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Whalen's Anti-Red Forgeries

Peshawur and the Gandhi Arrest

The almost impenetrable veil of official British censorship continues to make it difficult to get a clear and well-rounded picture of the situation in India. That the British are being hard pressed, however, can easily be seen even though the highly colored official reports that are allowed to filter through. They have finally been compelled to arrest Gandhi. They are taking fear-stricken measures to confiscate all arms and ammunition in the hands of the Indian people. They have been forced—openly, at last—to admit the dispatch of substantial military forces of infantry and cavalry, accompanied by airplane fleets, to the most turbulent sections of the country.

MacDonald: Servant of Capital

All these actions, let it not be forgotten for a moment, are being taken by the British government that has been advertised everywhere by the liberals and socialists as the "most progressive and enlightened" in the world, the "Labor" government of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. Where is the democratic Laborite freedom of the press which is announced as so superior to the methods of the Communists? Sunk without a trace by the censors! Where is the "democratic" opposition to imperialism? It exists only in the mealy, pious speeches of MacDonald, agent par excellence of the British moneybags, jailor and executioner of the Indian masses!

India is today an armed camp, but armed only on one side. For that, the Indian masses have Mr. Gandhi to thank. It is under his treacherous direction, his insistence upon pacifism and non-resistance, that the Indian people are today defenseless before the imperialist troops armed to the teeth and ready to repeat an Amritsar massacre on an All-Indian scale—without fear of successful resistance. Rarely has the British lion been served so well by Gandhi. He has hog-tied the Indian masses, and trapped them in the paralyzing jaws of non-resistance.

But the arrest of Gandhi shows that he has accomplished—against his every desire and will—something else, too. Just as the Kerenskys involuntarily aroused a genuine revolutionary movement by their timid opposition to the czar; just as the Chiang Kai-Sheks unwillingly let loose a mass movement in China, so the sensational march to the sea of Gandhi has roused millions of the people to a militant mood which is already overflowing the reactionary boundary lines he originally staked out for it.

The Meaning of Peshawur

The sharp struggles in Peshawur, which required the dispatch of large numbers of British troops, made a mockery of Gandhi's reasonable policies and indicated the correct way to remove the British yoke.

The "passive" mutiny in Peshawur of the native Garhwal Indian Rifles is the prologue to active resistance and militant offensive. A real fight against British imperialism, in the interests of the Indian masses and not of the Indian bourgeoisie, can only be led in spite of Gandhi and in direct battle against him and his.

The absence of a conscious, organized revolutionary movement—a crime of omission for which the Stalinized course of the Communist International must still answer—hampers the development of the struggle. But it can yet be created in the fires of conflict. Peshawur shows the possibilities.

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N. Y. JOBS SCARCEST SINCE 1914

NEW YORK—Factory employment in New York state, Gov. Roosevelt announces, is at the lowest point since 1914. It has dropped steadily since last October, he said, and will probably drop further, as it usually does in May. The *Annalist*, financial weekly, states that national employment is the lowest since 1922.

Judge Denies Bail to Foster, Minor, Amter

Bail for the leaders of the March 6 unemployment demonstration, including William Z. Foster, I. Amter, Robert Minor, and Harry Raymond, has been refused by supreme court justice Gavegan in New York. The four Communists have begun serving the three year term to which they were sentenced under star chamber proceedings and without the possibility of introducing evidence or defense witnesses.

The crassly class character of the prosecution was more than demonstrated during the trial, and the judges gave the defendants the vicious an almost unprecedented sentence of three years.

It is evident that the convictions were aimed primarily to curb the movement of the unemployed workers among whom the Communists are the most active elements. All the more reason why every effort must be made to compel the most rapid release of the four prisoners. Thus far their defense has been organized by the Party on the narrowest possible basis with the result that the fine opportunities for developing a broad movement for the four have not even been approached.

The New York convictions are but ominous forerunners of persecutions against militant fighters of the working class throughout the country. They cannot therefore be understood merely as an isolated instance of capitalist violence against the Communists. Nor can the bosses and their police, court and gangland agents be

Mr. Cossack Whalen is now well on the downward road to the other "great" American Red baiters who presided him: A. Mitchell Palmer and ex-mayor Ole Hanson of Seattle. Not to be outdone by either of them, or by their international colleagues who concocted the anti-Soviet forgeries in Berlin and the "Zinoviev letter" in England a few years ago, this cheap Tammany Hall politician has gained another bit of brief publicity for himself by publishing as crude a set of forgeries as have yet come of the press. It seems that Whalen is intent upon proving that there is a Communist movement in the United States and that it has connections with the revolutionary movement in the Soviet Union!

Nevertheless, the appearance of the forgeries at this particular moment is far from accidental. The stage setting for them has been in preparation for some time. The development of a sharp unemployment situation in the United States with the accompanying disillusionment of millions of workers on the score of American capitalism's fabled "permanent prosperity", has opened up previously non-existing prospects for the growth of the American Communist movement.

Whalen's forgeries are calculated to nip this growth in the bud, to whip up sufficient anti-Red hysteria to cut it down

effectively combated by the Communists alone, much less by the official Communist Party only. The arrests and persecutions all over the country in connection with the unemployed demonstrations, the May Day meetings as well as at other working class gatherings make imperative a genuine mobilization of all progressive, Left wing and Communist forces ready to unite on a program of resistance to the terror and persecutions of the employing class and for the freedom of all class war prisoners, for the establishment of full civil rights for workers and working class organizations, etc.

It is necessary to change this course immediately, and take advantage of the general sentiment against the convictions that exists and can be aroused among broad sections of the working class. A united defense for the prisoners is the best reply to the harpies of class justice.

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NEW YORK—Trial of 46 Brooklyn shoe workers for violating an injunction taken out by the Diana Shoe Co. against the Independent Shoe Workers Union has been postponed to June 3. The company broke its contract with the workers when Charles G. Wood, red baiter, of the federal labor conciliation service, notified it that the union was led by Communists. The injunction sustained the company's refusal to continue a contract with a Communist-led group.

before it assumes really dangerous proportions for the class he represents. He is not alone. The rapidity with which Congress has snapped at the opportunity to organize a public demonstration in preparation for a national anti-Communist lynching campaign is indicative of the general spirit of the masters. All of them are quite well aware of the fact that outside of the Communist movement, despite all the enormous and persistent blunders of the official Party, there is no force working actively and energetically to mobilize the permanent army of unemployed to fight for their lives, literally for their lives.

Every worker must therefore be vigilantly on guard for the next step of capitalist reaction. The scheme to crush the Communist movement, to jail its fighters, to deport and harass the foreign-born workers in particular, is aimed not only at the Communists, but at the whole working class in which the Reds so justly hated by the bosses, constitute the most militant section. Every blow the capitalist class and its Congress strike at the Communists hits with redoubled force at the interests of the whole working class.

There is yet another reason for the Whalen forgeries. They follow hard on the heels of the bomb plot against the Soviet embassy in Poland, the anti-Soviet military maneuvers of the Rumanian and Polish marionettes of French imperialism, and the hypocritical religious crusade against the Soviets which stank so noticeably of good Stock Exchange gold. All these events were timed with the sharpening of the economic and political difficulties in the Soviet Union rising out of the industrialization and collectivization campaign. All these incidents are calculated to exert a violent pressure upon the Soviet power, and the Party which exercises it, that will make it veer to the Right.

The Pressure on the Soviet Union

Knowing Stalin for what he really represents, the reactionary forces throughout the world are keenly aware of the fact that precisely at the present moment a well-concentrated pressure can strengthen the toe-hold of capitalist elements in Russia by compelling a shift to the Right. But the class relations in the Soviet Union are so taut right now, that a sharp turn to the Right, already implicit in all of Stalin's recent acts and words, would have the gravest effects not only upon the working class republic but upon the proletarian movement throughout the world.

The anti-Soviet drive in the United States, even though based upon the school-boy documents that many capitalist papers refuse to take seriously, is a timely reminder of a danger. A blow at Soviet Russia is a blow at the Communist movement. In turn, and because of that, it is an even heavier blow at the whole working class. The common danger and the common injury demand a common front. All workers: on guard!

WILL SPEAK ON THE

"WORLD REVOLUTION AND THE OPPOSITION"

Max Shachtman

Delegate to the International Conference of the Opposition in Paris. Just returned from a Visit with Leon Trotsky

AT THE
LABOR TEMPLE
212 East 14th Street (near 2nd Avenue)
ON
Thursday, May 15th, 1930 at 8 P. M.
ADMISSION: 25 CENTS
Auspices of the New York Branch of the Communist League of America (Opposition)