

The Anti-Soviet Crusaders

The whole world of pious opium peddlers is agog with indignation over the latest decree on religious associations issued by the Soviet government. His Most Devout and Respected Holiness, Pope Pius XI, who holds communion with the son of god himself, has declared that "the horrible iniquities which have been committed grow worse every day". His Inspired Excellency, the Archbishop of Canterbury, seconded by his brother in Christ, the Archbishop of York, has bewailed the fact that "no one can question the truth of the long and shocking tale of imprisonment, exile and deliberate putting to death of prelates and parish priests, of monks and nuns and of the humblest folk". His Terrifying Eminence, Bishop William T. Manning, has urged that "the ministers of all faiths all over our land will speak in support of the protests which have been made and in condemnation of these wicked, cruel and inhuman deeds".

The Crime of the Soviets

What is this unspeakable, this new crime of which the Soviet Republic is guilty? The priests and parsons and rabbis of world capitalism are outraged at the "autocratic and brutal delimitation of religious liberties", this "trodding under foot of all moral values". What they are really concerned about is the fact that the Soviets are drastically cutting into the heritage of special privileges enjoyed by the religious parasites in Russia, privileges exercised at the price of the physical and mental welfare of 150,000,000 people that the Soviets are making it more and more difficult for the forces of capitalist restoration to utilize the churches and the priesthood for a basis against the Workers' Republic. So far as freedom of religious belief is concerned, there is no prohibition of that in the Soviet Republic, something which few if any other countries can maintain. Groups of one faith are permitted to associate together, under strict political limita-

tions which are calculated to prevent them from becoming instruments of reaction. What is prohibited is the ownership of special church property except that required for the exercise of their religious rites and worship; the transformation of religious institutions into financial or industrial establishments which would give the priesthood an economic stranglehold on its flocks"; the enrollment of anyone under the age of 18, which would permit the "men of god" to poison the minds of the youth with superstitious and religious venom; functioning without registration at the local Soviet organ; etc., etc.

That atheist and materialist societies and groups conduct, in the meantime, an energetic campaign among the population ardy duty as well. Those who go among the people and help dispel the fog of darkness, reaction, ignorance and bigotry on which the various religious sects are founded are giving a mighty shove to the wheel of progress. That the Soviets not only tolerate, but encourage these materialist activities, is to their everlasting credit. What the priesthood fears more than anything else is an open discussion of religion and the church vs. materialism, for it knows that in such a contest the proletariat, armed with all modern science, must necessarily issue forth the victor. The fact that the Soviets and the Communist Party are the patrons of this campaign of enlightenment and progress raises them to a greater height than that attained by any progressive or revolutionary regime or party that history has known.

But let us assume for a moment—something which is far from the truth—that some of the black-robed leeches of religion have been damaged a little in the Soviet campaign to break the hold of superstition on the masses. Who are the ones that have a right or reason to condemn the Bolsheviks? Are they the prelates of the Catholic

Church, the institution that is built on the human skulls of millions, the masters of the Spanish Inquisition, the heroes of St. Bartholomew's eve massacre in France, the Church of corruption and speculation for centuries, the master prop of reaction at all times? Are they the shepherds of the innumerable protestant churches, the traducers of colonial peoples in the interest of imperialist piracy, the gentry that argued for the sacred foundations of Negro slavery in the United States, the pastors whose ancestors burned "witches" at the stake? Are they the representatives of Greek Catholicism, the right arm of czarism, the oppressor of Russia's "dark millions" for centuries, the haven of shamelessness and ignorance, of the "holy" Rasputin? Are they the priests of Jewry, the staunchest defenders of tolerance when they are the underdog and the most ruthless emissaries of a bloodthirsty Jehovah when they hold the whiphand?

Where were all these cardinals, bishops, rabbis, metropolitans, pastors, preachers, priests and beadles with a condemnation of the "wicked, cruel and inhuman deeds" of imperialism in cutting down a whole generation in its prime on the battlefields of France and Belgium? They were behind the lines, inciting their countrymen to slaughter each other in the name of Christ and Jahweh. Where were they all when czarism sucked the bloods of Russia's millions, when workers were massacred on the streets and their leaders sent to a living

death in Siberia? They were sanctifying the "little father". Where were they when the wolves of reaction encircled young Red Russia and sought to rend it to bits? They were eulogizing the "princes of peace": Wilson, Lloyd George, Clemenceau. Where are they in every bitter struggle of the workers, in every strike, in every critical situation where the masses seek to liberate themselves from the murderous yoke of capitalism? They are on the side of the bosses, the capitalists, trying their best to disarm and weaken the militant proletariat by directing its eyes to a non-existent paradise that awaits them...when they are dead.

Let Bishop Manning, and the Archbishop of York, and the Pope of Rome, and Rabbi Glazer, and the rest of the gentlemen of god, turn their attention to the millions of unemployed who are on the verge of starvation, to the horrors of capitalist marauding, and all the other monstrosities of the present social system. They will not and cannot do it, because they are an inseparable part of the system of rapine and class rule. Their task is not to help the workers free themselves, but to tie tighter the chains of wage slavery. That is why the Soviet Republic, which has struck the chains of slavery from the body of the Russian workingclass, will be considered by religion the principal blasphemy of the century, the unforgivable sin besides adultery, patricide, hatred of one's neighbor, and any other violation of the commandments are easily and lightly condoned.

Unemployed Must Demand Work or Wages

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movement will necessarily be at a slower pace—unless it is to become a sectarian adventure. Up to now, no serious effort has been made to develop a united front movement. No effort has been made to mobilize the support of the organized and employed workers, who have a most direct interest in the position of the unemployed, in preventing them from becoming strike-breaking instruments, etc. In the U. S. particularly, the official Communist party has narrowed down the "preliminary demonstrations" to a handful of party members and a few jobless workers. Such a course dooms the movement to defeat in advance.

The movement must be organized and developed on the broadest basis that will make it capable of setting large masses in motion against the capitalist system and its institutions. Up to now, the "demonstrations" of the party have been bombastically heralded, held for a couple of hours and forgotten the next day. No serious movement has been created. Unless the helm is turned, there will be a repetition of this futility in the movement of the unemployed.

All Out on March 6th

Every worker, employed or unemployed, should join the demonstrations on March 6. An impressive display of working class determination must be presented everywhere on that day. The demands for "Work or Maintenance" must be put in the forefront. The banner of struggle against the infamous speed-up system must be raised. The demands of the unemployed must be few, direct, simple and capable of drawing the workers to the movement. The party, as usual, has drowned the important issues in a mass of subsidiary ones and issued a list of demands long enough to satisfy Moscow and cool the interest of the average worker.

The demonstrations can be made suc-

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cessful; they can become the point of departure for a serious and powerful movement. Every worker and labor organization must join the movement and prevent it from becoming a passing sensation or spectacle by helping to steer it on the right course.

The curse and misery of unemployment can be fought only by the active, unified power of the working class!

Detroit Prosperity

DETROIT—A report just issued by the Union Trust Co. of Detroit should make excellent reading for Sec. of Labor Davis and others who share his "prosperity" psychosis.

The report, pointing out that automobile production in 1929 exceeded that of all previous years, draws attention to the fact that this increase of 19.8% was accomplished with "an increase of only 3% in employment". "While this a result to which automobile manufacturers may very well point with pride" it is "one which is accompanied by an increasingly serious consequence—unemployment". They emphasize the latter with the announcement that "two of the largest automobile companies have recently given notice that casual laborers will not be employed".

Unemployment paralyzes a large section of the workers and low wages ravage the rest, but "retail food prices in Detroit were 4% higher Dec. 15, 1929 than a year previous. Cost of living...increased 2% in the period of Dec. 15, 1928 to Dec. 15, 1928."

The extensive unemployment among building trades workers is shown by the decrease of \$29,000,000 in volume of the building during 1929. "The value of building permits decreased 21.5% as compared with 1928". A chart published with the report shows a decline of nearly 50% in the value of building permits from "normal".

The report concludes with the not too hopeful statement that "optimism over 1930 operations in the industry is tinged with conservatism, and leaders are watching the buying trend closely...In spite of the substantial reductions being made in various groups of commodities the volume of business is not large."

Help Us to Sustain The Militant

A labor paper, particularly a revolutionary organ, does not receive the big advertisements and subsidies, without which a capitalist paper is unthinkable. The Militant is no exception to this rule. It must depend entirely upon readers and supporters for its existence and growth.

The Militant was founded because it fills a special and urgent need in the labor and revolutionary movements. It has been maintained by a group of devoted workers, who understand the value of adherence to the fundamental teachings of the great leaders of our movement, Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. These teachings are not strong if they are limited to small groups; they become a powerful weapon for labor liberation when they are made known to the whole working class—honestly and truthfully. This is the task set itself by the Militant.

This great work can be carried out effectively only if the existence of the Militant is secured. For this purpose, it is necessary to establish and strengthen a systematic SUSTAINING FUND. Such a fund will not only enable us to print a whole series of most valuable books and pamphlets. The Militant has on hand a number of manuscripts by L. D. Trotsky. They include: "What is the Permanent Revolution?" "The Struggle for the Chinese Revolution", "Europe and America", "The Great Organizers of Defeat: a Record of Five Years of the Comintern", and many others. If the SUSTAINING FUND of the Militant is assured, we can proceed to the immediate publication of these Bolshevik classics.

The sooner donations accumulate for the FUND, the more rapidly can we proceed with this important job. Every dollar counts doubly now. We are depending upon all our readers and friends to act with speed. The blank below is for your use. Fill it out now!

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