

India's Revolution

Slowly, but none the less surely, the knowledge that the imperialism operates alike in all countries is coming into the possession of the masses. All of the imperialistic nations have attempted to disguise their brutal designs with idealistic phrases and for five years have succeeded in deluding the peoples and driving them to slaughter. Those who remember how our ally, England, was acclaimed as the most democratic country in the world, and who were fooled by the well-financed propaganda campaign that was carried on by the British imperialists, should read the following article and remember while reading that this country furnished men and money to maintain in power the same interests that are perpetrating the terrible atrocities described below, not for any idealistic program but to retain the income of some \$200,000,000 per year that imperial Britain sucks from the lifeblood of the people of India.—(Ed.)

In the light of the evolutionary growth of revolutions and their constant approach to more ideal goals, it is of extreme interest to estimate the significance of the present revolution in India. This revolution has come out of desperation, and to the goal of absolute freedom it must go. Whether it succeeds now or not, it has already contributed a new and radical idea to the progress of humanity, which will be a permanent gift to international thought. This contribution comes, perhaps, nearer the goal of freedom than that of any other revolution because the contribution is that highly idealistic and inspiring one of passive resistance.

In its inception, the Indian revolution was passive in character. Though in the later stages it lost its original character and switched toward active resistance, yet it never lost sight of the spirit of passivism. Even the recourse to violence, forced upon the people by the British government, was more a protest against brutalities and barbarities committed on the unarmed and untrained masses by the alien autocrats. It was adopted only when they were not allowed to yield to the fiercest and most alien laws that legalize and perpetuate the enslavement of themselves—one-fifth of humanity.

The desire for freedom has been growing stronger and stronger day by day. In 1917 the British authorities recognized the revolutionary tendencies by the appointment of the Rowlatt commission to investigate revolutionary conspiracies in India. By this act alone they acknowledge the invalidity of their title to rule India against the will of her 315 millions of people. In 1919, driven to desperation by the continued growth of the revolutionary movement, the government introduced the infamous Rowlatt bills and had them passed against the unanimous voice of the Indian members of the legislature council, who are, of course, in the minority. These Rowlatt acts revived the Spanish Inquisition and the star chamber of the Tudor and Stuart period in their worst forms. According to their provisions:

1. Any Indian is subject to arrest without trial, upon suspicion, and detention without trial for an unlimited duration of time.
 2. The burden of proof rests upon the accused.
 3. The accused is kept ignorant of the names of his accusers and of witnesses against him. The accused is not confronted with his accusers or with witnesses against him, and is entitled only to a written account of the offenses attributed to him.
 4. The accused is deprived of the help of a lawyer, and no witnesses are allowed in his defense.
 5. The accused is given a secret trial, before a commission of three high court judges, who may sit at any place they deem fit—in a cellar if they choose. The method of their procedure or their findings may not be made public.
 6. Trial by jury is denied. The right of appeal is denied. No order under this act shall be called into question in any court, and no suit or prosecution or other legal proceeding shall be made against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this act.
 7. The accused may be convicted of an offense with which he is not charged.
 8. The prosecution "shall not be bound to observe the rules of the law of evidence." Prosecution may accept evidence of absent witnesses. The witnesses may be dead, or may never have existed.
 9. The authorities are given power to use "any and every means" in carrying out the law and in obtaining confessions. In other words, torture.
 10. Any person possessing "seditious" documents, pictures or words, intending that the same shall be published or circulated, is liable to arrest and imprisonment. According to the definition of "seditious" absence of affection for the British government would be legally held to mean disaffection against it.
 11. Men who have served prison terms for political offenses may be restricted to certain specific areas, must report regularly to the police, cannot change address without notification of authorities, and must give securities for good behavior. They can never thereafter write on or discuss or attend meetings on any subject of public importance including even social, religious and educational.
 12. Any person (even the family) voluntarily associating with an ex-political prisoner may be arrested and imprisoned.
 13. Search, without warrant of any suspected place or home is provided for.
- The people of India, led by that great passive resistance advocate, M. K. Gandhi, and that spirited soul, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, raised their voice of protest by observing the 6th of April as a national day of humiliation and prayer. All over India shops were shut and general mourning was observed as a silent protest against the passage of the Rowlatt bills. But undue interference of the authorities prevented them from even making a passive demonstration of protest. Shops were opened at the point of bayonet, passive resistance leaders were kidnaped and transferred to unknown destinations, and, according to the London Herald,

12 persons in one city were flogged for destroying government notices. For a number of days following the day of humiliation and prayer, the country was quiet. But suddenly, on April 11, the whole of India, from Bombay to Calcutta and from Kashmir to Madras, went on a general strike. That day witnessed the greatest display of passivism the world has ever seen. People threw themselves in front of tram cars and moving trains, and succeeded in their attempts to induce their fellow-workers to stop work. They refrained from picketing and all other direct action.

This extreme passive renunciation the like of which is not to be found in the history of any country, brought in that extraordinary unanimity among all classes and all creeds. High and low, rich and poor, Hindu and Parsee, Mohammedan and Brahmin, were solidly united against the foreign rulers, for the emancipation of their motherland. Hindus went to Moslem mosques and prayed long with their Mohammedan comrades in the orthodox Mohammedan style; and the Mohammedans went to the Hindu temples and prayed in the orthodox Hindu style, clasping the hands of their Hindu brothers as they knelt, praying for the same great ideal—the freedom of India. Such a thing as this is unique; it is possible only in India where freedom of toleration for differences of opinion exists in practice, and is not a dead letter. This fraternization of two widely different religious sects is a contribution to the real civilization which is to come, and India is well proud of it. Though the revolution may be suppressed by sheer brute force, still this contribution will live through all time.

Even with this fraternization the British officials interfered. Mosques and temples were ordered closed and surrounded by police and military guards. The people were forced to disperse by fire from machine guns and bombs from aeroplanes—the "civilized" weapons of Christian nations.

Naturally, as might have been expected in any other country, passive protest of the masses was ineffective, and the people, losing patience, resorted to active methods. They began destroying banks and postoffices, demolishing government buildings, destroying bridges and means of communication, blowing up railway trains carrying troops to kill them, and attacking Englishmen. All this was by way of open challenge to the right of alien domination and economic exploitation.

It was at this juncture that M. K. Gandhi called upon the people participating in the passive resistance movement to refrain from all further acts of violence, declaring that attacks upon Englishmen and other lawless acts constituted a blot on the movement for which the people should atone. He then fixed three days for fasting in atonement for acts of violence. And, according to the London Times for April 25, his followers did three days' fasting as "penance."

But the situation was out of control. It became so serious that the governor general, on the 14th of April, announced in unmistakable terms, that he was "satisfied that a state of open rebellion" existed in India. Thereafter Mr. Gandhi retreated from the field, and the moderate elements—the home rulers—aligned to the side of the government and denounced the movement, thus repeating the history of the Russian revolution of 1905.

New India, however, had tasted of the cup of freedom and went on its march toward emancipation. By the 20th of the month nearly half of the entire country was placed under martial law. The following day the governor general issued an ordinance ordering deportation to the Andaman islands for life, or the extreme form of punishment, for political suspects tried under martial law. He forbade the publication of all newspapers except those first passed upon and censored by government agents.

Following the martial law order, all news from India, meager as it had always been, ceased. It was not until the Afghans on the northwestern frontier invaded India on the 9th of May that any news was permitted to reach America. The news stated that the Afghans were guarding the Khyber and Bolan passes, the only two passes connecting India with Afghanistan, and through Afghanistan with Russia. The Afghans further sent a mission to Moscow, thereby violating the treaty of 1880, by which the British had forced them to relinquish their right to treat independently with other nations.

These facts are especially significant when we consider that the Afghans were supplied with machine guns, apparently from some European source, and that Hindu revolutionists have been stationed in Moscow working with the Russian socialist government since Nov. 1917. Furthermore, an article published in the Bombay Times of April 15 stated that the bolshevik had forwarded \$25,000 sterling to Bombay. The same paper quoted a telegram from Helsingfors, in March, predicting the outbreak.

News coming from India at the present time is very meager. But this is certain: The revolution is on, and also are the massacres perpetrated by the British on the masses—atrocities compared with which German barbarities in Belgium sink to nothingness. These atrocities are carried on by the very power which has been given the "mandatory" of practically half the habitable world by the conference of old diplomats sitting at Versailles. This much is certain: Britain will sacrifice much of that habitable area before she will give up India. She will give China to Japan, she will give up many of her other possessions, but desperate and bleeding India, and the route leading to India, she will hold by every means from diplomacy to liquid fire and poison gas.

Whatever the outcome of the present revolution, India has shown that it is not lagging behind any other nation in idealism and radicalism. The Hindus and Mohammedans have been cemented by the closest ties. Younger India has shown to the world what it desires and what it must have for self-existence. India has determined what it needs and it is also determined to get it. The people will not adopt violent means simply for the sake of violence. By

LADY BEATTY



Lady Beatty, wife of Admiral Beatty, commander-in-chief of the grand fleet of Great Britain, and her little boy. Lady Beatty's exquisite charm and devotion to her family is well known in England's social circle. She was formerly Miss Ethel Field of Chicago, U. S. A.

birth and by heritage they abhor it in practice as well as in theory. But if their passive efforts are met by active and brutal opposition, they will not hesitate to adopt those measures for the time being, to smash to pieces all civilized Christian methods of subjugation, and to smash them once for all.

In idealism and radicalism India is not inferior to the inspired idealists of other countries. In some parts of the country the people are attempting to adopt communal ownership of land and property, and to revive their indigenous democratic village community system. They have succeeded in a few sections, such as in the Punjab, where the revolution has gained a strong foothold. The official press states that the "fanatical" Hindus are demanding expropriation of landlords, and communal ownership and control of the earth! It is true that these "fanatical" and simple Hindus have always held that the land belongs to the people, and now they are determined to see that this becomes a reality. The social and economic ideas of the people to the north of the Himalayas are not new to the Hindus.

—SAILLENDRA NATH GHOSE.

RENTAL PROBLEM BIG IN GERMANY

Not Enough Houses and the Rents are Exceedingly High. Rich Pay Premiums for Homes.

By CARL D. GROUT (United Press Staff Correspondent.) Berlin. (By Mail.)—Berlin is facing a serious housing problem. There are insufficient houses and rents are vastly high. Out of this situation is developing a demand that the municipality do something to alleviate conditions, particularly the conditions of the poor. Recently the question became so grave that there were threats among the populace to go on a rent strike—that is, to refuse to pay rent.

While this proposed refusal arose in part from the communistic spirit of the times, it was in part the expression of a long continued dissatisfaction with quarters and with prices. By some of the outlying districts, people live in barracks, and they have long since tired of this mode of existence.

As for even the well-to-do, the housing situation is difficult. Just as in the American national capital during the war, people advertised frantically for apartments or houses and offered fancy premiums so are Germans here advertising constantly, with the bait of a large reward for desirable places.

While up to this writing the rent strike proposal has been merely sporadic threats, the question of housing has come up quite strongly of late for government consideration. And one of the answers given in the course of testimony on the subject was that the illicit trade in lumber and building material—just as with the "Schleichhandel" in food—had made prices of building stuffs soar out of reach of ordinary contractors.

In line with development of socialistic proposals here, many persons would like the government to go into the housing business on a large scale but this has not so far come to any material plan.

Berlin's housing deficiency arises both from the fact that there has been a considerable influx of war workers, and from the fact that, during the war, it was impossible to attend to normal building requirements. The tendency toward socialization has developed recently into a movement for municipal purchase of the street railway system. At this time, it appears that control will be taken over within a few weeks.

According to the franchise granted the street railway company, the city has the right to regulate fares; and while it permitted a wartime raise to 17 1/2 pennigs, it now has told the company that this cannot be continued. A drop back to the old rate would mean that the company lose hundreds of thousands of marks annually, and this fact is being used as a club by the city in its program of taking the concern over.

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Treat yourself—buy Thrift and War Savings stamps.

PACKARD IS GOING INTO FLYING GAME

The Packard Motor Car company has acquired a tract of land on the outskirts of Detroit for use as a private experimental flying field in the development of its aviation program.

The field lies between Detroit and Mt. Clemens almost midway between Morrow field in northwest Detroit and Seifridge field near Mt. Clemens. It is large enough to permit the landing of any kind of airplane; it is accessible by improved highway and interurban railways and it is easily susceptible of improvements which will be begun at once to make it a model experimental field.

Lieut. Col. J. G. Vincent, vice president of engineering of the Packard company, and one of the principal designers of the Liberty motor, is enthusiastic over the acquisition which insures him and his staff facilities for proving out both engines and planes.

Interested in Development. "I am tremendously interested in the installation of flying fields everywhere in America, and particularly in the neighborhood of our large cities, between which we may expect the most travel," said Colonel Vincent, "because the whole development of peace-time aviation is limited strictly by the landing field facilities. Private companies and individuals are seeing this with increasing clearness, and communities that want their share in the development of this new form of transportation should be energetic in action right now."

Immediately after the war Packard announced its increasing interest in aviation, and especially in the peace-time development of the airplane, as well as in co-operation in every way with the government's development of equipment that would have a war-time value. With this field we shall be able to further our work in pursuit of this interest in the most practical manner, taking our efforts with those of other private and public agencies working toward similar results.

"Our intention is to work and exchange courtesies with companies and individual aviators interested along the lines we propose to follow. For instance, at Dayton, Ohio, Col. E. A. Deeds, who was one of the chief forces in creating the American military air service, and C. F. Kettering, an electrical engineer, have a private field. Mr. Kettering is doing some special work on wireless communication between pilots and their fields. We shall install his apparatus at our field, and there will be frequent flights between their grounds and ours.

Fine Field Established.

"Through the efforts of Messrs. Deeds and Kettering a fine field has been established at Ohio State university in Columbus. Prominent citizens of Detroit are supporting a movement to have the municipality take over the present United States air service field, known as Morrow field, in the northwest outskirts of Detroit. Our project will in no way diminish the need for going through with this enterprise; rather, it emphasizes it, for a field larger than ours is absolutely necessary for certain purposes, as, for example, in making the first flights of machines. We shall try to make the most extensive use of every facility, private and public, to promote the immediate development of aviation in this country."

Packard will begin immediately to grade, tile and seed the new field, and will erect buildings as they are needed. Everything ought to be ready for active operations by mid-summer. As soon as the field is ready for use, it will be properly marked so that it can be located easily from the air.

DELIVER BY PLANE.

The first deliveries of repair parts for Service motor trucks were made May 6, when two airplanes, operated by the Service Motor Truck company of Wabash, Ind., made a flight to Akron, Ohio. Repair parts were ordered by wire in the morning by the Firestone Tire & Rubber company for the Service motor trucks operated by them.

The wire was twelve minutes in transit, and eighteen minutes after it was received at the Service Motor Truck company the first plane was on its way, and the part ordered was delivered in Akron two hours and forty-five minutes later. The distance covered was approximately 250 miles. Stops were made at Defiance, Ohio, and Chicago Junction, Ohio.

The planes left Wabash in a heavy rain, but were aided by a wind from the west. The Service Motor Truck company is the first company in the United States to make use of aviation in commercial ways. It operates four Canadian JN-4 planes, which are under the control of experienced army fliers.

In addition to delivering Service motor truck parts, this company organized the Service Aviation Training & Transportation company, which is training aviators, arranging for passenger flights, making express deliveries and staging exhibitions.

INVENT MOTOR ALARM.

There is danger in driving your car when your motor is overheated, and when the water runs low in the radiator there is danger of burning bearings or cracking the engine's cylinders.

To prevent this a New York company has brought out what it calls "The Motor Alarm," which blows a continuous blast on a siren when the water is too low and the cooling system is not working properly.

TEACHERS' PAY RAISED.

Chicago, July 24.—A board of education committee has voted that teachers be paid a \$1,000 minimum wage. This will advance all primary teachers from \$775 a year. If the board approves the recommendation the teachers will be paid the new scale dating back from the first of the year.

\$5,000

Needed, and Needed Badly,

to carry on the defense of the Bulletin staff in the courts. Two members of the staff have been fined a total of \$9,500, on charges of sedition, charges which were the direct result of the effort of the corrupt political machine in Montana to put a free press out of business. The cases have been appealed to the State Supreme Court. It requires money to fight these cases through the various courts; it takes money for traveling expenses, etc., for transcripts of evidence and stenographers' hire. None of the money goes to pay lawyers' fees, the lawyers engaged in the cases not only having donated their services, but actually paying their own expenses.

The fines imposed and the expenses of fighting the cases through the courts, are the result of the Bulletin Staff keeping the Bulletin alive, despite the order issued by the copper interests—and if you believe the Bulletin has been of service to the cause of labor and the honest element generally, you should help defray the expenses incident to the fight for a FREE PRESS by contributing according to your means. The need for funds is imperative and you should not delay sending in your contributions.

Names of donors to the Free Press Defense fund will not be published unless by special request, for obvious reasons, but receipts will be given or forwarded by mail.

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