

rising wave of strikes and in the campaign in connection with the trial of the railwaymen of Craiova, have caused reactions amongst the ruling classes themselves. The Rumanian bourgeoisie and the Boyars see no other solution for their troubles but the adoption of a fascist dictatorship, but there are strong differences of opinion in their ranks as to the best way to do so. Numerous combinations are being made at the moment in bourgeois political circles with a view to replacing the existing liberal government.

The Camarilla around the King has not abandoned its desire for an open fascist dictatorship based on the army, the "Iron Guards" and a certain number of politicians like Goga, Argeliano and Averescu, but the liberals and the National Peasant Party, supported by the French Foreign Office, are opposed to this.

Inside the liberal Party itself a struggle is proceeding between the old guard under Bratianu and the young guard under Tartarescu, the Prime Minister. Tartarescu is in favour of the continuation of martial law, the press censorship and the alteration of the constitution along authoritative lines. A group has also formed itself in the party under the influence of the masses which demands the maintenance of all democratic freedoms, but this is a manoeuvre to prevent the disappointed supporters of the party from breaking away and going over to the "Left".

Similar struggles are going on inside the National Peasant (Zarunist) Party. Maniu is well aware of the deep discontent of the masses and is trying to exploit this discontent in his own interests, whereby he has openly attacked the royal camarilla. His activity of late clearly shows that he is determined to carry on the struggle against that section of capitalism which finds its representatives in the royal camarilla and which enjoys the support of British and German imperialism. A meeting of his supporters in Kovale passed resolutions against martial law, against the press censorship, and against the proposed measures to dismiss many officials. The lawyer supporters of Maniu have offered to represent free of charge all those officials who are contemplating legal action against the government in defence of their rights. By these means the National Peasant Party hopes to retain its support amongst the masses. The Valda fraction in the party openly opposes Maniu and supports the royal camarilla, but this fraction is in the minority.

The national congress of the National Peasant Party is to take place in September and it will draw up a programme for a new government. The party is striving to deceive the masses with phrases about "a new peasant State." In reality the programme of the party is a fascist one cloaked in demagogic phrases. The ideal of Mihalaches, the leader of the National Peasant Party, is to further the formation of a class of well-to-do peasants which would provide a solid basis for a National Peasant Party government. The party programme also provides for the re-valuation of the lei, a measure which would mean inflation and all its consequent miseries for the working class and peasant masses.

The unrest within the ranks of the ruling classes is the expression of the intensification of the economic crisis. We are witnessing what is really an "upper class crisis" of the Rumanian bourgeoisie. New groupings, new alignments, and new splits are taking place within the ranks of the bourgeoisie. The Communist Party of Rumania is utilising this situation in order to mobilise the masses of the workers and peasants, the officials, and the national minorities for a struggle to secure a revolutionary solution to the crisis.

The Revolutionary Movement of the Proletariat in Ecuador

By Ricardo A. Paredes

The world crisis of capitalism made itself felt also in Ecuador, a country ruled by imperialism and possessing many feudal features. The crisis brought about a sharper differentiation of the classes, whilst at the same time intensifying the differences within the ruling classes, and caused a regrouping of the political forces. The movement of the broad masses has also reached unprecedented dimensions.

The economic crisis in Ecuador is the most serious it has ever experienced. It has brought into movement the proletariat, which in the course of its struggles at the beginning of 1934 was able to lay the basis of a firm trade union movement.

The partial improvement of the economic situation which has set in recently is due mainly to inflationist measures. The imposition of protective tariffs on certain products manufactured in the

country, such as shoes, textile fabrics, flour, butter, etc., has led to considerable friction among the various groups of exploiters. The improvement in the economic situation is also due to the orders for war material, in particular shoes and grain, during the conflict between Colombia and Peru and the time of the mobilisation of the reserves in Ecuador.

This apparent revival, however, displays all the negative features and all the symptoms of a fresh intensification of the crisis, which is developing within the frame of the general crisis of capitalism.

The economic consequences of the policy of the bourgeoisie and of the feudal landlords are fatal for the toiling masses. As a result of inflation speculation was rampant, which caused an increase in the prices of all the important articles of consumption in particular of goods imported from abroad. The price of medicines rose 300 per cent, and that of many industrial articles were doubled. The purchasing power of the masses greatly declined. Although a number of workers were again absorbed in industry, this took place at the cost of the remaining workers and employees, whose wages had fallen by at least a third during the last two years. The small pensioners and depositors have been ruined by the inflation.

The increase in prices and the demand for labour induced the workers to commence a struggle, which at the beginning bore the features of a struggle of the people for a reduction of the prices of articles of consumption, but which developed into a proletarian struggle as soon as the workers went on strike.

Since the end of 1933, the toilers of Ecuador have commenced to become more and more independent of bourgeois influence. The fierce struggle of the toiling masses against the Martinez Mera government, of hunger and terrorism led to street demonstrations, political general strikes and protest movements of all kinds, which brought about the downfall of this government. But although the Communists were the most active fighters in the foremost ranks, the influence of the bourgeois opposition groups was still very considerable.

The recent struggles, however, in particular those in Guayaquil, already displayed a definite class character and had a clear Communist leadership, as a result of which the trade union movement in Ecuador received a powerful impetus. During 1934 the young Communist Party of Ecuador has consolidated itself, liquidated the fractional struggles, made a serious turn in its whole policy and taken up active trade union work.

The starting point of the proletarian movement in the present year was the setting up of the united front under the leadership of the Communist Party. The Communists penetrated into the labour organisations, a great number of which have even small employers in their ranks and tend to partake of the character of mutual benefit societies. In Guayaquil, where the labour struggles reached their highest point, the Communist Party at the beginning of 1934 possessed no influence in the proletarian organisations, because it was isolated from the masses, thanks to its wrong policy in the trade union sphere. By changing its methods of work the Party was able to establish the united front and a unity committee against speculation was set up. The socialist party and the reformist trade unions, although at first offering fierce resistance, were compelled by the pressure of the masses to join the united front. Nearly all the organised forces of the workers in Guayaquil, the unions of workers and employees, the small traders, the O.F. and the S.P. joined the unity committee, which was reinforced during the struggle by new and reconstructed organisations.

The unity committee energetically set to work and compelled the municipal council of Guayaquil and the government to adopt measures against the speculators. In order to divert the movement, which had assumed dangerous dimensions for the bourgeoisie, the municipal council of Guayaquil, on the proposal of the socialist leaders, who had entered into negotiations behind the back of the unity committee, granted a loan of 10,000 sucres for the establishment of people's kitchens. The Communists exposed this manoeuvre and the loan was withdrawn.

From the first commencement of the struggle the Communists displayed their superiority over the two other wings of the movement: the anarcho-reformists and the socialists, who were fiercely opposed to each other and only united in their common attacks against the Communists. The anarcho-reformists and the socialists, however, withdrew from the unity committee just in the middle of the fiercest struggle, when a street demonstration was prohibited by the police. The Communists, however, succeeded in re-establishing the united front. The numerically insignificant anarcho-

reformists, led by... ultimately will...

As a pro... the uni... May 1... later develop... which led... its fraction... the struggle... letarian stru... the trade un... The stri... laneous stri... ended victor... the most im... place one... workers of...

Germ...

T

As chil... they are... blaint... the arrangem... socialist pa... every way...

The gre... greater pre... treated, the... speeches, w... thing was... triumphan... of the nat...

Every... past... of thousan... On the fir... companies... national s... The four... detachmen... And every... by Bengal... "Hell!"

Howev... boastful p... loud speak... anxiety wh... in the spe... of the "R... which hit... occupied a... background... promises... brance of... Leader"... "Leader"... Behind... Leader"... imperial... indicated...

At th... was read... the futur... manifesto... national... finally, co... associates...

reformists left the unity committee, but the socialists were compelled to remain in it, but continued their sabotage until they ultimately withdrew just before May 1.

As a protest against the prohibition of the street demonstrations the unity committee proclaimed a 24-hour general strike for May 1. A number of trade union committees were formed, which later developed into powerful trade unions. The Communist Party, which led the movement, worked in the unity committee through its fraction, and the Communists were the most active elements in the struggle. At that time the movement was an outspoken proletarian struggle, which was conducted for higher wages and for the trade union organisations.

The strike movement commenced this year with the spontaneous strike of the railway workers of *Puerto Bolivar*, which ended victoriously. In the factory "La Internacional" in *Quito*, the most important textile factory in the country, two strikes took place one after the other which led to the radicalisation of the workers of *Quito*. The strike of the slaughtermen in *Ambato*

ended without success owing to the lack of experience of the local Communists.

The government which had followed the *Martinez Vera* government attempted to frustrate the general strike on May 1 by proclaiming this day a national holiday. The workers thereupon proclaimed the strike in those undertakings which never stop working on such holidays: the telephone service, the street car and auto-bus service, etc., and fought with great energy, offering fierce resistance in the streets of *Guayaquil* to the attacks of the police. The railway workers joined in the general strike. In some factories the strike was continued and in many cases ended in success. The practical result of this strike movement was a powerful upsurge of the labour movement, in particular the creation of a number of important trade unions.

The young proletariat of Ecuador is faced with the prospect of big struggles. A fresh strike wave is imminent. It is the most important task of the Communists and of the revolutionary workers of Ecuador to prepare for these struggles.

Germany

The Nuremberg Congress and the Decline of National Socialism

As children in the dark shout the louder the more frightened they are, so Hitler's demonstrations are becoming noisier and more blatant the nearer he feels his fall approaching. Every possible arrangement was made to make this year's congress of the national socialist party in Nuremberg, "the congress of victory," superior in every way to last year's congress.

There were still greater masses hustled to the congress, still greater processions organised, still more armed men were concentrated, the decorations were still more pompous and still more speeches were delivered by the national socialist leaders. Only one thing was not greater and that was impossible to organise. The triumphant feelings which existed last year amongst great masses of the national socialist supporters were not present this year.

Every day a different division of national socialists marched past "the Leader," who took the salute, and in this way hundreds of thousands defiled before Hitler during the week of the congress. On the first day it was the men of the uniformed labour service companies. The next day it was the political formations of the national socialist party. The third day it was the Hitler Youth. The fourth day it was the storm troops (S.A.) and the special detachments (S.S.). And on the fifth day it was the Reichswehr. And every day it was the same picture: "the Leader," illuminated by Bengal lights, gesticulating and mouthing, the masses shouting "Heil!"

However, the fanfare of trumpets, the roll of drums, and the boastful phrases which roared over immense distances by powerful loud speakers were not sufficient to stifle completely the inner anxiety and the feelings of insecurity which expressed themselves in the speeches of "the Leader." Heavily armed guard companies of the Reichswehr did duty night and day outside the hotel in which Hitler was staying, whilst the storm-troops (S.A.), which had occupied such prominent positions a year ago, were kept well in the background and out of harm's way this year. Not all the solemn promises and oaths of "eternal fidelity" could wipe out the remembrance of the events of June 30 and the subsequent days. "The Leader" is afraid of his guards and the guards are afraid of their "Leader."

Behind the seat, almost one might say, the throne, of "the Leader," were imitations of the coronation insignia of the German imperial house. In this naïve and absurd fashion "the Leader" indicated his secret longings.

At the opening session of the congress a manifesto of Hitler was read, drawing up a balance of the past year and pointing out the future tasks facing the movement. "The year," declared the manifesto, "brought with it the final consolidation of the power of national socialism in Germany." "Final consolidation"? What finally consolidated it? The massacre of Hitler's old friends and associates on June 30 and the subsequent days? Is it a sign of

"final consolidation" when the leaders of a movement begin to slaughter each other? Or was it the death of Hindenburg which gave Hitler the "supreme command" over the Reichswehr which brought about this "final consolidation"? More than once in the history of the world a despot has united supreme governmental power with the supreme command of the armed forces, but never once did that act prevent the development of a revolution. When Hitler declares again and again "the national socialist revolution has been concluded," what does that indicate if not his constant fear of a new revolution? Precisely because Hitler and his accomplices can already hear the underground rumblings of the approaching revolution he is doing his best to give his allies courage. Hence his grotesque command to historical development:

"The nervous age of the twentieth century has found its final conclusion in our movement. During the next thousand years there will be no further revolution in Germany."

The revolutionary working class of Germany has defied the worst ravages of the Hitler terror for eighteen months and has continued its work for the proletarian revolution. It will hardly consider the mouthings of a megalomaniac as sufficient reason for abandoning its work. At last year's congress of the national socialist party Hitler delighted his followers with a theory that the working class was racially of too poor a stock ever to grasp the high ideals of national socialism. That was a frank confession of the inability of the national socialists to deceive the workers. Since then the course of development has shown more and more clearly that Hitler is losing the support of even those masses who had been deluded by his demagogy. Hitler's manifesto quotes: Forty million voters for Germany's resignation from the League of Nations, 39 million voters for the national socialist Reichstag panel, and 38 million voters for Hitler as the supreme dictator of the German Reich, and describes this as "a gigantic development."

And in truth, the "gigantic successes" of national socialism on all fields bear a striking resemblance to this "gigantic development." Hitler declares that he is amused when the enemies of the national socialist regime point to the four million oppositional voters as a serious oppositional block. But since when does a normal man express amusement in the wildest and most reckless threats? The manifesto refers to the oppositional voters as "a group of outsiders, renegades and persons not wanted by us in any case," as "a Froude of destructive elements," and as "simple fools." And amongst the tasks enumerated at the end of the manifesto is one which calls for a concentrated effort to win over these "misguided German people who belong to us by blood and who have not yet found the way into our ranks perhaps because of ignorance and delusion."

However, those who "imagine that they can now resume their old activity of destruction and sabotage" are threatened with "the