

# Planning the Next War

By Morris Gordin.

THE ink on the peace treaty has not yet dried and the battlefields have not been cleared of their decaying corpses, but the capitalists are already thirsting for new bloodshed. Viciously they clamor for a new war. Especially is the war spirit in evidence among our American capitalists. They are not satisfied with the European war just concluded. It has given American capital control of the world's finance. But what good is such control, if Europe is not able to pay back the loans given her by America?

Such is the "tragic" condition. Only a few days ago Lloyd George admitted in Parliament that the real reason why he is compelled to liquidate "the great adventure" of Czaristic democracy represented by Admiral Kolchak and General Denekin arises from the bitter fact that Great Britain is on the brink of bankruptcy. The financial condition of France is utterly hopeless. Her indebtedness amounts to \$40,000,000,000. Interest on the loans for next year will reach the sum of ten billion francs. Yet the budget presented to the Chamber of Deputies makes no mention whatsoever either of the debts or the interest.

This can mean only one thing. France has given up the idea of ever paying her debts. It is entirely beyond France to even attempt a solution of her absolutely insoluble finan-

cial riddle. Italy is even in worse shape than France. She is in the throes of a revolution which might sweep the capitalists out of existence most any day. As a matter of fact the whole of capitalist Europe is on the verge of a total economic and financial collapse.

Should Europe repudiate her debts, would it not be a staggering blow to American capitalism? The bottom would be knocked out of Wall Street.

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More money is given to Europe every day. So long as there is the least hope of saving European capitalism, American capitalists will continue lending money. Otherwise the game will be up at once and European capitalism will be wiped out of existence to make way for the proletarian world state. But how can our American capitalists recuperate the colossal loss which they must suffer, if European capitalism is to perish despite all their help? Moved by their imperialistic instinct for plunder and murder, our capitalists turn their greedy eyes to Mexico. Let Mexico pay for Europe with her wealth and resources. This is the most logical solution.

But to start a war with Mexico would be somewhat too difficult. Many past attempts have failed. The people do not respond to a call to war with Mexico. The average American cannot be made to believe that little Mexico is a menace to the "great and powerful United States." So the trick is pretending terror about Mexico, the entire capitalist press is raving about Japan. The loudmouthed argument about Shantung is not meant to help China, but to arouse more hatred against "the Jap". They are now comparing Japan to Germany as the next menace of "democracy", to "the white man's civilization." "Japan aims to conquer the world." Japan is establishing herself in Mexico in order to have a base of operations against the United States. That's it. We must go to war with Japan to save the white man's civilization. This is what the bloody capitalistic press has started to propagate as the aim of the next war. In reality it is something entirely different. It is to guarantee American capitalism against the bankruptcy of Europe. The real aim of the next war of America will be to save American capitalism. The result will be different. The war will end in the total destruction of American capitalism and usher the American proletarian revolution.

# The Struggle for Control

SUPER-RADICAL hotheads may be found in politics as well as in the arena of economic life. The pure-politicians reject the economic struggle as a miniature war beneath the dignity of their highly-developed culture. The pure-economists ignore the political struggle as a quarrel for some insignificant external thing, a utopia. Both are mistaken.

The economic struggle fell into disrepute, because it was identified with mere wage-disputes, whereas in reality the economic field is much larger—affecting the prices of commodities, and much more. The political struggle lost its attraction, because from a struggle for the symbols of political power it was converted into a struggle for some of its forms, and because of the resultant belief that a couple of seats in parliament presents a colossal manifestation of the power of a party.

But politics and economics merge into one, and indeed it was their artificial separation that caused the proletariat to sustain numerous defeats and to be overwhelmed by the reaction. Therefore the General Workers' Union as a revolutionary organization desires to promote the unity of the economic and political struggle.

Against the General Workers' Union are advanced two objections which contradict and nullify one another. Some intentionally overlook the political character of the General Workers' Union by simply denying it. Others attack the Workers' Union because of its political character.

Of course, we do not overlook the fact that the Union is only a weapon in the struggle, but a very important one. The old-time weapon of the Trade Unions has been wrested from and rendered useless for the proletariat through its infection with capitalist poison, so that its regaining any new use for the proletariat is out of question. That the new revolutionary organization does not attach itself unreservedly to

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any one of the dominant political parties, but simply expresses its general adhesion to the revolutionary parties, does not prevent it from carrying on a political struggle. It stands on the basis of the class-struggle, on the basis of the struggle against the bourgeoisie; it aims at the destruction of capitalism and is in favor of socialization. Is this not a distinctively political program? Does not "The International Union of the War-Cripples and War-Sufferers" decline affiliation with any particular political party, and yet it would not and could not be accused of being non-political? Of course not, because it denounced political neutrality as an absurdity and characterized abstention from a definite attitude for or against the government as utter folly. Likewise the Union of the Unemployed, of the Fugitives, etc.

The political difference between us and the Syndicalists is clearly shown in our

Centralization and their Decentralization. Capitalist production tends in the direction of ever-increasing centralization, insofar as it is possible within the confines of the private capitalist state. Hence the struggle for the control of industry must also be based on centralization. But the struggle for control is a political struggle.

Every struggle for the industrial control is political and economic alike. The aim of this Union is to point out this identity and to do away with the fear of the recognition of the political character of the strike-weapon. The union must not only widen, but also deepen the strike movement. The demands for wages must be transformed into political demands. The economic struggle for economic aims must develop into an economic struggle for political aims and later develop into a political struggle for political aims. And this last aim must be finally fought out with the last political bulwark, —with the army.

The General Workers' Union will be the pioneer to make the economic battlefield ready for the final political struggle.

# The Red Army

WE are indebted to the People's Russian Information Bureau, London for the following:

A recent report of the Political Education Department of the Soviet General Staff describes in detail the great educational work which is being done in the Red Army. This work is in the charge of the local sections of the Department, which are attached to all military district commissariats, and to all units of the Army throughout the country, including the front. On May last the 133 army units counted in their midst 64 centres of the Communist party engaged in Socialist propaganda, 97 educational committees, 50 clubs, 27 elementary schools, as many reading rooms, and 63 lending librari-

es. Throughout the country attached to the Red Army in May last were 1614 libraries and reading rooms, 674 schools, 211 theatres, and 221 cinemas. In Moscow alone the Red Army Clubs, in the first three months of the present year, were able to arrange 108 theatrical performances, 191 concerts, and 552 lectures. At every large junction station which the Red soldiers have to pass on their way to the front, literature is distributed, meetings are held, lectures are delivered, etc. Propaganda circles are attached to every unit, which carry the revolutionary agitation right into the camp of the enemy, with the result that whole regiments of the "Whites" not infrequently go

(Continued on page 8)