

paring for the fascist regime, and in this they are getting the support of the reformists. Take, for example, **Spencerism** in the county of Notts, which is nothing more or less than fascism in another role. We find also that the union leaders in **South Wales** are actually utilising the discontent amongst the Welsh miners in order to form a united front of the Welsh miners with the coal owners, for the purpose of forcing down the conditions of the railway workers.

It is on account of these things, that the Communist Party of Great Britain welcomes the new line of policy that was laid down by the 9th. Plenum of the Comintern. We are prepared, with our small membership, to fight more tenaciously than ever the reformist leadership. We are prepared to fight them openly, while recognising the need for the united front slogan still being retained in the armoury of the Communist Party. We know the masses are inside the labour movement, inside the trade union movement. Consequently it is more necessary than ever, in spite of expulsions, to keep inside these organisations, to have a united front with the proletarian elements inside these organisations, stirring them up against the bureaucrats.

It is also necessary at the present time to spread the idea among the British working class of the importance of forming **workshop committees**, of forming factory committees, so that in that way we can mobilise the masses of Great Britain directly at the point of production; and more clearly expose the treachery of the labour leadership; so that in that way when the mass struggles develop in Great Britain — the Communist Party will be able to lead the masses, first against the Social Democrats and the reformists inside the working class movement, who are actually supporting the capitalist class, and against the whole capitalist state machine.

We are very optimistic so far as the future prospects of the British Communist Party are concerned. At its next Congress, the British Communist Party will be able to record a substantial increase in its membership and that it is on its way to becoming a mass Communist Party.

Comrade NISCHWITZ (Germany):

There is one question which, although not mentioned either in the report or the theses, is closely connected with the problems raised here at the Congress, namely **work among proletarian women**. That is why the German delegation thought it necessary to introduce an addendum to the theses on this question.

Comrades, I would like to say something about the position of **women workers in Germany**. As a result of the progress of rationalisation which is accompanied by technical improvements and sub-division of labour, skilled labour forces are becoming superfluous and must make room for unskilled cheap woman labour. Another consequence of rationalisation is the enormous difference between men's and women's wages. The result of all this is a considerable lowering of the standard of living of workers as a whole. **Woman labour has increased** not only in so-called women's industries, for instance, the textile, garment making industry, etc., rationalisation has enabled women to penetrate also into the specialised modern branches of industry, the most important among which are: the electro-technical, wireless, artificial silk and chemical industries. While the share of woman labour in the textile industry has increased by 31%, we witness an increase of 79% in the chemical and of 495% in the electro-technical industry. These figures show to what extent capitalism has been able to draw women into the process of production, to increase its profits by employing women under conditions which are nothing but unlimited exploitation.

In Germany, there are no provisions for the **protection of woman labour** in factories, no regulation of working hours, no protection for mother and child. The capitalist State, instead of developing social service, is intent on reducing the present meagre provisions. We have in Germany a law regulating working hours which is supposed to be based on the 8-hour day. But this law is so elastic that in practice the 8-hour day is seldom adhered to, overtime has become normal in Germany.

We have in Germany a law for the protection of mother and child. Although it entitles women workers to stay away from work six weeks before and six weeks after confinement, the social premises for this are lacking. No wages are paid for this period, and these women draw from the sickness fund only two thirds of their already small wage. This compels women workers to remain at the bench almost to the day of confinement. This is bad for the health of women workers and hence for the health of the proletariat and the health of the people as a whole.

This brutal exploitation on the part of employers has roused the woman proletariat as shown in women's fairly strong share in the **industrial struggles** of the workers. In Germany, women employed in the textile industry have carried on **independent struggles** for weeks and even months. In the last years women have been not a passive but an active element in the common struggle. There have been even cases when women were at the head of the struggle. Also in the women workers movement reformist trade union leaders have played the shabby role of lackeys of capitalism. Even the most elementary demands of women workers receive no support from them; on the contrary, they do everything in their power to suppress any spontaneous movement among women workers. The reformist trade unions failed to do their duty in the wage question, they signed unfavourable long term wage agreements. Neither have they done their duty in the working hours question, for they left the regulation of working hours to the arbitration courts.

In spite of the treachery of the reformist trade union leaders and the social democrats, the latter have succeeded, by radical phraseology and cultural and pacifist propaganda, to secure influence in women workers' circles, and to take them in tow. The best proof of this are the recent **Reichstag elections**; the nine million votes polled by the social democrats include a big percentage of proletarian women votes. But not only social democrats are wooing women workers, the bourgeoisie, too, does its utmost to secure their support. It uses every possible means to dissociate women workers from the working class and divert them from the class struggle, in order to be able to educate them in their national and Christian unions in an anti-labour spirit, and prepare them systematically for the coming wars. We must set against this intensive recruiting work of our opponents energetic recruiting work by the Communist Party. In industrial districts our foremost task should be to get hold of **women workers in factories**. In this connection the delegate system has proved successful. Russian women comrades have achieved considerable success with the delegate system, whereas we in the other countries, including Germany, have not got beyond the initial stage in many districts. The reasons of this weakness are: firstly, the mode of the application of the delegate system and secondly the inadequate factory nucleus work of our comrades.

We have not yet been able to get hold also of the social-democratic women workers in factories, and to dissociate them from the Social Democratic Party. In the meantime women delegates have carried out practical tasks set by us; for instance, literature sales have been organised, propaganda material as well as special recruiting material for trade unions has been produced. This material includes the political slogans of the Communist Party. This educational work has borne fruit; women delegates have taken a very active part in the various campaigns of the Communist Party.

The **Red Women and Girl's League** has also set itself important tasks. In spite of its youth this League has succeeded in drawing into its ranks non-Party women and girls, giving them systematic training and carrying on among them educational work.

The most important tasks confronting us are; energetic factory and trade union work, increased activity in factory nuclei, development of the delegate system among women workers. If we do justice to these tasks, we will be able to get hold of factory women workers and housewives, and to draw them into the class struggle and into the ranks of the Communist Party. The Communist Party should be able to revolutionise women, for without the army of revolutionary proletarian women world revolution cannot be victorious. (Applause.)