

# THE MILITANT

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## Hoover's Building Plan Swindle

### Congress Opens U. S. Intervenes in Sino-Russ Conflict Lots of Promises to the Jobless

#### -for the Master

The first regular session of the seventy-first Congress opens this week with a schedule of work and legislation to be adopted that will round out the attack upon the standards of the American workers. What the office boys of capitalist class will accomplish at this session is already outlined in the dispatches from Washington:

#### A Christmas Gift to the Boss

First will come the sacred, religious duty of making its annual Christmas present to its capitalist master: the insignificant tax cut of \$160,000,000 which the leaders of both Parties in Congress have already agreed to put in the socks hung at the chimney by the starving millionaires of the land.

Then the tariff tangle will be straightened out, following upon the message by Hoover. What it will signify, even in a moderated form, is the jacking up of the United States tariff wall in a desperate endeavor by the American boss class to broaden the basis of their own narrowing home market by keeping out the more cheaply produced goods of Europe, and, inversely, cutting down the meager share they have allotted to the poor relatives across the sea. That the raised tariff schedules will not bring with them any increase of wages in compensation is obvious from the whole past tariff history of the country.

What is clear for the workers is that their wages have been cut, their working day lengthened, their "efficiency" increased by the crack of the foreman's whip, and their unions smashed through, under the hitherto prevailing Fordney-McCumber rates, and that their situation will not be improved one iota under the higher Smoot-Hawley bill. What that bill will succeed in doing—when it is passed, and in most part it will be—is to increase the resentment of the other trading countries of the world, many of which have already protested in one form or another against the proposed tariff. This resentment will only add fuel to the smouldering fires of the coming war, because the new tariff law is essentially a brutally aggressive measure of American imperialism against its world competitors, for which they will try to pay back the U. S. in the same coin.

The naval bill will be put off until the London naval conference takes place next month. The naval construction program is the threat held by the United States against Great Britain primarily, that unless the latter fulfills the demands of the world's banker, the United States will give it such a run for its money as will leave it floating breathless on the sea.

What Congress will do "nothing" about—except to hand out soft slop—is the increasingly obvious tendency towards a deep economic depression which is cutting the ground from under the feet of the American workers. Layoffs, in batches of thousands, are taking place more frequently, particularly in the automobile, the steel and the building industries. These workers are joining the already large army of the unemployed, with no prospects before them but a bleak winter.

#### The Wage Cut Drive

Congress will do nothing about the wage cut and speed-up drive of the American bosses—except to support it with all its heart. Those workers "lucky" enough to keep their jobs and stay off the bread line will have to make up for those lack-lin in industry, and they will have to do it by pouring more and more of their energy, physical and mental, into their machines to be coined into profit.

A number of days after the Soviet Union had finally forced the Mukden government to enter into negotiations for the settlement of the dispute around the Chinese Eastern Railway, the United States government, through secretary of state Stimson sent a note to the Chinese and Soviet Government, ostensibly to "urge the two governments to settle the dispute" but in actuality to throw a spoke into the negotiations now taking place in Khabarovsk, Eastern Manchuria. Upon America's initiative, the other imperialist powers, including the "socialist" government of MacDonald, sent identical notes.

#### Stimson is a "Bit Late"

The Stimson note is a very coolly calculated piece of cunning. So long as the White Guard bandits and the Chinese mercenary bands continued their invasion of Soviet soil, there was no preventive action taken by American imperialism, which has the Chiang Kai-Shek government at its command. When this butcher of the Chinese working class seized the jointly controlled Chinese Eastern Railway, there was again no protest from the United States. When Soviet citizens were arrested, tortured, imprisoned and brutally treated in China, the United States maintained a discreet silence.

But now that the Red Army has successfully repulsed the Chinese and Russian White Guard forces, upon whose activity the imperialists counted since they are not now in a position for active military intervention of their own, and Russia has made Mukden come to the conference table to work out terms of agreement, Stimson suddenly discovers the existence of the Kellogg "Peace" Pact.

Stimson's intervention into the situation at this date—just when the difficulties are about to be settled in Russia's favor—is not for a moment animated by any desire for "peace". Were the American im-

perialists so concerned about the horrors of war and the beauties of pacifism, they might start cleaning their own front steps by withdrawing troops from Nicaragua, the Philippines and other colonies and semi-colonies of Wall Street.

#### What Stimson Worries Over

What Stimson is concerned with is fear of the prestige and strength that will accrue to the Soviet Union if the conflict is settled by agreement with Mukden (and Nanking's tacit consent) to return the Railway to joint control. What he is further concerned with is to prevent such an agreement, keep the situation at high tension, provoke continued conflicts on the Manchurian border, so that at the proper moment the American government can step in with the "generous" offer to "internationalize" the Railway, that is, bring it under its influence. That is one of the main reasons why Japan which has heavy interests in Manchuria, refused to send an identical note to Russia and China. For the moment in the present situation, Japan fears American influence in Manchuria more than Russia.

Stimson's note is an attempt to throw a spoke into the negotiations now taking place in Khabarovsk. It is a gesture hostile to the Soviet Union. All the more reason for arousing the resistance of the workers everywhere to defend Russia's revolutionary right to joint participation in the Chinese Eastern. It is not to be defended on the basis of "property rights" or "sacredness of treaties", for that way the workers cannot be mobilized. That this is the basis of Stalin's agitation now, makes it necessary to point out more clearly the advantage to the world working class in depriving Chiang Kai-Shek and his imperialist masters of the Chinese Eastern Railway as a weapon against the worker's state.

## Disarmament and the U. S. of Europe

### 1. How Can Europe Be United?

Briand has felt the need of ameliorating the historical fate of the three hundred and fifty million people of Europe, who are the bearers of the highest civilization and yet cannot live a century without a dozen wars and revolutions. MacDonald, in the interest of pacifying our planet, has crossed the Atlantic. The United States of Europe, disarmament, freedom of trade and peace are on the order of the day. On all sides capitalist diplomacy is preparing a big pacifist soup. Peoples of Europe, peoples of the whole world, get out big spoons to swallow it with!

Why this mobilization? Are not the socialists in power in the most important countries of Europe or else preparing for it? Yes, that is just why. However, it is forthwith apparent that the plans of Briand and MacDonald are bringing "peace" in two absolutely opposite directions. Briand wants to unify Europe in order that it may defend itself against America. MacDonald wants to earn the gratitude of America by helping it oppress Europe. Two trains are rushing to meet one another in order to save their passengers...from the catastrophe!

The Anglo-French naval accord of July, 1928 was liquidated by a simple knitting of the brows by America. This fact is a sufficient demonstration of the relation of forces in the world: "Do you imagine, by chance," America intimates, "that I am going to adapt myself to your resolutions made on both sides of the Channel? If you want your negotiations to be taken seriously, then take the trouble to cross

the Atlantic." MacDonald ordered his ticket and that is about the most tangible thing in his pacifist program.

At Geneva the future "unifiers" of the continent felt themselves little more at ease than the bootleggers on the other side of the Ocean: They look with dismay upon the American police. Briand began and concluded his speeches by swearing by all that is sacred that the unification of Europe must in no case and under no conditions be directed against America. God forbid! In reading these declarations, the American politicians must have felt a double joy: "Briand is somewhat afraid of us... but he won't succeed in putting us off the track."

Although he repeated the words of Briand, Stresemann carried on a veiled polemic against him, Henderson polemicized against both of them, but mainly against the French Prime Minister. In fact, the whole discussion at Geneva unfolded according to the following scheme:

Briand: In no case against the United States.

Stresemann: Quite right. But some have mental reservations. American can rely only on Germany.

MacDonald: I swear on the Bible that loyalty and good-will are the exclusive endowment of the British, particularly the Scotch.

That is how the "new international atmosphere" was created in Geneva.

The internal weakness of Europe springs primarily from its economic decay. The economic strength of the United States, on the contrary, constitutes its unity. The question arises: How to proceed so that the unification of Europe is

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By Martin Abern

President Herbert Hoover is preparing a big swindle for the American working class with his "construction program" to stall off the growing depression. The blustering confidence of American capitalist interests, received a rude shock in the wild crash recently on the stock market. While American capitalists by no means feel that the fall will prove fatal; and while at the same time, they try to minimize its effects, nevertheless, it is clear that the shock to wide strata of people of all classes and groupings, including the as yet largely bourgeois-minded workers, has been severe. The same confidence as before in the status quo is no longer there.

#### Hoover "Stabilizes Capitalism"

Schemes, or prayers, for "permanent" capitalist economic stability" are forthcoming from all corners. "Prosperity President" Hoover is the champion of most of these hoped-for capitalist stabilizers. Hoover, the pride of the House of Mammon, stepped to the helm to guide the ship of profit.

But lo, in but a handful of months came the Wall Street crash, upsetting faith, bank accounts, business and jobs. All eyes turned to Hoover to speak his and also the wisdom of the House of Morgan. As business begins to tremble; as factories and mills in many large centers begin to shut down; as unemployment, in the beginnings of a cold winter, jumps sharply from its already high figure, Hoover steps forward and trumpets: "Business as usual! There is nothing fundamentally wrong with us (capitalist system)! Let us build!"

The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Julius Barnes, however, is satisfied with production and says:

"The anxiety... and problem of today is over the maintenance of buying power." But how? President Hoover with true Quaker calmness once said:

#### What About the Unemployed?

"The primary safety to continued prosperity will be continued willingness of our people to save their enlarged earnings (what, the unemployed?), to resist extravagance and waste (also the unemployed or the Southern textile workers, (?) to give full individual exertion." Now, the practicality of the situation compels greater concreteness. So Hoover replies to the rumblings of uncertainty, distrust, restlessness by advising a policy, in the main, of public works, road-building, construction, etc. Hoover further proposes that business hereafter plan its activities more carefully, attempt consciously to regulate the business of capitalism in accordance with a laid-out scheme; in fact, to set up-to-date National Business Council, which by its character and purpose hopes to serve as a permanent regulator of capitalism, and upon occasion to spread salve on the sore body of the workers.

It intends further to ignore, as much as possible, its own created instrument, Congress, as now too slow and inefficient for this world of business engineering. Through this organized National business Council, that great individualism and needed competitive spirit of the "true Americanism", so staunchly lauded by Hoover, takes a back seat. In fact, Hoover, outlines a policy, in socio-political terms, of state socialism, or more correctly, state capitalism, with some added special governmental features—borrowed from Mussolini. But organized production, or its development, is only possible where capitalism is replaced by working class rule, as in Soviet Russia.

The figures adduced by leading capi-

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