

world, stood alone and carried the weight of this most terrible of wars so that liberty might still exist in the world. In saying this I know that I speak for all free countries that are represented here, and I speak in the name of the countries which, like my own, have during four years had experience of what the lack of liberty can mean.

In the course of his remarks the Hon. Mr. Isaacs said:—

As we face the problems of reconstruction in our own country, it is abundantly clear to us, as it must be to every Government, that no country can settle its problems in isolation from other countries. There can be no assurance of peace unless the peoples of all countries are assured against want and misery, and no agreements on political machinery will be effective unless we are successful in raising the standards of life of the common people.

PROTEST AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION

M. Jouhaux, general secretary of the French Confederation of Labour, on behalf of the workers' group, made an energetic protest against the presence of the delegation from the Argentine Republic. He characterized the country and the delegation as Fascist.

The protest was supported by Mr. J. Hallsworth, workers' delegate from Great Britain, who also characterized the delegation and the Government of Argentine as Fascist.

The matter was referred to the Credentials Committee, which later reported to the Conference. The report of Credentials Committee, *inter alia*, stated:—

It would seem indisputable that the Government which is at present in power in the Argentine Republic is a *de facto* Government which has established a state of siege in the country.

The Government has employed methods which include the suppression of essential civic liberties and rights which are incorporated in the Constitution of the International Labour Organization and in the Philadelphia Declaration concerning the aims and objectives of the Organization. For example, the Government has deprived the trade-unions of their freedom of action and even of their leaders.

Under present conditions, workers' organizations in the Argentine Republic do not enjoy freedom of association, freedom of action or freedom of speech, which are considered essential by the Constitution and Declaration mentioned above. The Credentials Committee unanimously recommended that the workers' delegates from the Argentine, Mr. Juan Rodriguez and Mr. Manuel Pichel, should not be accepted and that they should not be allowed to remain at the Conference.

In addition to the other speakers, the following Governments' delegates supported the findings of the Credentials Committee: Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Portugal. The workers' delegates from Cuba and Italy also supported the Credentials Committee report. In supporting the report, Mr. Lizzadri, the workers' delegate from Italy, said:—

For twenty years we were in the same position as the Argentine Republic is to-day. For twenty years we had no access to the Conferences, but the words of solidarity spoken by the free countries of the world nevertheless reached us. We wish to thank the workers' representatives for the solidarity which they have shown with us throughout the last twenty years. We owe our presence to some extent, to the protests which were made by the workers' group against the Fascist delegation to Conferences during that time. In the name of the free workers of Italy I support the vote to exclude the Argentine delegation from the Conference and wish to thank the workers' delegation for having prevented the Fascist workers from coming to the Conference. I am sure that the free workers of Argentine will some day come here and thank you yourselves for the gesture you have made to-day.

The Credentials Committee report was then put to the vote of the Conference. The President pointed out that in order to carry the propositions a two-thirds majority was necessary. The record of the voting showed that all Government and all employers' and workers' delegates voted for the proposition of excluding the Argentine delegation. The voting was: for the proposition, 119; against the proposition, no votes.