today replaced by mutual clashes.

"It is only by accepting the just demands of all that a united str-

gle can be launched and the fall of Imperialism hastened."

TO THE MUSLIM MASSES: TAKE LEAGUE INTO YOUR OWN HANDS

Addressing the Muslims, Joshi said: "Our Party has recognised the justice in the Muslim claim, but we oppose the injustice of the demand of the League; for example, its demand to include Assam in Pakistan. You want freedom for yourselves, then why should you insist on ghulamī for others? We know that the common Muslims do not make such unjust claims, but the leaders on the top clamour for such unfair bargaining.

"Muslims must remember that the achievement of Pakistan is a part of the National Freedom movement. But if you demand freedom for your-

BIG RALLIES OF MUSLIM KISANS AND TRIBES PEOPLE

selves without conceding justice to others, your own movement will be torn to pieces.

"It is a lie to say that the Muslims have not made sacrifices for freedom. It is for you the Muslim people, to take the League forward to freedom. Against Nilkar (Indigo Oppression) Bengal's Muslim humanity fought hard.

But today, behind the cloak of anti-Hindu bitterness, oppressive Muslim zamindars, are becoming bosses inside the League. Naturally, people in the ranks of other parties refuse to believe that with such people the League will fight for freedom. It is for you to take the League into your own hands. Where the Congress and the League could not settle let the people decide.

"Hindu - Muslim, Congress - League, unity can be achieved; for three days Chittagong has shown it and that unity is to be achieved all over Bengal."

ALL INTO THE KISAN SAMITY: YOUR OWN FORTRESS

Explaining the Communist Party's Election Manifesto, Joshi referred to the "three village enemies of the people—the zamindar, the mahajan and the blackmarketeer—created by British Imperialism."

"Moni Singh and a Muslim comrade will stand for election as Communist candidates from Mymensingh. The Communists have gone and worked among the kisans, organised them and awakened political consciousness among them.

"After the elections, they will continue to fight for you; inside the Assembly, it will be their job to bring in measures for securing your just rights no matter whether it is a Congress or a League Ministry. But it is you who will have to battle along with them and back up their fight inside the Legislatures, and for that, you should strengthen your own fortress, the Kisan Samity.

"In this coming battle, you will not only win your own kisan demands, but achieve Swaraj and Pakistan as well."

Addressing large numbers of Scheduled Caste kisans, who had come to

the meeting, Joshi asked them to come into the Kisan Sabha for their own upliftment and liberation; for it is through the Kisan Sabha that they were able to fight for justice and liberation. Concluding Joshi said:

"Vote for us, and we shall give you money, this never is our slogan. We want you both to vote and to pay for us, for ours is the Party of the poor, and it is for you to run our election campaign. You have heard a lot of slanders about us, and our Party. But we do not answer slander by slander. We have placed before you our programme for building up a free and happy India.

"It is for you to judge that it is the correct programme which can be achieved only by the united strength of the Congress, the League and the Communist Party, in the final battle against British Imperialism."

When the meeting ended at half past seven, the assembled crowd were in no mood to leave; they wanted to hear more, and group after group of weavers, fishermen and others came and said: "Tell us something more specifically for ourselves." Muslims too were eager, and their biggest applause came twice—once when the united stand at Chittagong was mentioned, and again when Joshi referred to the reactionary Muslim vested interests trying to exploit anti-Hindu sentiment.

IN THE LAND OF THE HAJANGS

On January 22, we arrived at Susang, on the fringe of the land of the Hajangs who have fought great battles under the Red Flag against feudal oppression. As our bus cut across the dusty roads, red-capped kisan volunteers with Red Flags greeted and received Joshi on the way. Crossing the picturesque river in a dingy, whose boatman refused to charge us for the ferry, we were greeted by more red caps, who led us lustily shouting slogans. Hundreds of men and women stared out of their village huts.

From the night on the previous day, groups of men, women and children had begun to arrive for the rally, from distances as far as 25 miles in the interior of the hill region, marching in disciplined formation. By 3 o'clock about 4,000 of them went round in a procession through the little town led by Mopi Singh (Communist candidate).

Before a gathering of 8,000, among whom, besides the Hajangs, there were Dulus, Garos, Muslims and a sprinkling of local Bhadrakols, Joshi spoke in Hindi.

Referring to the prevailing disunity, Joshi said:

"If we cannot turn out the British, our very daily existence will be difficult to carry on not to speak of freedom which will be impossible to attain."

"If in a Chasi family two sons fall out, the whole village curses them saying that they have gone to the dogs and when they fail to settle among themselves, they are ruined by going to court and falling into the zamindars' clutches. Exactly the same thing is happening in our country today."

HAVE WE BECOME WORSE THAN ANIMALS?

"Again, you have seen in your own villages how the zamindars try to egg on the Hindu and Muslim kisans against each other to keep both of them weak. It is only where the Kisan Sabha unites all, that the zamindars can be fought. The same is true in national life . . .

"People ask, how may unity come? But in actual life, even animals

when beaten rally together. Have we become worse than animals? Today, many may not listen to what we Communists say, but we shall not cease to appeal to all our brothers to come together. More will begin to see this tomorrow from their own experience and then unity will be the way of all, not of our Party alone.

"Why is it that today our Party alone stands for justice? Because our Party is the Party of the poor and it is the poor among all sections of our people who need justice most and can value it most. Other parties have at the top such people as the zamindars and big capitalists who can demand justice for themselves, but cannot concede justice to others.

"The kisan knows that the zamindars or the merchants cannot come to mutual agreement; they squabble for their own sectional interests. But in our case, there is no partisan or sectional interest involved, but justice for all."

FIGHT FOR ABOLITION OF THREE VILLAGE LEECHES

Explaining the election programme of the Communists and the struggle for village freedom in Azad India, Joshi continued:

"As soon as elections are over, Moni Singh will place three measures for the abolition of these three leeches, (the zamindar, mahajan and beopari) which every kisan, every villager, will support.

(a) "Abolition of Zamindari is agreed to by everybody, but the Congress and the others are pledged to giving compensation, extending over a period of ten to twenty years, to the zamindars. But from where will this money come, except through fleecing the kisans and why should the zamindars get compensation at all? We refuse all compensation to them, but are ready to grant them 300 bighas of land, which they will have to cultivate themselves; any labourers they employ must get at least Rs. 30 per month; no bhagchasi must be permitted. The rest of their land will be divided up so that every kisan gets at least 15 bighas of land.

(b) "The next act will be Abolition of Mahajani—all the money of the moneylenders must be in the Village Panchayat Bank, no interest over 3 per cent may be charged.

(c) "The third act will ensure that no food is left in the control of hoarders and black-marketeers. Panchayat (Co-operative) Stores will buy village products and sell per village needs. Over these Co-operatives, it is the kisan janata that will have authority and no beopari.

"And until these three measures are passed to guard against the zamindar, the mahajan or the hoarder trying to create worse havoc, we shall ask the League or Congress Ministers: 'While the Angrezi Raj passed ordinances against the people, you pass ordinances at once for safeguarding the people's interests.'"

FOR ORDINANCES IN PEOPLE'S INTERESTS

"First of all, fallow land, whether zamindars' or Governments' khas, must be distributed to the landless. Secondly, no land transfer is to be permitted. Thirdly, rent for the poorest kisan must be lowered to a reasonable limit and no rent will be charged from him for a year.

"In your part of the district, I notice a special need: the roads are extremely bad here. While railways, of course, are needed, they will take time, but roads can be made quicker. If fine roads could be made for the military in a few days, why are there no roads for the kisan to help him and save him from malaria?

"Bengal is a land of rivers, but you have either floods or drought all the time. So you must demand a number of tube wells for your

(Continued on page 3, Col. D)

WAVELL'S LATEST SERMON

★ Reactions To Bombay Outrage ★ ★ Free Rein To Perverters Of People's Patriotism? ★

THE Viceroy's incoherent and arrogant speech to the depleted benches of the Central Assembly stands in strange contrast to the swelling upsurge for freedom which is sweeping the country.

The Viceroy proposes, after the elections, to form an Executive Council at the Centre having the support of the principal political parties and to set up a Constitution-Making Body as soon as possible. But he warns that if the parties do not unite and make concessions, the task of setting up the interim Government and bringing about "great constitutional changes" would be rendered impossible and he cannot set any date for India's freedom.

Meanwhile he advised the Central legislators to be good boys and pass the new bills put up before them by his good and loyal Executive Councilors.

How does it happen that the Viceroy can yet dare to talk the language of the old August Declaration and the out-dated Cripps' Statement, when the whole country is thinking and acting in the spirit of "Quit India?"

The answer to this question emerges out of the reactions of the Congress and the Muslim League and their Press to the Viceroy's speech.

Hope And Fear

Instead of anger at the impudent rejection of India's freedom demand, we find comments indicating secret approval coming from the Nationalist and Congress Press.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, with his characteristic liberal faith in the goodness of the 'Soldier Viceroy,' is optimistic and hopes that the Viceroy means business this time and will proceed to set up a popular interim Government at the Centre and a Constitution-Making Body, despite the opposition of the Muslim League.

Official Congress comment is not available. But the Nationalist Press considers the speech as benevolently neutral. It is demanding that the Viceroy and the British Government prove their "bona fides" by giving their verdict on Pakistan and by going ahead with the formation of the interim Government at the Centre, despite the refusal of the League to join it.

Among the Muslim League circles too the dominating reaction is not anger against British Imperialist impudence. Instead, it is craven fear that the British are out to settle with the Congress over the heads of the League.

Mr. Jinnah has promptly come out with a statement declaring that the Muslim League would not participate in any interim Government, nor agree to one Constitution-Making Body "as it is a foregone conclusion that there could be no agreement on the Pakistan issue." He "urges upon the Viceroy to face facts and realities and proceed to make a clear declaration with regard to that major issue."

Blind Illusions

In fact, since the Simla Conference, the Viceroy, by his personal conferences with the Congress leaders and by his wily statements, seems to have given them the impression that the British Government is determined to effect a final settlement of the Indian question despite League opposition.

On the other hand, the League leader seems to have been given to understand that the British Government would not sanction any final settlement which bypassed any just demand of the Muslims representing their established will.

The result is that the Congress leadership pins its faith in a unilateral compromise with the British, through which it hopes to break the obstructive stand of the League.

The League, on the other hand, stakes its all on obstructive tactics and thus hopes to get a separatist compromise with the British.

When the two principal parties, which together lead the entire awakened and patriotic mass of our people, become victims of such blind illusions, and begin manoeuvring against each other, it is Imperialism which gets the whip hand and is able to play the one against the other and to prepare another humiliating Simla for our entire people.

Grim Perspective Of Disunity

Let Congressmen understand that if they allow their leadership to form an interim Government without forging a united front with the Muslim League, they will get a Government based on surrender to the Imperialists—and a Government of disruption and civil war against the Muslims.

That will lead them to accept the Constitution-Making Body of the Imperialist design and the result would be NOT a free and united India which they want, but a tri-sected India, consisting of a Hindu Dominion, a Muslim Dominion and an autonomous Princistan under the paramountcy of a British-dominated Agency Centre.

Let the Leaguers realise that if they do not stop the obstructionist tactics of their leadership they will not get the free federation of Muslim homelands in a free India which they yearn for, but a British-dominated Muslim Dominion in a slave India.

They will only get Imperialist separation and continued slavery and earn the eternal curses of their Hindu brothers for having betrayed the common struggle for freedom.

Let People Decide

The only way for Congressmen and Leaguers, for the Indian peoples as a whole, to defeat the Imperialist game and win their common freedom is to give up harking to the British Imperialists for a verdict on Pakistan.

Let the Congress and the League agree upon a just and democratic plan by which the issue of Pakistan, the issue whether India is to be a single state—a union of autonomous provinces or an alliance of two federations—is put to the verdict of the people.

Our Party has put forward such a plan. It is based on the recognition of the complete self-determination of each natural National unit having a common language, common culture and common economic life. Let each unit have its Constituent Assembly based on adult suffrage and let that Assembly decide whether it wants to join an Indian Union or a separate federation with its contiguous units, which will be allied with the union of the rest of the units.

The recognition of this just and democratic principle will enable the Congress and the League to agree to form an all-India Constitution-Making Body based on the clear recognition of the sovereignty and self-determination of India's natural National units and composed of delegates from the Constituent Assemblies of the units.

Wavell's game of Divide and Rule can be defeated only when the common people force the Congress and League leaders to give up the illusion of harking to the British Imperialists and to the issue of their own people's destiny and to let the issue of Pakistan be decided by the people, to an all-India Constitution-Making Body elected upon by ourselves.

The brutal and cowardly attack organised on the Communist Party headquarters at Bombay on Subhas Day (January 23) has been unequivocally condemned by Gandhiji and Pandit Nehru. Pandit Nehru has declared that "Congress must dissociate itself from this completely and Congressmen must see to it that their fair name is not tarnished."

BUT only a tiny handful of the Nationalist papers have yet raised their voice against this outrage. Among responsible quarters which mould the opinion of the Congress masses today, Gandhiji's and Pandit Nehru's have almost remained one voice so far.

Bombay Press Condemns

The Free Press Journal (Nationalist daily of Bombay) commented editorially on January 28:

"The action of the rowdies who organised the attack on the Communist office, is on a par with the violence of British soldiers who some time back invaded newspaper offices in North India because they disapproved of headlines. It is more reprehensible in that it has all the appearance of being pre-meditated.

"The attack in Bombay has been followed up by an outbreak in Calcutta. In the circumstances, it behoves men of all parties to come for-

ward with a clear denunciation of the insensate assault on Communists. If politics is to be restored to the level of discussion, it is essential that the air must be cleared immediately of any confusion that may exist, however unreasonably, in lawless minds."

Both Janmabhoomi and Nootan Gujerat (Gujerati Nationalist papers owned by Mr. Amritlal Sheeth, President of the Indian Languages Newspapers' Association) have strongly condemned the attack in their editorials.

Among the Marathi Press, Lokamanya and Prabhat (the latter edited by Sjt. Navare, veteran journalist and President of the Marathi Journalists' Association) have editorially condemned the attack.

All these papers have deep political differences with the Communist Party, but that has not blinded them to their duty to stand firmly for democratic morals in our national life.

Apart from these worthy exertions, however, not a single Congress paper in the country has so far come forward in condemnation of the outrageous incident of January 23.

U. P. Congress Organs Silent

The attitude of the Congress papers of the U.P. (the most decisive Congress Province in the country) is a pointer as to where our Nationalist life is going today. Not only has everyone of them kept mum in their editorial columns on the Bombay attack but the majority of them even went to the length of dismissing the news in a few lines in an obscure corner.

Most of the Hindi Congress papers of U.P. and Bihar (like Rashtravani of Patna, Pratap of Cawnpore, Sainik of Agra) have even blacked out Gandhiji's statement condemning this incident. Even the National Herald published it only in part—though Gandhiji's statement itself consisted of only three sentences.

The Marathi daily Lokashakti, which is the mouthpiece of the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee, has beaten all the rest by actually reporting news of the outrage under the heading, "Righteous Anger for anti-National Polver of the Communists."

It is shocking enough for the Congress Press and for responsible Congress leaders to take up such an attitude when any political section of our people is the victim of such an outrage. But in the present political set-up in the country, it will lead to far reaching and disastrous consequences for our National Movement.

What Does It Show?

The attack on our Party headquarters was organised on a day when the Police ran riot among our people. Every Congress paper and responsible Congress leader in the country spoke with bitterness of the Police repression. Never was the

anger of our people against British Imperialism and the Police greater. And yet against whom was this anger directed most furiously that day? Not against the Police, but against a section of their own countrymen, against the Communists.

It is easier to lead a crowd of 3,000 into an assault against one of one's own brother political workers (taking advantage of anti-Communist prejudices set in motion by the leaders of the premier freedom organisation) than to lead them to fight Police repression.

It is easier to turn popular anti-Imperialist wrath against a section of one's own people than to build and lead a united movement to fight British Imperialism.

Where Will It Lead?

But this is the beginning of the deterioration of patriotic heroism of a great people into cowardice and moral degradation.

When such wanton destruction like the burning of books and papers, smashing of furniture and printing presses, attacks on the lives of political workers including women and children, are deliberately organised and planfully carried out, when a crowd of 3,000 is made to look on it with approval and even participate in it—and when on top of it all those who mould patriotic opinion in the country keep mum and acquiesce in such outrages; then it is the prelude to the destruction of the moral and democratic conscience of our people which is the greatest strength of our National Movement.

If this continues, the way is clear for reactionary adventurous political groups who organise such outrages and who alone strive in such an atmosphere, to get a grip over our National Movement and break it up.

They will be able to lead the anti-Imperialist anger of the people into any direction and rally it behind their own sordid factional intrigues for power and in the interests of the moneyed men who back them.

(Continued on Page 4 Col. 1.)

By N. K. Krishnan

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Police Violence Condemned

Universal Protests Against Anti-Communist Savagery

On Subhas Day, Sandhurst Road in Bombay reminded one of the August days.

All shops in the Hindu area upto Golpitha were closed, beyond it in the Muslim area all were open. The same repression—tear gas, lathi-charges, and even firing. But there was one clear difference. In 1942, the mass of Muslim opinion was sympathetic to the demonstrators, felt drawn towards them. Today it was severely neutral and in some cases even hostile.

ONLY occasionally did one hear a Muslim say, "If the Congress had come to an understanding with the League, we could have faced the Police," a thing which most Muslims said in August 1942.

SUBHAS DEMONSTRATION IN MUSLIM

Mr. Abdull Jafferbhoy, one of the organisers of the Subhas Day procession, said that in the beginning the Police had permitted them to take it through the Muslim areas, but at the last moment banned it; and that he had discussed the route with Mr. Chundrigar, the President of the Provincial Muslim League, who had not objected to it.

Mr. Chundrigar later issued a statement saying that he had never told the organisers that the League "had no objection to the procession passing through Muslim localities." The statement added that he had declined to "give the moral support of the Muslim League to their function" and had told the organisers that the Muslims would "remain entirely neutral."

The mood of the Muslims of the Bhendy Bazar area was one of vigilant neutrality. For example, a Muslim shopkeeper in Bhendy Bazar said:

"It is a Congress procession. Sardar Patel threatened a civil war only the other day. Why do they want to come here except to create trouble."

Another middle-class Muslim said: "Even if the procession is peaceful, some of the demonstrators might shout anti-League slogans which will only incite the Muslims and cause trouble."

THINGS TAKE HOOLIGAN TURN
By 2 p.m., the Police cordon had

been removed from Prarthana Samaj and groups of 50 or 60 formed themselves into small processions and marched to Golpitha. Hooligan elements joined in and on the way they armed themselves with sticks, bamboo, etc.; with down from the shops on the roadside.

Thus armed some processionists attempted to get beyond Golpitha and for three hours there was a battle royal between them and the Police.

Muslim reactions were two-fold. Some Muslims, bitterly anti-Congress, regarded these armed processions as hostile to the Muslims and said:

"If the Police were not here, we would have given a fitting reply to these fellows who come with sticks here to defy us."

But none of the Muslims supported the Police action. Many Muslims gave shelter in their buildings to the demonstrators who were chased by the Police. So strong was their anti-Police bitterness.

REACTIONS TO ANTI-COMMUNIST ATTACK

After the attack on our Party headquarters; the first journalists to come to the spot were editors of some Urdu papers like Mr. Sadique of Iqbal, Raees Ahmed Jaffri of Inquilab, Mr. Faridi of the Khilafat and Mr. Sehgal of the Nizam. All were shocked to see the extent of the damage and the number of our injured comrades. All of them offered to give us any help we wanted.

Zahid Ali, the son of Maulana Shaukat Ali, expressed his sympathy and told Mirza Ashfaq Beg, on the editorial staff of Naya Zamana:

"It was a mistake on your part

to have your office in such a mohalla. You can stay temporarily in the Khilafat House and use our press and latrines for your work."

The readers of Naya Zamana, our Urdu edition, were very resentful and said: "These goondas must be beaten back without mercy."

It is a sign of the way things are going in our country that everyone of them attributed the hooliganism to the official Congress. When we argued that it was not the official Congress, but some groups who, under the Congress mask and banner, exploit the anti-Communism of Congress leaders to carry on political goondalism, they looked incredulously at us, as if pitying us for being so "trustful" of the Congress leaders.

URDU PRESS REACTIONS

What is most important to remember is that in spite of the bitterness caused by the anti-League outbursts of the Congress leaders and Sardar Patel's threat of civil war, responsible Muslim opinion unequivocally condemned Police repression on the people—while at the same time wrongly attributed the attack on our Party headquarters to the official Congress.

The Khilafat condemned "the Police violence on the demonstrations" (Subhas Day), but said, "We cannot but criticise those also who provide the Police with an opportunity to play its game."

The paper regrets that "acts of goondalism... have become a part of the Congress programme" and characterises the attack on our headquarters as "the worst example of goondalism, Fascism and terrorisation."

The conclusion that the progressive Muslim paper draws from all these incidents shows how dangerously things are drifting. It says:

"These incidents prove that Congressmen have made up their mind to finish off their opponents. Today they are up in arms against the Communists. Tomorrow they will try, if they can, to crush the League and other political parties."

"If the Congress leaders are really opposed to such things they must severely condemn them and try to put a stop to them for if other parties also resort to this type of goondalism, India's problem can never be solved." (Khilafat, January 26th)

MUSLIMS WERE BEING PROVOKED

The progressive League daily, Muslim, wrote under the caption, "The Congress and Goondalism," thus: "Whatever happened yesterday was mostly due to the wrong decision and provocative policy of the Government officials. This, however, does not mean that we support all that the citizens did and the way in which they co-operated with the professional goondas of the town."

It sharply criticises the provocative behaviour of a part of the demonstrators and says:

"The first regretful thing is that in spite of the Police behaviour the opponents of the Congress especially the Muslims, kept aloof from the demonstration. But in some places Hindu crowds shouted provocatively at them (the Muslims) and if some sensible people had not tried to stop this, then the same kind of situation would have developed in which the Police could have intervened and caused further provocation."

"It is a remarkable and noteworthy thing that the Muslims showed extraordinary patience and control and did not allow the situation to deteriorate." (Muslim, Jan. 26th).

It also condemned the attack on the Communist headquarters as "the most shameful and dastardly attack."

ATTRIBUTED TO CONGRESS

The Urdu weekly League Daily, Inquilab of Bombay, wrote:

"Today we were intending to comment on the Police firing and its repercussions, but meanwhile reports of other goondalms by the crowds had been received which must be commented upon."

It says that the Congress condemned the League for its supposed provocation, but these very provokers for non-violence have attacked the

"peaceful and noble opponents, the Communists." It describes the attack on the Communist office and says:

"Such things were done under the regime of Hitler and Mussolini... We strongly protest against this goondalism and savagery. We want to tell our Congress friends that they cannot suppress the voice of truth by this demonstration."

—(Inquilab, January 26th).

The Nationalist Muslim daily, Ajmal, wrote that the Congress is not responsible for this goonda attack on the Communist headquarters, that the Congress leaders have already condemned such attacks and that:

"Some people attacked the Communist Party Office and press.... This is most condemnable." It is against the policy of the Congress. Every right-thinking Congressman will oppose them."

All these reactions make one thing clear that not a single Muslim supports Police repression against the people. But mutual bitterness between the Leaguers and Congressmen is so strong that no common front emerges even to protest against what both of them equally hate and condemn.

Not only this; even honest Muslims, in their anti-Congress prejudices and seeing the fact that the Congress leadership still goes on slandering the Communists, placed the responsibility for the attack on our headquarters on the official Congress. It is quite clear that as long as slandering and war between brothers lasts, not only Police repression cannot be fought successfully, but rowdy elements and disreputable anti-social political groups (who misdirect peoples' anti-imperialist anger into wrong channels) cannot be isolated and firmly dealt with.

STORY OF HEROIC DEFENCE

(Continued from Page 5)

wounded to hospital, fetched the ambulance, worked alongside us as though they too had fought in the battle.

Our despondency went as we saw all this—for we felt—how can hooligans crush us, when the spirit and fortitude of each one of us, and of our friends, is so great and so unconquerable!

The next morning we moved all the wounded out, and so many friends offered their help, it was easy to do this. We cleaned up the mess and reinforced our guards, were ready for anything for the next three days. Simultaneously we talked to Sgt. Patil, who visited our office, and proposed joint peace patrols. He said he would think over it.

However, our office was not attacked again—the job of fighting ended that night at ten o'clock, the PHO had been saved, the hooligans thrown back; once more, in our country too, we had shown that the Communists cannot be destroyed by the fiercest attacks and the most unscrupulous assaults, they will fight, fight until they and the people win victory.

PEOPLES AGE

Organ of the Communist Party of India.

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P. C. Joshi's Bengal Election Tour

(Continued from Page 1)

villages and also embankments and canals for cultivation. Also, there must be a good school in every village, so that kisan children can have education. In every Union, there must be a good hospital.

"And money for all these can come from the war-rich profiteers and also the zamindars, who, after paying their dues, get nine crores of rupees for their own pockets.

"These demands are in the minds of every kisan, and of every good and honest man in every village, whether he is under the Congress, the League or the Red Flag.

FIGHT FROM OUTSIDE TO BACK UP MONI SINGH

"If you think that your Moni Singh just by going to the Assembly will get all these things for you, you are mistaken. We ask everybody to fight for these demands, inside their own parties. We do not say, come behind our Party and everything will be fulfilled. It is only a shulam who wishfully prays for gifts from his masters. But all awakened kisans will fight for what they want with their own strength.

"Inside the Assembly, Moni Singh will fight; outside, YOU have to battle for them and win them.

TAKE ALL ALONG WITH YOU INTO KISAN SAMITY

"Bengal kisans have fought great battles against the British in the past. Today is the fight for justice to the village, and every kisan will have to fight for it here and now. In politics, you may support the Congress, the League or the Communist Party, but, as kisans to maintain kisan unity to build free villages in a Free Bengal, you must all come into the

Kisan Samity."

The kisans in the crowd, whether Hajang or Muslim, applauded Joshi when he called for land for the landless, their exemption from rent and no compensation for the zamindar. Bhadrabal gentlemen who came to listen stayed till the end. Most of them agreed with what Joshi said, but there were many who were sceptical whether it was all possible of achievement.

A small merchant commented: "But whatever Government is formed, the beotari will stay and cannot be destroyed." No doubt, the open corruption that the Government officials indulge in today emboldens even petty black-marketeers in this way. Interestingly enough, on our way back, we heard a Red village bard singing in a simple folk tune about a Civil Supplies babe, drawing Rs. 30 per month but wearing a gold wrist watch and asking where the money for it came from!

THEMSELVES BUILDERS AND ARCHITECTS OF FREE VILLAGES

Glancing back on the place where the meeting was dispersing, as we bumped along the broken road, I could still see the red caps in the distance. No doubt, they were returning more awakened to the new idea that they themselves are the builders and architects of free villages in Kisan Bangla.

But it is only when they succeed in spreading this confidence among the vast and untouched kisan humanity around them, then alone the Red Flag will win in the elections, and also the great and mighty battle for common freedom will open in Mymensingh, which is not only Bengal's biggest district but the biggest patriotic stronghold of the Bengalis.

ATTACK ON COMMUNIST PHQ

Defending People's Press And Property

Full Story Of Battle

It was a bitter battle on that night of the 23rd—and today when we look back, many of us wonder how we came through it, all of us feel proud that we did come through, we did hold the enemy and save our headquarters.

THE trouble began early on, at 5 p.m. Before this, two processions had passed by, shouting anti-repression slogans and there had been some scuffles between the police and demonstrators outside our office, resulting in the police running away. More police came, this time armed; there were more scuffles but then they too went away; all that they managed to do was to climb up on a building opposite ours and take a few shots at the terraces around, including ours: Bhayyaji Kulkarni, one of our veteran leaders, was saved from death by a fraction of a second; some barricades had been put up and were burning in the middle of the street; nobody had yet attacked our office or press. But the tension was increasing, the shops around us had closed and soon we heard slogans of "Communist Party Murdabad"; our office had been attacked before, we expected it might be attacked that day too.

And it started with the Government Grain Shop; some participants in a passing procession turned their attention to it and broke into it to set it on fire. Almost immediately hooligan elements began shouting anti-Communist slogans and stones started raining both on our front door and on the windows of the rooms on the first floor.

It was clear enough that what we had feared had come true—a small crowd, maddened by police repression and led by anti-Communist hooligans, was attacking the office.

LATHIS STOP STONE-THROWERS

Immediately our best lathi-wielders were got together. Our volunteer captain, Bhagwat (who is our cashier) and the leader of the Bombay Red Guards, Donde, accompanied by ten other comrades, rushed out into the lane to disperse the stone-throwers. As soon as they saw our comrades, the stone-throwers stopped and Bhagwat told them:

"Nothing must be done here to damage our property or office. Damaging them is not fighting the police. If you attack us, we shall defend ourselves."

They blustered a bit but then promised not to do anything, the crowd of about seventy persons dispersed; I suppose seventy against ten were not odds sufficiently favourable to them.

So there was quiet for a time—but we were watchful for only ten minutes after the seventy had gone, two fellows came to our front door and shouted: "Abhi kaban jagoe? Dekh lenge!" and so on.

Suddenly there was some noise—and our bookshop was broken into, the showcases smashed, some pieces of burning wood thrown in. We rushed in and drove them out—simultaneously the police arrived and once more there was peace.

We started shifting all the books out of the bookshop; within a few seconds a long chain of comrades, almost without any command, had ranged themselves along the staircase and the books were passed up; within fifteen minutes the bookshop was emptied, the books neatly stacked in one of the first floor rooms; simultaneously we made arrangements for fighting fire, buckets and an adequate supply of water were got ready.

Till seven fifteen the police remained; through the side entrance we sent out two comrades to find out what was happening and two more were stationed outside the front door—when a police inspector rushed at them, shouting: "Get in or I'll smash you." We then closed the front door, some comrades from Parel had come to help us and the weaker comrades were sent home. At this time there were about a hundred of us inside the headquarters.

FIRE IN GRAIN SHOP

At about seven fifteen the police went away—and soon enough crowds began to gather as individuals (many of them could be recognised as members of the original seventy) shout-

ed anti-Communist slogans. In seven thirty, another small crowd entered the grain shop and set fire to it once more. In a few minutes with pieces of burning wood from the barricades, they had a good fire burning, and then they ran away. They were confident the fire would burn us down.

We immediately broke down the door connecting our office with the grain shop and rushed in; buckets of water were quickly and efficiently passed down along a ring of comrades on the staircase; S. V. Deshpande led a batch in frenzied activity at the stirrup pump, in a quarter of an hour the fire was under control, by 8 p.m. it had been put out.

Just after this the fire brigade arrived—and the officer-in charge of the fire brigade congratulating us on putting out the fire, commented angrily: "The people throw stones at us today and only last year it was we who had risked our lives to save them during the explosion."

"Is not there," he asked, "a single Congress leader to explain to them that they must not fight their own people?"

At eight-thirty they too left—and we thought all was quiet; food had been served (the kitchen comrades were magnificently cool all through)

but barely had we finished and the fire brigade departed, when the real battle—the battle of the evening—began and it seems now, looking back on that hectic ninety minutes, that all the events of the day logically led up to that climax—the bitterest fight any of us had ever seen.

A HUNDRED VS. 3,000

It began slowly; a few stones were thrown from the rear lane; Bhagwat called our lathi-wallas, thirty of them went out and met a crowd of three hundred advancing on us, throwing stones and shouting that they would burn our office down. But they could not stand our attack; Balraj Sahni, a leading comrade in the People's Theatre, Govind Vid-yarthi, our librarian, Bhagwat, Donde, were in the forefront; our enemies fled.

But soon enough the attack began again; the crowd had increased, about five hundred now; stones, iron bars, bottles, bricks came raining on us; they rushed in to the gate opening on the sidelane and nearly entered the Party headquarters—we hurried all into the fray but they stood their ground for a minute, hurling stones and using their lathis. It was the tensest moment of all, it almost seemed as if we would be overwhelmed at that time, but we attacked once, twice, thrice and then at last they fled down the lane; we came out on to the street and from this time till ten o'clock when the fighting stopped, we were fighting continuously.

Simultaneously a procession coming back from Chowpatty was roped in (we heard later that they had been told that the Communists were attacking Congressmen) and the full-scale battle began. We had to fight on two fronts now—one bordering on Sandhurst Road, holding a crowd of fifteen hundred with a thousand more looking on; the other near our back entrance, holding a crowd of over a thousand.

RIGGEST BATTLE

We fought on grimly for full ninety minutes, all the odds against us; in numbers we were about thirty to forty, they over three thousand; in arms they had come prepared, with lathis, soda-water bottles, bricks and stones; we had a few lathis and poked up the stones they threw. But every comrade fought with all his heart, none left the field of battle unless he was hit.

Bhagwat led us all—and I can still remember him, shouting, inspiring, fighting. Next were Govind, Balraj, Sibtey Hassan of our Urdu Editorial Staff, Rashid Naqvi of our office cell, Gopaldas, Sudhir, Pillai, Donde and Mohan Singh, one of our Sikh comrades—and of course Reddy of the Bombay Committee, a tower of strength, and behind all was our commander, Iqbal Singh, leading us, always cool and calm, in spite of being hurt very early on. Many more fought well, never faltering, however fast the hail of stones, however well-aimed the soda-water bottles.

And from the roof too we were throwing stones by now, throwing hard. Leading them were Keshav, Balu, Ganu, our kitchen comrades and Jafri who prevented two from setting light to the building with torches—yes, for an hour and a half we all of us fought our hardest and best; sometimes if a number of us were hurt simultaneously, they would advance but again we would rally, drive them back, time and time again.

This was also the time when our bookstall on Sandhurst Road was once more attacked. The hooligans tried to set it on fire by putting burning logs from outside; and break its doors by stones. Our comrades Vithal Choudhari and D. D. Rane with a batch of five, successfully fought out this attack from within, thrice. For 45 minutes they tried to burn and break and we quenched the fire and saved. Finally they broke the doors and our comrades rushed with the lathis in their hands to stop the hooligans from entering

Through the breaches thus made they hurled stones at the machines and flung into the room lighted balls of rags soaked in oil. But none of the cowardly attackers actually dared to enter into the press room through the breaches, for they soon found out that our three comrades stood at the breaches and were hurling back stones and dealing lathi blows at the attackers trying to enter.

Our three comrades fought on—against at least a hundred—for a full half-hour and then they retreated out of the backdoor, only when fire and smoke inside the machine room became intolerable. All were hurt—but worst hurt of all were the People's Age managerial comrades, who hearing the press had been attacked, rushed down from the top floor and two of them, Jayant and Madhavan, fearlessly attacked the hooligans—now over five hundred in number. Both were badly hurt, Jayant beaten unconscious, was saved because some kind passer-by took him to hospital.

But all had done their job. The half-hour's heroism of the comrades who defended the machine rooms meant that the press was not completely gutted but was repairable—and if you, all our readers, get your 'People's Age' again and as well printed as before, within two weeks, it will be these five comrades to whom your thanks are due.

The character of the hooligans who attacked the press was well-shown up by the fact that the lorry used for bringing them to attack, was also used when they departed—for taking away all the furniture they could steal, tables, stools, tools of the press and the rest.

At the same time, the hooligans (who clearly knew what they were after) attacked our undefended paper godown—some thirty yards down the street, burnt almost all the books, paper, etc., we had stored in it, and using hammers and stones wrecked the few machines we had there.

TENDING THE WOUNDED

It was ten-thirty by the time this was over. Wearily we got back into our headquarters, sick at heart for our press had gone, our books were burnt, so many of our best and bravest injured. But inside there was no room for despair, only for admiration. The entire corridor of the top floor was covered with wounded comrades, lying on hastily improvised mattresses, being tended by our girl comrades. And from Mrs. Chari (Didi, as we all call her for she is an elder sister to all of us), I heard their part of the story.

She and Rangukar of the Bombay Committee throughout this period had been ringing up the Congress leaders but it was nearly 11.15 before we could reach Sjt. Bhulabhai after which Sjt. Dhillon and Sjt. Bhulabhai's son came and intervened. Sjt. Patil we just could not reach—his people could not reach him, told us that they could not move out and were in the same helpless condition as us, and by 9-50 the telephone went out of order.

But the main job inside was tending the wounded. There were ten of them untrained, Shanti, Subhadra, Vatsala, Malati, Manjula, Usha, Sushela, Gnanambal, Ambal and Maniben; only two, Didi and Nergis, had had any previous experience of first-aid. Yet, under the leadership of our doctor, Kulkarni, all worked smoothly, noiselessly. It seemed as though every minute yet another comrade was injured, and they were carried up, bleeding, some with eyes closed, others arms and heads broken, everyone with big bruises. Outside the fight was going on, inside in each heart was the unspoken question—"are we holding them?"—but outwardly cool, each one of them carried on, swiftly, kindly, softly bandaging, applying iodine, calling the doctor, carrying out his instructions.

And this was how it was when I saw them at ten-thirty. They went on till three-thirty in the morning, sending the worst injured to hospital, preparing coffee with the help of our kitchen comrades, putting the wounded to sleep.

VICTORY WILL BE OURS

At eleven two of our best friends, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. D. Wadia, came in spite of our warning that it was still dangerous. They too helped, took the

(Continued on page 3, Col. 4)

BY
MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM

MILE-AND-A-HALF LONG MAMMOTH CONGRESS PROCESSION

RED FLAG CALL FOR STRIKE—ALL TEXTILE MILLS CLOSED

Workers' Rally For Freedom-Pledge

After three years Bombay celebrated Independence Day on January 26 last. For three days prior to it, the orgy of Police repression, and the anarchic arson, looting and fratricidal war let loose by anti-social elements and disreputable political groups patronising them, had threatened to cheat Bombay of the right to give organised peaceful expression to the people's will to be free.

BUT at the last moment, when the official Congress leaders wanted to hold Independence Day demonstrations, the Police did not prohibit them.

From early morning prabhak pikes marched along to the places where bhenda vandana was being held. They reminded one of the thirties except that the ringing songs of those days were not heard today.

The main Congress programme was the mammoth procession, over 13 miles long, that started from the Azad Maidan, went through the Hindu business and residential areas and ended in a meeting at Chowpaty where the pledge was read in several languages.

This mighty procession provided a sharp contrast to the small procession, organised by the Subhas Bose Celebration Committee headed by Messrs. Abdali Jafferbhoy and G.G. Mehta, which had been brought out on the morning of the 23rd.

Looking at it, I was reminded of the last huge procession organised by the Congress on August 1, 1938, the day the Congress Ministry initiated "Prohibition." That too was a big procession, but thousands of workers with their own Red Flags, the Ahrars in their red shirts, and every section of the people were there, lending a variety and strength to the whole procession.

Except for a group of about 200 Indonesian youth, who are now in Bombay and join every anti-imperialist demonstration, and a handful of Sikhs, the procession, though huge, did not comprise every section of our patriotic people as it ought to have on an occasion like this.

There was one solitary Muslim in a Fez-cap dancing Izzini (sticks with rings attached) with the akhadas-wallas (gymnasium). There was no organised slogan shouting but the procession moved on in an extremely disciplined way. The front part was shouting, "Mahatma Gandhi ki Jai," "Pandit Jawaharlal ki Jai," but the rest of the procession was shouting the new slogans "Subhas Babu Kare Pukar, Chalo Delhi Ek Sath," "Hindu-Muslim Karen Pukar, Chalo Delhi," "Jai Hind," etc. En route a small procession joined up with a big photo of Subhas Bose.

All the textile mills were closed, the workers stayed away. The Communist Party and the Girni Kamgar Union (Red Flag) had given the call for strike.

In the G.I.P. Railway workshop at Varel, there was no strike as the Scheduled Caste Federation and Muslim League workers regarded January 26th as a Congress function.

In the R.E.S.T. Kligway workshop the Shop Committee found a democratic way out. They decided to recognise "the right of every party to put forward its own view without let or hindrance." This was done. There was a strike and no dispute between any sections.

WORKERS' UNITED DEMONSTRATION

The workers of 'Birla Hind Cycles', both Congress-minded and Communist, took out a joint procession with the Tri-Colour and Red Flags which ended in a meeting at Kamgar Maidan at about 10 a.m.

Vithal Choudhury, the Communist labour leader, spoke emphasising the urgent need for all parties' united protest against Police repression and for Congress-League-Communist unity to achieve complete freedom from British Imperialism. But Mr. Abdali Jafferbhoy, who spoke next, indulged in a rabid attack on the League and the Communists. He called the League an enemy of freedom and said that unity with the Communists was like "mixing poison with food."

At Nalgaum, Parwall Mansion, both the Tri-Colour and the Red Flag were flying. A few rowdies came up and demanded that the Red Flag be removed. The Telugu workers who had put it up said, "We respect the Tri-Colour, but we won't allow you to disrespect our Red Flag." They refused to take it down. The others threatened to use force but the latter were adamant.

Finally, the tenants in panic that the rowdies might stone the building, took down both the flags. The rowdies who had no respect for any flag, were satisfied with this and went away.

WORKERS' INDEPENDENCE PLEDGE

The meeting at Kamgar Maidan at 6 p.m. was attended by about 8,000 workers, and was addressed by Communist leaders Mirajkar, Oak and S. A. Dange.

Dange reviewed the history of the past sixteen years since the Congress had accepted the goal of complete Independence. He referred to the attack on the Communist Party headquarters and the slanders against the Red Flag and said:

"It was the Communist Party that first organised the workers and peasants, both Hindu and Muslim, in

their united Trade Unions and Kisan Sabhas.

"It was the Communist Party, that first used strikes as a powerful political weapon of the freedom struggle. It is the Communist Party that insists that freedom be defined in a manner that will mean freedom to workers and peasants and teaches them to fight against the sahukars, zemindars and capitalists."

He said that during these sixteen years, the workers had learnt to go on strike, without waiting for a call, on Independence Day and the masses of people were no longer afraid of the Police, tear gas and bullets. "Instead of running away from firing, thousands run towards it."

"Only one thing is necessary. We have all realised what we are fighting for. We have shed fear in the fight. We have now only to unite the forces of freedom and British Imperialism can be easily overthrown."

Big cheers greeted this sentiment.

When I was returning from the meeting, I met Ghate, one of the founder-members of our Party, on my way. He told me what he had heard one bania say to another. "I give it here to show how instead of

going the way of unity and freedom, things are drifting in the opposite direction.

As the Congress procession was passing along Prarthana Samaj, one of them told the other:

"What a mighty procession. The Congress is truly victorious. The Mahasabha is gone already. The Communist Party was finished yesterday. There is only one other Party left to deal with" (meaning the Muslim League).

He did not complete his sentence. He had forgotten British Imperialism; for him it was a war of the Congress versus the rest. Instead of the mighty procession raising the idea that if the Congress could organise such a mammoth force, what could the Congress, the League and the Communists not do together, it roused sectarian pride in his own organisation and blind hatred of others.

The Congress procession had clearly shown that the Congress can control and give an organised peaceful expression to the people's anger but if this is to be carried forward, Congressmen must stop raising that anger against brother Indian parties and instead lead the anger of every section of our people on to a common front against the common enemy.

Bombay Students Observe Subhas And Independence Days

Congress-Communist Students Jointly Face Police Bullets

Protest Strike In Almost All Colleges

On January 21, the Bombay Students' Congress had distributed a leaflet calling for a strike and a demonstration by the students to observe Subhas Day. Students were also asked to join in other programmes fixed by other organisations for that Day.

In North Bombay, the celebrations were well-organised and peaceful. Almost all the colleges came out on complete strike. In the afternoon a meeting of about 3,000 students was held, attended by boys from all colleges, presided over by Sjt. Mangaldas Pakwasa.

In South Bombay, influence among the students is divided between the Students' Congress and the Bombay Students' Union (affiliated to the A. I.S.F., which is a non-Party organisation in which Communist students work together with Congress boys). The most remarkable feature of the celebrations of the day in South Bombay was the way in which both the Students' Congress and Students' Federation workers, both Communist and Congress students, stood together and jointly rallied the students. Both the organisations gave a call for strike.

As a result of this united stand, there was great enthusiasm for the strike in almost all the colleges of South Bombay. Except in St. Xavier's College, (where the Students' Congress leaders themselves did nothing, while all the Students' Federation workers were away in Andhra attending the Annual Conference of the A.I.S.F.), there was a complete strike in all the other main colleges.

In Wilson College, the biggest college in the suburb, Communist and Congress students jointly picketed at the gates.

The Students' Congress and Communist Party for a procession to the Birla Hind Cycles factory but the call got very little response from college students. The students' procession which actually started from Bori Bunder and reached Prarthana Samaj (at the time when the Police had held up the citizens' procession organised by the Bose Birthday Celebration Committee), consisted in the main of school boys.

Then came the clash at Prarthana Samaj between the procession organised by the Bose Birthday Celebration Committee and the Police, and Police firing.

A joint meeting is organised by both the Students' Congress and the Bombay Students' Union (B.S.U.) and attended by about 400 students, was going on in Wilson College at that time. When the news of the Police firing and lathi-charge reached the meeting, Sushila Madhman (Communist girl-student and Secretary of the B.S.U.) appealed to the students to come out in a procession in solidarity with the victims of the Police repression.

A protest demonstration was taken out immediately, led by student workers of both organisations from Wilson College to Prarthana Samaj which joined the main body of demonstrators.

The clash between the Police and the people was still going on at Prarthana Samaj. The student workers, both Congress and Communist, stood the Police lathi-charge and the tear-gas bravely, at the head of their processions.

When the ban at Prarthana Samaj was ultimately lifted, the main body of the crowd (consisting of non-students), went along Sandhurst Road. The mass of students were now left leaderless and there was confusion among the students. In the Birla Hind Cycles factory, the Police had taken to group those who were not

along in a disciplined march.

But by this time, rowdy elements and disreputable anti-Communist political groups had begun to take charge of the situation. These elements, about 150 of them, followed our girl student comrades for about half an hour, shouting, "Communist Party Murdabad" and abusing them.

The main crowd, mostly non-students, after the lifting of the Police ban, passed along Sandhurst Road towards Bhendi Bazar, the Muslim area. They were being egged on to acts of looting and arson—by the same groups which later on organised the attack on the Communist headquarters. The leaders of the All-India Students' Federation, Wadud Khan and Satyapal Dang, kept with this crowd all the time, and succeeded, with the help of a few responsible Congress and Communist workers, in persuading the people to throw away their sticks and other weapons.

At the Round Temple, the Police resorted to firing and there was a pitched battle for nearly three hours between the Police and the people. Wadud and Satyapal, together with other Communist workers like Reddy, stood by the people, in the face of Police bullets and lathis; helped to tend the wounded and get them removed promptly to hospital.

There were practically no responsible political workers on the spot at the time. None of the Students' Congress leaders were visible; of students in general too, there were practically none.

For three hours, Wadud and Satyapal along with a handful of other Communist workers kept with the people, attending to the wounded—in the thick of the Police lathis and bullets. They nursed the injured, put them in gharis and had them taken safely to hospital.

Barely an hour after this, and hardly a hundred yards from the scene of this, the headquarters of the Communist Party was attacked by the rowdies and their political partners.

The most striking feature of the

day was the way in which Congress and Communist student workers stood together in every college to rally the student masses to protest against the Police repression. A.I.S.F. workers came out everywhere appealing for united action and Congress students everywhere responded eagerly to this appeal.

There was a protest strike in almost every institution; in the main colleges of South Bombay, joint protest meetings were held addressed both by Congress and Communist students. There was no anti-Communism expressed by Congress students, in almost any college.

In North Bombay colleges too, there was complete strike, and a big disciplined student demonstration, 5,000 strong, was organised. The meeting held at Ruia College, was the biggest of all the college meetings. Here both Congress and Communist student workers spoke condemning Police repression and stressing the need for discipline.

JANUARY 25

There was widespread discussion in all colleges on the last two days' events. There were complaints everywhere that the students' activities on Subhas Day were disorganised and without a disciplined lead; and there was general agreement that the situation had largely gone into the control of undesirable elements. Students as a whole condemned the hooliganism. A large section of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee leaders for having been unable to keep the situation in control.

JANUARY 26

A large number of students from all colleges joined the functions organised by the Congress on Independence Day. In many of the colleges there were strikes. In some, like the Wilson and Ruia Colleges, the students organised their own meeting after the strike where the Independence Day Pledge was taken. Once again Congress and Communist students jointly organised these meetings, as at Wilson College.

P. C. Joshi Speaks At Mymensingh—Says

"SWARAJ MUST MEAN JUSTICE FOR ALL"

"Concede Just Part Of League Demands Rely On Common Muslims' Patriotism To Disown The Unjust..."

By wire from Nikhil Chakravarty.

ON January 24, P. C. Joshi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, addressing a crowded meeting at Mymensingh explained why the Communists resigned from the Congress, he said:

"Only two courses were open to us. When our leaders started slandering us, we could have either hit back by counter-slanders against them or leave the Congress and follow our independent line and accept the final verdict of the people. It has never happened before in our country, when an abused and slandered party has not retaliated.

"Equally unique is the fact that though we have left the Congress, we do not attack it. Great personalities may stoop to utter mean slanders against us but our patriotism does not permit us to slander back our own brothers however wrong they may be.

GREAT AWAKENING AMONG PEOPLE

"Mutual bickerings are small things compared to the great awakening for freedom that is stirring our people today. In a family for example, twenty years ago, the Thakurma (grandma) would have resisted her grandson courting prison. Today for that same act, the Thakurma curses the British more than the youngsters.

"All have come to realise that there is no salvation for us, no hope for us, no future for us unless we get rid of the British. Today the urge to be free is more widespread than ever before among every generation, in every class and every section of our people.

"But today, the battle for freedom is being lost by division in the camp of the fighters for freedom. The Congress thinks of crushing the League and the League is thinking of crushing the Congress and both are thinking of crushing us. But though none can be crushed since there are people behind all of them, yet they would all be weakened, leaving the field free for the Imperialist masters to rule on in the old way.

WEEK IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 2)

Once the moral conscience of the masses of the people is systematically undermined by such planned outrages, and responsible national leaders do not come forward to rouse it to actively fight such outrages, then what strength will be left inside our National Movement to resist such self-seeking adventurous groups?

Today they are misdirecting people's anti-Imperialist wrath into assaults on the Communists; tomorrow they will do so against every quarter that resists their plans, against the Congress leadership itself.

In Bombay as the aftermath of the clash between the procession organised by the Bose Birthday Celebration Committee (headed by Messrs. Abidall Jafferbhai and G. G. Mehta) and the Police, there was widespread looting, arson and destruction of the common man's property besides anti-Communist outrages, and the situation for three days passed out of the control of the Congress leadership and into other hands. An ex-Secretary of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee himself was beaten up on the streets.

These facts should give food for thought to all sober Congressmen.

Hitler started his unholy crusade in Germany with the Jews. He ended up by killing and swallowing everything great and noble in the German nation.

By concentrating in such outrages, the Congress is helping not to build up our anti-Imperialist movement, but to broaden up whatever

Dinajpur Primary Elections For Scheduled Castes

COMMUNIST TOPS POLL

By Wire from Bibhuti Guha Calcutta, Jan. 29.

The results of the Primary Elections for the Scheduled Caste seats in Dinajpur district (Bengal), have just been announced. The Communist Scheduled Caste candidate, Rupnarayan, topped the polls securing 10,050 votes; after him came the Congress candidates, Haren Roy and Bhabesingh, with 5,607 and 3,649 votes respectively.

Imperialist masters to rule on in the old way.

"Today we are moving to a stage when our freedom organisations are looking up to Imperialism to settle with them separately. It is this that demarcates us from others: for under no circumstances, do we Communists look towards the British, but rather we look to our people and think in terms of freedom, justice and truth.

FREEDOM FOR ALL

"As we demand freedom from the British, we have to ask what happens

movement has been built up and hand it over to reactionary forces.

Not hurl the united strength of our people against the common enemy, but let adventurous groups play with people's anti-Imperialist anger for their own sordid game of power-politics; this is where it would lead.

Every slander used by Congress leaders against the Communists today becomes a weapon in the hands of such forces to get mass backing for their outrages. The more slander-mongering between brother and brother continues, the more the initiative will pass into the hands of such anti-national groups.

It is for every responsible Congress leader and Congress paper to seriously ask themselves, before it is too late, the question, where are they taking the country and our freedom movement by keeping quiet on such outrages or acquiescing in them? Let them read the account of the assault on the Communist Party Headquarters given on Page 5 of this issue and think for themselves.

It is for them to realise before it is too late that such outrages are not merely an attack on a particular political party, but the beginning of a process which if not checked in time, will engulf and overwhelm everything decent and democratic inside the Congress itself and in our national life.

No National Movement can tolerate such methods within its ranks, without being going to pieces and becoming the laughing stock of the world.

to the freedom of our own people. Twenty years ago, the simple word Swaraj acted as magic. Today too it is a noble and great sentiment, but as the people have advanced, we have to define it and inspire in them the confidence that the achievement of Swaraj will mean Swaraj for them too.

"Our leaders, indoctrinated in the British concept of democracy, stick to the idea of one man, one vote. It is all right when people are one, but we are not one people, but several peoples; and just as we claim self-determination from the British, we have to recognise self-determination for everyone of these peoples.

"The Muslims claim sovereign homelands in the areas where they are in a majority. This claim is born out of their urge to be free. And the less you understand them, the more you abuse them, the more will they go out of the common movement.

"It is also a case of justice. Having asked self-determination from the British, it is but just that you should grant self-determination to your own people.

SIX PROVINCES DEMAND UNJUST

"While we fight for the League demand as far as it is just, we fight against it when it becomes unjust. The League demand for six provinces inside Pakistan unjustly includes the Assamese and the Sikhs.

"As to the Congress, so to the League we say, 'You cannot demand freedom unless you concede it to others. Such unjust claims of the League not only shall we not support, but shall campaign against them, with the same fervour with which we have campaigned for Pakistan.'

"The mass of the Muslims hate the British like anybody else and it is to them that we should look for the solution. If we tell them honestly and clearly what is just and therefore, acceptable and what is unjust, and therefore, not acceptable, it goes straight into their heart. We must have faith in the common people, and in their sound sense.

"Differences between the Hindus and the Muslims have grown in Bengal more than anywhere else. The British conquered Bengal and imposed the Permanent Settlement to suppress the peasants, the bulk of whom are Muslims and so in the

havoc caused by the zamindars, the Muslims suffered most.

"The British introduced indigo and jute planters. In the whole belt from the 24-Parganas to Faridpore, the Muslims revolted. Neither the Hindu nor the Muslim, bhadralog fought. It was the Muslim peasantry that fought single-handed against this oppression and fought for 20 years."

Referring to the Nationalist awakening between 1905 and 1930, Joshi said:

"When two generations of Bengali bhadralogs fought against the British, they left the mass of the kisans untouched and the Bengal kisans learnt to look upon the National movements as that of the Swaraj babus, which meant for them only this: that when the British Raj went the babus' raj would come.

COMMUNISTS ROUSE MUSLIM PEASANT

"It is we Communists who alone go to the Muslim peasant and thus carry forward the movement which has so long been confined to the bhadralogs. We rouse his self-respect and patriotism. It is, therefore, not without reason that we have faith in his patriotism and that if what is just in his demands is accepted he in his turn will disown what is not just in it.

"The word Pakistan frightens many. They say it is Islamic in origin. Bande Mataram too is a Sanskrit term, but that cannot hide the fact that it roused millions one day to a new patriotic awakening. We have to judge everything on the anvil of reason which we must not allow to be clouded by prejudices.

"A hundred years ago, when Ram Mohan said: 'Leave faith; take up reason,' he was abused, slandered and attacked and yet his voice finally triumphed. And so today many may abuse us and attack us, but what we say today will one day be accepted by all when prejudices are lifted and the path to freedom is recognised by our people."

Jessore Kisans Greet Communist Leader

Donate Cash, Ornaments For Party Fund

By Wire From Nikhil Chakravarty

CALCUTTA, Jan. 23. brother, fighting brother would ON January 16th, P. C. Joshi mean the British continuing to stay on top of all. He spoke of building prosperous towns and villages in a free India. At the end he appealed to the audience to vote for Krishna Benode Roy, communist candidate for the Jessore Rural Constituency, and referred to his services in building the kisan movement and leading the National Movement in the district.

In a brief speech Joshi exhorted them to build village unity for their own liberation.

At Jessore station amidst thunderous slogans of "Communist Party Zindabad", "Joshi Zindabad", a guard of honour of 2,000 kisans received Joshi and a party of kisans gave an exhibition of lathi display.

A one-mile long procession of kisans, women and middle-class with Joshi, Bhowani Sen and Krishna Benode Roy (Communist candidate from Jessore) at their head went round Jessore town. Such scenes had never been witnessed in the town before. It culminated in a meeting of 10,000, most of whom had come from nearby villages. Among them were kisans, weavers, fishermen and members of the Scheduled Castes.

Joshi in his speech said that

"In this election every Party has placed its programme before the people. Compare them with the Communist Election Manifesto. If you find a better programme and better candidates than ours, vote for that programme and that candidate."

A purse of Rs. 2,000, was presented to Joshi at the end of the meeting.

The next day, Joshi went to Parbatia the Red kisan base which has fought zamindari and Imperialist repression for years. A rally of over 80,000 kisans, weavers and fishermen was held. The kisans let their hundreds of lathis and their women with children in their arms presented an impressive sight.

Cawnpore Employers' War On Workers

And Red Flag

TERRORISM IN CONGRESS NAME WITH POLICE AID

THE employers of Cawnpore have started to employ gangster methods to break the working-class organisations. In their growing desperation at the strength of the Communist-led Mazdoor Sabha, the premier Trade Union in the Province, built up by the workers of Cawnpore, the bosses, through their agents, organised a dastardly attack on a workers' meeting on the morning of January 18th.

The meeting was held at the J. K. Cotton Mills owned by the Singhanias and was being addressed by Santosh Chandra Kapoor and Sone Lal, leaders of the Mazdoor Sabha, the latter a Communist candidate for a Labour seat in the coming elections.

As the meeting proceeded peacefully a group suddenly emerged from inside the mill. They were led by the mistries of the mill, like Kalloo Mistry, Biskram Singh Mistry and Shiv Narain Mistry, as well as by a local betel-seller who after the incident has been appointed a mistry in the mill.

These hirelings had been collected inside the mill by Sohan Lal Singhanla, (the Manager of the mill and brother of Sir Padampat Singhanla) and were acting on his instructions. At first they tried to drown the speeches and generally disturb the meeting by shouting slogans. They had planned to do this under cover of the name of the Congress.

Right in the middle of their activities some of them rushed back inside the mill, brought out a Tricolour and continued their work with the Tricolour in their hands. They had forgotten it when they first rushed out!

Failing to thus break the meeting, they started throwing stones from the nearby railway track at the assembled workers. A number of workers were injured, including Baldeo Prasad of the Atherton West Mills as well as workers of the Mazdoor Sabha, like Niamudal, Hafiz and Peer Mohammad. Raja Ram and Baldeo Prasad received serious injuries. Sone Lal and Santosh Chandra Kapoor also received injuries.

COMMUNIST LEADERS ARRESTED TRUMPED-UP CHARGES

Chased by the infuriated workers assembled at the meeting, the miscreants ran into the mill compound. The police had carefully kept aloof while the stone-throwing had been going on, and had done nothing except arrest three of the mischief-makers and that too only when they continued throwing stones from inside the mill.

But now they came forward and arrested Sone Lal, Santosh Kapoor, Ramsevak and others. They were subsequently released on bail and are awaiting trial on trumped-up charges.

The main witnesses to be produced against them are the mill authorities and their agents. The J. K. Mill Management has stated before the Police that the Mazdoor Sabha workers broke open the mill lock and tried to enter the mill.

Inside the mill, the very workers who had been injured by the miscreants' stones are being asked to give evidence against the arrested Mazdoor Sabha workers on pain of dismissal.

The police acting on the Management's instigation also issued a warrant of arrest against S. S. Yusuf, Communist leader of the Cawnpore workers. But Yusuf at that time was addressing another workers' meeting at the Swadeshi Mills. When the patent absurdity of the attempt to implicate Yusuf was realised, the warrant against him was withdrawn.

The whole incident is part of a deep-laid plan by the Management to get all labour leaders out of the way in order to launch an offensive against the workers who are growing restive against the new menace of retrenchment and wage-cuts, threatening the whole country. It is the beginning of the employers' drive to terrorise the workers and crush the Mazdoor Sabha and the Red Flag Union, which since its formation in Calcutta and Bombay, has been organising the workers to defend their just rights.

CONGRESS LEADERS TAKE SHIP AGAINST WORKERS

Cawnpore's Congress leaders blinded by their anti-Communist prejudice, are lining up openly behind the notorious employers of the city, and backing their offensive against the workers and their trade union. They are letting the Management use the Congress name to justify all their deeds.

After the above incident, Pandit Raja Ram Shastri, Pandit Harihar-nath Shastri, Pandit Ganga Sahay Chowbe and Mr. Pyarelal, 'Congress-Labour' leaders of Cawnpore, were called to the mill on the phone and by the efforts of these leaders, the rowdies arrested by the Police have been bailed out.

They have also issued statements to the press, repeating the charges of the mill authorities and their hirelings against the Mazdoor Sabha leaders. The City Congress Committee has also passed a resolution to the same effect without making any prior attempt to ascertain the truth from responsible Mazdoor Sabha workers. The Congressite press—like the Pratap and even the National Herald—has come out with stories completely supporting the story put out by the Management.

After this incident yet another at-

tempt has been made to disturb a Mazdoor Sabha meeting. This happened on the morning of January 27th.

DO EMPLOYERS WANT A SHOW-DOWN?

Further sinister preparations are reported to be afoot in the camp of the owners. One Lachmi Narayan Tandon is reported to have held a secret meeting inside the J. K. Cotton Mill for this purpose. Sohan Lal Singhanla himself is understood to be organising the mistries and masters of his mill to break the workers' meetings and assault Mazdoor Sabha workers.

It is learnt that in one of the secret meetings of the mistries inside the mills, it was suggested that the Mazdoor Sabha could not be crushed, unless some of the Sabha workers were actually killed.

The local Congress leaders are continuing their support to the employers and their offensive against the workers. Pandit Raja Ram Shastri is telling the workers in all his meetings that Yusuf, Santosh Kapoor and Sone Lal assaulted the workers in the J. K. Cotton Mill!

He also exhibits one worker as having been attacked by them. Congress workers living in the working-class area, like Brahma Datt Dixit and Shiv Balak Ram, are openly applauding those who break up the workers' meetings and assault worker-leaders.

The workers of Cawnpore are however preparing to give a fitting reply to the employers' conspiracy. The Mazdoor Sabha has already given a call. The challenge of the employers, if they persist in their present drive, will be met by a general strike of all Cawnpore workers.

the voters being present, he wanted the Mazdoor Sabha workers to prove that the absent voters were in fact non-existent.

When the Sabha representative asked him to send for the muster rolls of the mills to check up, he refused to do so on the plea that he was not holding a Court session and had no powers to do so.

When the Mazdoor Sabha offered to put 200 workers in the witness box to swear that they had inquired in every department of their mills and failed to find any workers with such names, Mr. Shakoor refused to hear their evidence on the ground that he was not a Judge or Magistrate!

REVISING OFFICER BACKS BOGUS UNIONS

Under the rules the objections should be sent by post to the voters against whom there are objections. If this had been done, the fictitious names would have been easily exposed.

But the revising authority, the Labour Conciliator, Mr. Shakoor, did not do that. He knew that the names were not genuine but had already decided to help the Royist and Alwe "unions" as much as possible.

He sent the objections to the "unions", not to the voters. Not a single voter who was objected to turned up. Only Mr. Mitra, the lawyer-secretary of the Royist union, came. He also said that the objections should be sent to the voters, not to the union.

But Mr. Shakoor obliged him by saying that he would go into the question on its merits.

OUTRAGEOUS CONDUCT OF OFFICER

The Revising Officer's conduct was outrageous. Instead of insisting on

Electoral Rolls Scandal In Cawnpore

9,000 FALSE NAMES PASSED AS GENUINE

Revising Officer Helps Royists

The most scandalous instance of a Revising Officer-in-Charge of the Electoral Rolls passing off 9,000 bogus names as genuine comes from the Trade Union Constituency in Cawnpore.

GENUINE VS. BOGUS UNIONS

THE Communist-led Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha is the biggest trade union in the U.P. It has led the workers in mighty strike struggles against the owners and against Police violence. It is the only genuine trade union of the textile workers of Cawnpore, the U.P.'s biggest industrial centre.

To break the strength and solidarity of the workers, the Government inspired the formation of a Royist Textile Labour Union, and the owners paid one Alwe to form the 'National' Mill Mazdoor Union. Both are paper unions and have never had any genuine membership or real influence over the workers.

PREPARATIONS FOR BOGUSSING

On the eve of the Provincial Elections, however, these bogus unions started another game. The Royist union which claimed 1,500 paper members in 1944, suddenly inflated its roll to 6,000 in 1945. The Alwe "union" also claimed 2,000 members while the real union, the Mazdoor Sabha, had only 3,300 members!

This inflated membership of the bogus unions was arrived at not by enrolling new members but by just cooking up fictitious names. The game was transparent. The total number of voters in the trade union constituency for the whole of the U.P. is only 22,000. If 6,000 solid votes could be secured in Cawnpore alone, the Royists could get a 'Labour Representative' elected who would be acceptable to the Government.

MAZDOOR SABHA EXPOSES RACKET

The Mazdoor Sabha immediately decided to expose this racket. It got

a copy of the Factory Labour List, compiled by the Labour Office, and put fifty trade union workers on the job to compare the voters' lists supplied by the bogus unions, with it. The result was astounding. Thousands of purely fictitious names had been included in them.

Through the mill committees, investigations on the spot were made by about 300 textile workers inside the mills in the various departments. Nine thousand objections were then filed; the objection forms were specially printed by the Mazdoor Sabha.

When the Sabha representative asked him to send for the muster rolls of the mills to check up, he refused to do so on the plea that he was not holding a Court session and had no powers to do so.

When the Mazdoor Sabha offered to put 200 workers in the witness box to swear that they had inquired in every department of their mills and failed to find any workers with such names, Mr. Shakoor refused to hear their evidence on the ground that he was not a Judge or Magistrate!

When the fact that some names like Bansi, son of Chhote, appeared no fewer than seven times as working in the same department and residing in the same place, was pointed out, he agreed that it looked suspicious, but disregarded even this internal evidence and said he would cut out the repetitions and keep only one of the names!

At every stage Mr. Shakoor went all out to help the Royist union, shut out all evidence and finally passed an order overruling all the Mazdoor Sabha's objections.

It was the most flagrant case of a Government officer openly defying all rules to back a bogus union.

The Mazdoor Sabha is moving the Court for injunction. All trade unions must immediately pass resolutions protesting against this scandalous attack on the workers' right to have their own genuine representatives in the Assembly. The U. P. Government Secretariat must be bombarded with these protest resolutions. The workers' right must not be trampled upon in this arbitrary, high-handed manner.



Three of the Injured Red Flag Workers.

For Digger, Better Party Press

2000 CASH IN THREE DAYS!

Not 5 Lacs But 6 By March 1 —New Target

The attack on our headquarters and press took place on the night of the 23rd Jan. and by the afternoon of the 27th we had already received spontaneous donations of over Rs. 2,000—all sent to nullify the work of the political hooligans who had destroyed the property of the people.

It was a great response—a response not to any appeal for the last issue of "People's Age" itself came out only on the 27th—but a response, straight and direct, to the news that the headquarters and press of our movement had been attacked, a response that was in itself a fitting reply to the creatures who thought that physical violence could destroy a people's movement.

Rightly the response began in our headquarters itself. Early in the morning, on the 24th, Shrinathi Deshpande, wife of one of our veteran comrades, S. V. Deshpande, editor of our Marathi edition, Lokyug, came to the office and handed over two silver tumblers and a silver "kum-kum" box—as the family's contribution to our fund. It was the beginning of the unceasing stream which we know will not end till our whole fund is over-subscribed.

Middle-Class

First of all was a cheque from Professor D. D. KOSANBI of Poona, one of our best and most respected intellectuals, a leading figure in his own field of work, Mathematics. On the 25th, he sent us Rs. 50 as a "small contribution towards the cost of reconstruction."

Others to respond were five professors of Khalsa College, Amritsar, who have promised Rs. 150 to help "to repair the damage caused" and "also put the Communist Party on a better footing so that it can carry on its programme of national unity and freedom."

And many other middle-class intellectuals have also sent us money. CYRIL MODAK, author of "Marching Millions," has sent a telegram, promising a donation; a student from Calcutta has promised Rs. 10 and others.

"Let these Fascist goondas see that the more they attack us, the more we love our Party and the

"Cannot Condemn It Enough"

—Babu Purushottamdas

Tandon's Statement

Babu PURUSHOTTAMDAS TANDON, ex-Speaker of the U.P. Legislative Assembly and a prominent Congress leader, was much upset when he read of the attack and arson on our Party headquarters and press. In a statement issued to the Press he says:

"I cannot sufficiently condemn this act of hooliganism. Our fitness for Swaraj must include toleration for opinions that differ from ours and in no case can we take liberties in civic life with persons and properties of our opponents."

more honestly we serve the Party." He ends his letter by saying that, only two years ago he was "a strong anti-Communist"; and now he is just a sympathiser, but he vows he will work actively for the Party after his examinations are over.

An artist friend of ours in Bombay, who has known us through Chittaprosad, our staff artist, was also very moved by the attack and immediately sent us Rs. 150 towards our fund.

Army Officers

Just as the best of the middle class professional people have rallied to us as soon as the news of the attack reached them, so also did our friends and sympathisers in the army.

A young I.A.F. Officer sent us Rs. 500 and told our comrade: "What desperate fools they are who think that violence can smash us! He expects to collect at least Rs. 1,000 more from his fellow officers."

Another Indian officer, a good sympathiser, heard the story of the attack and immediately put his hand into his pocket, took out all the money he had with him, and gave us Rs. 45.

And our British friends too; one of our best comrades in the Army—he fought in the International Brigade against Franco—sent us Rs. 50 and wrote:

"Don't those fools (who passively look on while the Communists are attacked) realise that such activities play right into the hands of the police? What a golden opportunity for the bureaucrats to tar with the same brush this miserable gang of hooligans and the genuinely patriotic mass of demonstrators."

"It only results in giving the police and the bureaucrats grounds for branding the demonstration as a whole as an uncontrollable rabble of looters and incendiaries which could only be stopped by a hail of bullets, thus giving them a means of covering up their own murderous intent."

Party Units

And our Party units too have rallied quickly to fight back. At Amalner on the 25th morning, all the workers came out on strike to protest against police violence in Bombay; the news of the attack on the P.H.Q. reached them only at 12 noon.

Immediately a meeting of all Party members was held and Rs. 448 collected, among the contributors was Rs. 100 from the President of the Great Kanyar Union MALHARI CHURATE, Rs. 20 from a teacher and Rs. 11 and Rs. 10 from two clerks.

That very evening a mass meeting of 5,000 was held—which passed a resolution condemning the attack on the P.H.Q.

From Anantapur too has come news. As soon as the news reached our comrades, they met and in spite of the fact that their Party unit is small and Anantapur is a famine district, they decided to double their quota—increase it from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 6,000 and already contributions have been received to the extent of Rs. 1,200.

The Anantapur Comrades wire us that "this is their reply to anti-Communist goondalms; this is the way to teach them that the voice of the Party cannot be silenced."

From Golden Rock, stronghold of the South Indian Railway workers comes the news that our workers and sympathisers immediately on hearing the news decided to collect Rs. 3,000 as a special fund as their contribution to make up for the damages and they have already sent Rs. 300. One Party sympathiser, PATEL sent Rs. 100 to Bombay as soon as he read the news of the attack.

Send! Send!

Yes, we here in the Party headquarters have been inspired by this great response—before even our Editor's appeal had gone to all our readers and comrades. But we have yet a lot to do. The destruction totals up to over a lakh—mostly in books burnt and press machinery badly damaged. And we have yet to reach our original target of five lakhs by March 1.

We have just a month to go. In that month, every comrade, every reader, must send every pie he can, we must reach our objective of six lakhs; every honest Congressman must be approached and asked to give in the name of democracy, as a symbol of his protest, against the attack.

This is the best way to answer the hooligans of our country—as of every country; this is the way to teach them that no Communist movement, no people's movement, has ever been broken up by the smashing of heads and throwing of stones.

—S. V. GHATE.

A Pioneer Of Socialist Journalism Donates Rs. 1000.

To The Editor, People's Age, BOMBAY.

Sir,

I was grieved to read of the brutal assaults on your office personnel and the wanton destruction of your press last Wednesday night. In the bonfire, your political enemies made of your books, furniture and stocks of paper and the blood they shed, I wonder how many will see the first streaks of the ugly dawn of Indian Fascism.

On the night of the Reichstag fire in Berlin in 1933, there must have been many people in Germany who might have dismissed the whole thing as something unpleasant but something that did not concern them; at the worst it was a funeral of the German Communists.

But one section after another of German society was gradually disillusioned and found itself in the grip of a political terrorism, the early beginnings of which it had ignored or connived at.

Today the whole world can see that what began as a funeral of the German Communist Party has well-nigh ended in a funeral of the German nation itself.

In our country too, political gangsterism is now making its appearance; and if it is not checked in time, it may not be long before the

"Reveals Deplorable State Of Affairs"

—Congress President's Statement On Anti-Communist Violence

NEW DELHI, Jan. 30. MAULANA A.B.U.L. KALAM AZAD, the Congress President, in a statement on the attack on the headquarters of the Communist Party in Bombay, says that the attack reveals a state of affairs which deserves the serious consideration of all those who are concerned with the growth of healthy public life in the country.

Maulana Azad adds:

"How and why the attack originated is not clear, but the facts as reported are highly deplorable. Public life will become an ugly fratricidal strife if violence is permitted to be employed between different groups holding different views. However violently opposed a political party may be to others, it must be allowed to function normally and under no circumstances should it be subjected to violence. I strongly condemn the behaviour of those who are guilty of violence against the Communists in Bombay. We must never forget that everyone is entitled to his own views and everyone has the right to express his views without running the risk of molestation."

—A.P.I.

clean and proud traditions of Indian public life are dragged into blood and mire.

One is therefore happy to read of the emphatic condemnation by Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru of this political outrage by our people against our own people.

Whatever political mistakes you might have made in the eyes of others, this thing must not happen again, if we are to move towards freedom and not Fascism.

As an isolated Socialist belonging to no party, I wonder what else I can do except enclose herewith a cheque of Rs. 1,000 as my humble contribution towards making good the terrible loss you have sustained at the hands of political hoodlums.

Yours truly, (Sd.) M. G. DESAI.

BOMBAY, 27th January, 1946.

Accused and jailed in the famous Meerut Conspiracy Case, Mr. M. G. Desai is one of the pioneers of working-class journalism in this country and was on the staff of KHANSAH the earliest "red" journal of Bombay in the twenties. Mr. Desai is an independent Socialist and a widely-expected writer and journalist.

"Disgraceful And Harmful To Country's Progress"

—Say Allahabad

Varsity Professors

By wire from Zafar Haq, ALLAHABAD, Jan. 20.

The following statement has been issued by some prominent professors of Allahabad University:

"We learn with deep concern of the reported attacks on the Communist Party headquarters in Bombay by a section of professionalists on the occasion of Netaji's birthday on 23rd January, which resulted in injury to some 40 Communist Party members and destruction of about one-lakh worth of books and other property.

"We consider such behaviour disgraceful. Whatever may be the differences between the Communists and others, such acts of popular violence can only harm the country's progress."

Signed: S. C. Deb (Head of the Department of English).

Dr. Bhanuprasad Saxena (Senior Lecturer of History).

Balaram Saxena (Senior Lecturer of History).

N. C. Mukherji (Senior Lecturer in Philosophy).

R. N. Kaul (Lecturer, Philosophy Department).

O. P. Bhargava (Lecturer, History Department).

F. G. Gupta (Lecturer, History Department).

H. S. Ghosh (Lecturer, English Department).

E. L. Chatterjee.