

Beating the War Drums

The periodicals of the ruling class in this country have in the past year devoted a great deal of space to the topic of war. The United States' new role as the leading capitalist nation in the world, with its search for markets, raw materials, and new fields of exploitation, brought with it an extension of its military preparations and development of every character. "Dollar Diplomacy" in its penetration into the world arena, is followed by the gun. The capitalists of this country, just as the capitalists of all other countries recognize that in order to safeguard their economic interests, the armed forces behind it are essential.

The inevitability of conflicts between the imperialists is evident through their attempts at meditation. A glaring failure of this character is the London naval conference. But the whole history of capitalist diplomacy shows the same result. Attempts at agreements, limitation of armaments, negotiations for peace, have all meant: preparation for war, the search for alignments, and the aim to discover the strength of their opponents. The imperialists recognize the inevitability of war and are continually in preparation for it. They write about it, speak of it, and are constantly on guard against the "enemy" A few weeks ago, a sham airplane battle was held in the vicinity of Los Angeles against the "red forces". This is indicative where the wind blows. At other times practice battles are fought against the fleet of Great Britain or Japan. The minds of the masses are being prepared.

War Department Calls For Free Hand

The armed forces, however, while playing a tremendous role during war, are not sufficient. The resources of the belligerent nations are the backbone of war. The organization of industry on a war basis at a moment's notice is the object of the ruling class. And so Nation's Business, the organ of the United States Chamber of Commerce, poses the question: "Who's going to win the next big war? And why?"

Assuming, and correctly so, that war is coming, this journal proceeds to promote a plan for mobilizing the industry of this country up to war strength at a moment's notice. The proposal called, "educational war orders for munitions", is set forth in a bill backed by the war department, the navy department and the Chamber of Commerce. The Bill has already had hearings before the House committee on military affairs.

In order to avoid all possible delays in the event that war breaks out, the Bill intends that the Secretary of War shall have complete power to place war orders for munitions without advertising for bids, and without being bound to award them to the lowest bidders. This would mean that the small industrial concerns would be pushed out in favor of the large industries that can over night begin the production of war implements. The War Department does not want to bother over "small concerns with no capacity worth consideration in war time"

Turning the Factories into War Machines

Nation's Business very clearly states:

"Making munitions is much more difficult and complicated than turning out trucks or tractors or pleasure cars or typewriters. Cannon must be as accurate as watches. Shells must be perfect".

"War is now a fight of the factories, a battle of machines...The nation whose manufacturing plants can most quickly be tuned up to quantity production of cannon, shells, searchlights, fuses, gun carriages, and what-not, will win a victory.

"Government plants in the United States have the capacity to fill only from five to ten percent of our munition needs in a war against another major power or combination of powers. So the matter comes down to the large, efficient well-managed establishments that in time of peace make automobiles, typewriters, sewing machines, multi-

graphs, street cars, machine tools and other articles of ordinary commercial usefulness. In war the victory will go according to the way such plants have been taught beforehand their war-time jobs".

As far back as November, 1928, the *Annalist* in a lengthy article on the chemical industry pointed out that, while from an industrialist viewpoint the development of this industry was essential to the United States, yet of even more importance was the use to which the chemical industry could be subjected during war. The article illustrates that the chemical industry not only serves as one of the most important branches of a war-producing plant, but can without the slightest difficulty be transformed into manufacturing war products. While *Nation's Business* does not mention the question of the chemical industry in relation to the war, it is evident that its importance has not been minimized, since one of the writers of these war articles is E. T. Trigg, chairman of the committee for National Defense of the United States Chamber of Commerce. He is also the president of the John Lucas & Co., manufacturers of paints—a chemical industry.

All Workers to be Entrapped

The employment of women on a mass scale in the event of war is one of the chief aims of the Bill. A picture appearing above the leading article on the journal, shows women working in a munitions plant. This picture is headed by the following caption: "Gauging of cartridges is only one step of many in their manufacture." The development of modern industry, making possible the employment of women in industries such as chemical, electrical, iron and steel, etc., is closely related to the question of war production.

It is clear that in the event of war the capitalists will utilize every conceivable force. We will witness the armed forces, the organization of industries on a war basis, the utilization of the women and children, and a virtual existence of martial law in the home country.

The war problem is of greatest importance to the proletariat. The workers bear the heaviest burden during war. Even exemption from the actual armed forces does not exclude one from participation in war. To begin now with the struggle against capitalist war is of paramount importance to the working class. This struggle cannot only be conducted with manifestos, meetings and protests. There is needed the actual organization of the masses. Such an organization against war must be carried directly into the shops. Parliamentary and legal means will not suffice. The role of the Communist must be that of leading the masses in the proper direction. To give leadership in the struggle, to help in the organization of the fight—to the destruction of capitalism. Defeat war by its own means.

POLICE BOARD APPROVES BLACKJACKING

LOS ANGELES—Police Commissioner Mark Pierce wants to see more official violence against Communists. "The more the police beat up and wreck their headquarters the better," Pierce shouted. "Communists have no constitutional rights and I won't listen to anybody who defends them." Two other commissioners agreed with this idea.

STUDENTS BACK JOBLESS AGAINST POLICE

DETROIT—Over two thousand students meeting here in a laboratory conference on social conditions have passed a resolution condemning the Detroit police department for its "brutal suppression of the unemployed and its demonstrations." It called for absolute freedom of speech and assembly at future unemployed meetings and expressed the "fraternal solidarity" of the students with their "jobless brothers and sisters."

TROTSKY ON FOSTER AND LOVESTONE

In the Revolutionary Age (March 1, 1930) the Lovestone Right wing attempts to show that the American Party in its activities and leadership is accepting the line of the Opposition. It happens, unfortunately, that this is not so. This time Lovestone quotes from the letter of comrade Trotsky to the American Opposition. In that letter Trotsky makes a scathing criticism of the then leaders of the American Party, Lovestone and Pepper. This letter also contains some views on Foster. What comrade Trotsky said in that letter written in Constantinople in April, 1929 is borne out by all events that have transpired.

In reference to the Stalin apparatus and its American Heutenants, Trotsky writes: "Lovestone and Pepper did not create this regime but they are its staff officers. I convicted Lovestone of a foul ideological falsification (see my book "Europe and America"). Under a fairly normal regime that alone would have been enough to bury a man for a long time, if not for good, or at least to make him confess and repent...The spirit of the Lovestones and Peppers is fundamentally opposed to the spirit of the proletarian revolution."

Trotsky then discusses Foster. Lovestone, in his characteristically dishonest manner, quotes only a brief sentence from the letter, namely: "The latter (Foster) always seemed to me made of more trustworthy material than Lovestone. In Foster's criticism of the official leadership of the Party there was always much that was true and acute." Lovestone stops at this point and quotes no further. But the letter continues: "But as far as I understand him, Foster is an empiricist. He does not want to, or is not able to carry his thinking out to the end, and make upon the foundation of his criticisms the necessary generalization. For that reason it has never been clear to me in what direction Foster's criticism is pushing him: to the Left or to the Right of official Centrism...This same empiricism apparently suggests to Foster the whole form of his activity, which consists of struggling against the little devil with Satan's support. Foster tries to conceal himself with the defensive coloration of Stalinism in order by this contraband route to move toward the leadership of the American Party."

If Lovestone were honest he would have quoted the entire section the letter, but that would run against his grain. Comrade Trotsky's analysis of both Lovestone and Foster has been confirmed completely during the course of the Party events in the last year.

NO WAGE INCREASE FOR MEMPHIS STREET CAR MEN

MEMPHIS—(FP)—Any thought of a wage increase for street car men was dispelled when the union's executive board, after conference with the company officials, recommended continuance of the existing scale for another year.

The vice president of the street railway company complimented the men on their "patriotism" in following Pres. Hoover's admonitions.

CAPITALISM BLAMED FOR CRIME PROBLEM

BUFFALO, N. Y. —(FP)—Inequitable distribution of wealth and an unfair industrial order prevent a solution of the crime problem, declared Dr. Nathaniel Cantor, professor of sociology at the University of Buffalo, in a recent lecture at the University.

GREENVILLE, S. C. —Cotton mills in the Piedmont section are running at only 75% capacity, as against 83% two weeks ago, according to the president of a large chain of mills.

BOSTON—10,000 union carpenters in Boston are demanding restitution of the 5-day week, gained in 1915 and lost in 1921.

MADISONVILLE, Ky.—One thousand miners have struck for a wage increase in western Kentucky coal fields.

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FINES AND JAIL FOR JOBLESS

SEATTLE—Of nine workers convicted on a charge of unlawful assembly in connection with the unemployed demonstration Feb. 26, three were fined \$25 each and six \$10 each. Notice of appeal has been filed by the Intl. Labor Defense. Six other workers convicted in connection with the March 6 demonstration have appealed from a 60-day jail sentence for three and a \$20 fine each for three.