

THE MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

Vol. III No. 2.

Telephone: DRYdock 1656. NEW YORK, N. Y. Saturday, January 11, 1930

PRICE 5 CENTS

KARL LIEBKNECHT DAY

A.F. of L. Opens Up in the South

As we go to press (Monday) the American Federation of Labor opens its long proclaimed conference in Charlotte, N. C., "to map out a plan for organizing the wage earners of the South". It is composed exclusively of A. F. of L. officials, coming largely from the United Textile Workers and its affiliated groups.

The whole record of the leaders of the A. F. of L., from William Green to Thomas McMahon, president of the U. T. W., is a living refutation of the statement that they will organize the Southern workers for a genuine struggle against their Bourbon masters. One need go no further than the textile field to evaluate the "work" that the fat boys of the A. F. of L. will do in the South.

Remember Passaic!

About two years ago, the A. F. of L. leaders entered the Passaic strike, after the Left wing had led one of the most spirited struggles in American history, took over the union created by the Communists and the Left wing, offered the workers up to the bosses on a silver platter, and then strangled what was left of the union. In the New Bedford strike, the leaders of the A. F. of L. organized the skilled workers, kept them separated from the unskilled who formed the mass of textile operatives, and then worked their fingers to the bone in order to break the strike.

In the more recent Elizabethton, Tennessee, strike, the sellout by the U. T. W. leaders was so raw that many of the workers struck over again spontaneously, in spite of the lid that had been put on the union by the imported bureaucrats. The same story can be told in Marion and elsewhere.

What is most significant of the A.F. of L.'s entry into the South at the present time is that it only comes after the work accomplished by the Left wing particularly in the Gastonia strike. As the press announces, without an attempt at concealment, the A. F. of L. is going into the South in order to wipe out the Left wing and its union, the N. T. W. This is precisely the aim the bosses have set themselves. The latter understand their William Green very well. While he is not needed by them in ordinary peaceful times he comes in very handy when the problem arises of fighting the militant Left wing and its union. It is clear from the whole situation in the South today that: 1. The bosses will use the services of the A. F. of L. to displace the Left wing union or to ward off the danger of the Left wing; when the Left wing menace is removed for the time being, the bosses know how easy it is to handle the accommodating Greens. 2. The bosses will fight against the A. F. of L.'s mildest attempt at unionization in those places where it is not needed to head off into harmless channels an existing or impending struggle.

The coming of Green and McMahon to the South is not "a step forward" for them, but a sinister move against the Left wing, and therefore against the textile workers. The blunders made by the Left wing, under the direction of the present leadership of the Communist Party, will only facilitate Green's work. Instead of intensifying its activity in the South, the Left wing has had its most capable and experienced people withdrawn until only a skeleton of the forces required is left there. Besides this, the Left wing still persists in its policy of self-satisfied isolation and sensational ultra-Leftism. Its present course only doubles and trebles the difficulties with which it is confronted by the latest A. F. of L. move in the South.

KARL LIEBKNECHT



At the Martyr's Grave-side

By Karl Radek

With your tears you have bathed his dead body, whose wounds cry to the heavens against the socialist betrayers; with the red banner of the proletarian world revolution you have covered him and placed him in your hearts so that he may rest there forever. Millions of you know no more of him than that, in the black night, illuminated only by the flash of cannon, he broke out of the trenches with a small force to fight for peace; that cast into prison by the mighty, he stoically endured every torment and hardly liberated from his chains raised anew the banner of struggle and fell with it in his hands, fell on the threshold of a new life.

But I want every proletarian to know about Liebknecht, to love him, not only as the blood-bedecked symbol of a martyr, but as he was in life, with his faults and merits, not as a "puzzled-out book" but as a man with his "contradiction". The man Liebknecht should be our great model, a model for our youth who should learn to fight, a model for our women who should not let themselves be oppressed by life, a model for our weather-beaten men who are haunted by doubts. The time has not yet come to proceed to a detailed biography of Karl Liebknecht. In his house of mourning the soldiers of the German counter-revolution still rule, and as I write these words, an inspection of the papers he left behind is impossible, yes, myself illegally in hiding, I cannot even gather the printed documents. But I believe that I see at a glance his rich life in its peculiarity and I want to describe it here.

At Liebknecht's Cradle

...Songs of heroes were sung at Liebknecht's cradle... The first impressions that the boy received were the persecutions of the Socialist Law. The German bourgeoisie and the Hohenzollerns sought to stifle the first socialist stirrings of the German proletariat. For him who spread the criminal teaching: "the putrid belly shall not waste what diligent hands have earned", who aroused the poor and disfranchised, there was no peaceful working place; he had to wander, persecuted, from place to place, nowhere secure from police spies.

Wilhelm Liebknecht remained at his post and did not suspend the struggle for socialism even when it was again necessary to show by suffering that we live for the liberation of humanity. Karl may often have asked himself as a child what the strange men were ferretting for in the house of his father, why people came into the house secretly at night, whispering quietly like thieves: good people they must have been, for warmly welcomed by his parents, they would stroke his little black head. Thus he grew up in the years of persecution as the son of the soldier of the revolution. To be a soldier, a warrior of the revolution, that was the gift conferred upon him in his cradle.

The Socialist Law fell. The growing, strengthening capitalism simultaneously also strengthened the working class numerically, and with the growth of the working class, the German social democracy grew in spite of all the persecution. There began the "new course", the endeavor to win the working class through social concessions, and although it apparently retreated immediately to a new sharp course, yet the spirit of the epoch was such that, while strengthening capitalism accorded the

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Velvet Words Conceal U. S. Arms Growth

By SCOTT NEARING

Velvet words, hiding the growing claws of naval and military power: thus might be summarized the position of the American Empire during recent years. Coolidge followed this policy. Hoover has adopted it. Both have talked persuasively about peace. Both have been preparing the country for war.

Recently the London Economist published a detailed report on the 1929 cost of war to the various nations. The United States leads the list with 4,553 million gold francs. Great Britain, second on the list spends only 2,800 million gold francs on war. If, to the figures of Great Britain are added the figures of arms expenditures for the remainder of the British Empire, the result shows the American Empire and the British Empire together are spending more than two-fifths the total for the entire world.

Military costs are greater in the United States than they are in any other single country. These costs, with some modification for the increase in the cost of living show very clearly the direction in which the country is moving.

As lately as 1926 United States expenditures on the army and navy totalled only \$580 million. They were \$685 million in 1929, and the 1932 budget calls for \$891 million.

Even clearer, as indices of military preparations, are the figures showing the actual fighting machine of the United

States.

Begin with the army. Up to the time of the Spanish-American war the United States army numbered about 27,000 regulars and 113,000 members of the national guard, or a total of some 140,000. In 1910 the total strength of the regular army was 80,000 and the national guard, 120,000, making a total of 200,000.

In 1927, the regular army numbered 133,000 and the national guard 181,000. In addition to these two branches of the army, however, there were 110,000 in the officers' reserve. These, with some incidental figures, make the total army strength of 1927, 430,000, or more than twice the figure for 1910, and more than three times the figure for the period immediately preceding the Spanish-American war.

There were 276 vessels in the United States navy in 1906, having a total displacement of 693,000 tons. For 1927 the number of vessels was 734—nearly three times the figure for 1906. The tonnage had more than trebled—2,225,000 tons.

Whatever Hoover, or any of his subordinates may say, the fact remains that the American Empire is spending more for military purposes than any other nation in the world, and that these expenditures, and the military machine which they are building up, are growing rapidly, year after year.

(Prepared for Federated Press by the Labor Research Assn.)