

## **AN APPEAL**

### **FOR CONVICTED S.I.R. LABOUR LEADERS.**

The South Indian Railway Labour Union, with branches all over the line, was championing the cause of the Railway Labourers. The S. I. Railway, who heard the grievances, received the deputations, and gave interviews to the representatives of the Union and in fact both the Union and the authorities were cordial in their relationship. During 1928, there was a proposal to retrench 3171 labourers in the workshops and the Union raised a strong protest about the same and tried its best to bring an amicable settlement; but at last strike was declared on 20-7-28 which resulted in the arrest of leaders of the S.I.R. Labour Union who were convicted for ten years by the Sessions Judge of Trichinopoly on a charge of conspiracy under section 120 B, of the Indian Penal Code to commit offences under section 126 and 128 of the Ry. Act. An appeal has been filed in the High Court of Madras and the leaders were let on bail. It is expected that the case will be taken up in the course of the next month.

The Union had sufficient funds, which was utilized during the strike, for organizing the strike, for supporting the families of the strikers, for defending the cases against the workers and also the conspiracy case launched against the leaders, which continued day to day for nearly 9 months and so the finances of the Union have become slender and the Union authorities are compelled to make this appeal so that, with the contributions, they could be able to fight out the case in the High Court. The appeal in the High Court will cost nearly Rs. 10,000.

The leaders, who were convicted, were all innocent and most of them were Railway servants. The families of the leaders will have to suffer if they were convicted and it is the duty of each and every individual to rise to the occasion.

This appeal is issued expecting a good response and it is requested that each and every individual and societies will help their mite to the cause, of the under-mentioned (whose names are omitted here) 15 leaders, who sacrificed their career for the cause of the labourers.

Remittances may be sent direct to Mr. V.P. K. Kayaroganam Pillai, Banker, Negapatam, South India.

T. Govindasamy Chettiar,  
President, Defence Committee.

*(This article was collected from the weekly 'Revolt' by Prof.S.V.Rajadurai, Head, Centre for Periyar Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli-600 0024, Tamil Nadu)*