

Nothing for Workers in Roosevelt Message

President's Demagoguery at Congress Opening Hides Ruling Class Plans

With millions listening on the radio, President Roosevelt opened the regular session of the Seventy-third Congress Wednesday with the keynote that the fundamental features of the "New Deal" are permanent features of American reconstruction.

The tasks facing Congress, Roosevelt contended, are as great as those which faced the Congress of 1789. The problem is "to build on the ruins of the past a new structure designed better to meet the present problems of modern civilization."

In typical demagogic style, he then proceeded to enumerate the accomplishments of the NRA. Forgetting his ballyhoo about the need for increased purchasing power of the masses, Roosevelt claims a decrease in unemployment of several millions, uniform standards of hours and wages, adequate pay and reasonable profits as achievements of the NRA.

The increase of industrial unemployment of over one-half million in the month of November, the decrease in real wages or purchasing power of the masses due to increased prices, the use of the NRA boards against the unions, the organization of company unions under the NRA—all these facts which fly in the face of Roosevelt's optimism, were carefully omitted.

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OPEN FORUM WAR DANGER IN THE FAR EAST WILL JAPAN ATTACK THE SOVIET UNION IN THE SPRING OF 1934? What Will Be the Effect of Recognition of the Soviet Union on the Conflict Between America and Japan? Speaker: JACK WEBER Sunday, January 14, 8 P. M. International Workers School 126 East 16th Street New York City

Court Threat to Labor Witness

Preparations are being made by the Terzani Defense Committee and its attorneys to defend Samuel Z. Wein, ex-Khaki Shirt member who testified in behalf of Athos Terzani, anti-Fascist, and who faces a perjury charge because of his admission that he gave false testimony before the grand jury.

All workers and working-class organizations are urged in a current appeal by Herbert Mahler, treasurer of the defense committee, to rally to Wein's aid. "Our fight is not yet ended," says Mahler. "Wein took the stand to save Terzani, knew he was in danger of prosecution, but did not flinch. He admitted that he told the grand jury Anthony Fierro was killed by a man in a brown suit, such as Terzani wore, but swore he did this because his life had been threatened by Commander Art Smith of the Khaki Shirts."

All who have collected money for Terzani's defense, not yet turned in, are asked to send it at once to the committee at 94 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The committee, which includes delegates from the American Civil Liberties Union, will remain intact until Wein is clear.

Phila. Food Workers Strike

Fight Against Heavy Odds to Organize Industry

Philadelphia.—During the last couple of weeks a wave of strikes has been sweeping Philadelphia. We had the Taxicab strike, the strike at E. G. Budd Wheel Company and a number of minor labor affairs. Comrade Goodman mentioned the above strikes in the issue of the Militant of December 30. But he failed to mention the strike which hit the food industry.

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How Pacifism Led Us into War

Franklin D. Roosevelt recently paid a glowing tribute to the memory of his predecessor, Woodrow Wilson on the anniversary of his birth. The greatest virtue of this late president was his "pacifist" method of handling international disputes, the earnest endeavor to settle them without recourse to arms.

Pacifism is a gospel consecrated to the abolition of war. It abhors the slaughter of man by man. Believing as it does that armed conflict between nations is a reversion of man to barbarism, an inflammation of his savage instincts caused by a lack of adequate education, it is a confirmed advocate of peace conferences, disarmament, non-aggression pacts, etc., as the sure method of making the Christmas spirit everlasting. The war president, Woodrow Wilson, espoused these ideas.

"He Kept Us Out of War." This college professor, erudite, a lover of the Jeffersonian rhetoric as employed by the slave owning aristocracy in whose territory and tradition he passed the greater part of his life, was elected to his second term as the man who kept us out of the war" then raging on the European continent. Fact and life later disproved this campaign slogan. In all truth, however, Wilson was quite sincere in his "neutral" policy towards the European conflict. He was the center of the origin of the "neutrality" of the United States. His life was associated with the middle class, the scutcheon planters included, whose economic interests at the time were wound up more in the domestic than in the foreign market. God really and the center of economic gravity proved stronger than Wilson's empty phrases and pacifistic fables, as we shall see.

Wilson, the Dove of Peace The outbreak of the mad scram-

CIVIL WORKS AND THE NRA

Throughout the crisis mass unemployment has been one of the most complex problems of capitalism. As the crisis passed from months into years the ruling class followed every phase of the problem of the unemployed and endeavored to check this rising tide from finding an outlet into the class struggle.

At first they denied its existence. Then the exploiters claimed it was a temporary phenomenon. Next they denied its magnitude. Only after a long period of many months, with resistance every inch of the way, did the capitalists admit that charity and local state relief must be replaced by a national policy to cope with the "emergency".

They continue to fight against considering unemployment as a social problem and oppose social insurance. Many far-sighted exploiters, it is true, now realize that unemployment is a permanent problem. The majority, however—and they dominate the government policy—continue to try every form of emergency relief possible in order to avoid facing the issue of unemployment insurance.

Title Two of the Recovery Act provided for a public works program and the expenditure of over three billion dollars. The method of handling the problem of unemployment under the NRA was coordinated into a two-fold policy. On the one hand the public works program was to take millions back to work at reduced real wages. The government had to admit at a very early date that the public works program failed to accomplish this purpose.

When this phase of the NRA cracked wide open the administration inaugurated the Civil Works Program designed to give jobs, in place of relief, to four million. Stripped of its high-sounding pretensions and its publicity tricks the Civil Works Program was an emergency stop-gap—a scheme for winter, which is the worst period for the unemployed, to give them just a sufficient amount to keep them from starving to death, until spring. Four billion dollars, four million workers, deducting the regular American grant along the way, leaves less than fifty dollars for the winter for the "bread winner" of an average family of four. The Civil Works Program was a necessary supplementary measure to prop up the breakdown of the NRA.

The Civil Works Program, like all other government measures dealing with the problem of unemployment, is so organized that the relief work given is spread over the nation through a process of selecting the most menacing sections of

in imprisoning Eugene V. Debs and hundreds of others for insisting on democracy in Wilson's country. While the Princeton University president was sending hundreds of American workers across the seas to kill and be killed for the "humanitarianism" of Wall Street's profits, his pacifism continued unabated.

Prussian militarism was defeated. Wilson went to Paris full of hope for his idealistic solution of the conflict only to find that the victorious bandits of allied imperialism scorned his pacifism, demanding their share of the spoils they had won. Wilson capitulated. He signed the ignominious Treaty of Versailles, which perpetuated and deepened all the imperialistic wounds of the war, receiving in return ironic concessions, like the League of Imperialist Belligerents at Geneva, self determination of several nations which were meat for France and Great Britain, etc.

The Downfall of Wilson The capitalist class wanted none of his peace of Versailles. They lined up the country solidly and hostilely against him. The pacifism of Wilson, that had led America into the war and had prosecuted it successfully, was now outlived. American imperialism had other interests. Congress repudiated Wilson and he was showered with a storm of abuse by the press which called him a "hopeless visionary".

Wilson died a broken man, but pacifism did not die with him. The clouds of a new imperialist war for a new division of the world's territory, other slogans perhaps but with the force of the flower of the working class hang heavily as if there had never been a "war to end all wars". Pacifism stands at the helm again. Another Wilson, many Wilsons will be on hand to lead us into a war, with other slogans perhaps but with fundamentally the same aims—profits, profits and more profits.

Be wary of pacifists and pacifism! This is our message, our commemoration of the late Woodrow Wilson.

"To Make the World Safe for Democracy." The President, who not long before had boasted that America was "too proud to fight", plunged into the job of the successful prosecution of the war "to make the world safe for democracy." (This was no deterrent to the administration

Free Yakima Defendants

All 32 I. W. W. orchard strike pickets who had been jailed in Yakima, Washington, since August on a charge of assaulting a mob of 900 vigilante farmers who had beaten them with pick handles, have been released without trial, according to information received by the American Civil Liberties Union. The prosecution agreed to drop the case on the eve of trial when it learned that the defense was ready to put scores of witnesses on the stand in behalf of the accused.

The record for 1933 shows March to be the peak month with four and a half million receiving public aid. Over five million families were placed on a fifty cents per day average last winter; at the present time with all the new measures taken for their "benefit", they are doing good if they get sixty cents a day. In addition to this large number on the relief list, there exists that growing army of destitute individuals below this level who sleep under viaducts and on doorsteps by night and roam the streets looking for a handout by day. Above the multitude on relief list there is a still larger number of families, with the bread earners out of work, which exist precariously one way or another—some families are broken up and dispersed in the homes of relatives or friends; some used up their treasured rainy day savings; others have become houseworkers and janitors in exchange for the necessities of life.

The government adopts those measures for the problem of unemployment which benefit the ruling class. But they twist the question upside down so that it looks as though they are trying to solve the problem for labor's benefit. The majority of the unemployed as well as the employed are not yet disillusioned and accept the inverted bourgeois explanation as correct. The workers must be taught the bourgeois charity and relief, which take from the super-abundant supply and overproduction only a sufficient amount of food and necessities to keep the wage slaves from starving to death, are not really designed to help them. The object in reality is to prevent individual and, later, social expropriation of capitalist property and, at the same time, to insure the capitalists an abundant supply of cheap labor power. This is the dominating motive of all unemployment measures of the capitalists.

The Civil Works Program will face its death crisis in the spring as the public works program of the NRA confronted it in the fall. The ruling exploiters look forward to warm weather and the hoped-for revival. If the revival does not take place they will drive through another "emergency measure".

The extension of the original Public Works Program to the Civil Works Program has solved nothing fundamentally. It has only postponed the showdown. It has, in a negative way, further educated the unemployed as to what kind of a government and what kind of a crazy economic system we have.

—HUGO OEHLEK

—GEO. CLARKE

Increase in Lynchings Reported for 1933

Bourbon South Leads in Mob Murder; Sheriffs Assist Gangs

The ghastly practice of lynching has increased 130 per cent over the number in 1932, according to the annual review made public by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Translated into actual figures this means that 28 men were the victims of the sadistic fury of barbaric murder mobs in 1933, compared to 10 lynchings last year.

Highly significant is this alarming jump in lynching in face of the fact that the fourth year of the shattering economic crisis has set the nerves of large sections of the population on edge, with the American individualistic type of pogrom—lynching—as the outlet.

The protectors of the public morality, the guardians of law-and-order have been silent or active partners in this gruesome sport, practiced by the degenerated dregs of society. Legal actions of democracy and the due-process-of-the-law have been ripped to shreds by the tacit and not-so-tacit support given to the lynch mobs by sheriffs

and their sworn-in-deputies and the ardent endorsement by the Governor of California of the murderers of the two alleged kidnapers. The "honors" in the mob murder competition for the year 1933 go to the state of Alabama which leads the country with five lynchings to its credit. The bestial ruling class of Alabama, it will be remembered, has earned special recognition by the death verdict it awarded the Scottboro boys. It is quite adept at supplementing legal lynching with the extrajudicial activities of the mob. Georgia and Louisiana follow a close second with four each. Six human beings, doubtless negroes, and possibly share-croppers were lynched in South Carolina and Tennessee respectively. California and Mississippi lynched two each. Florida, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina and Texas bring up the rear in the 1933 roster of lynchings with one each. The Bourbon South, it will be seen from these reports, still holds front rank.

The N. A. A. P. reports that the lynch mobs spent the outgoing year in a very humane manner. "Thirteen of the lynch victims were shot to death and two of the bodies burned. . . . Eight were hanged and two of their bodies buried. Three were beaten to death, two were hanged and shot, one was beaten and shot and one was beaten, shot and strangled."

According to press reports the lynch mobs are beginning the New Year in the right way. Ernest McGhee, Johnny Jones and Isaac Howard, all young negroes are reported to have confessed in Memphis, Tennessee to "attacking a 17-year-old Mississippi girl." The same old gag for the rope-and-tagtag gangs to get to work.

A negro, Johnny Dade, has been "spirited" away by the sheriff in Angleton, Texas. He is accused of an ax-slaying and the sheriff has taken action presumably to "avoid" lynching.

A young man, Walter B. Reppin, has been sentenced to die by Colorado's new lethal gas method. The governor has been warned by Spencer Penrose, Colorado Springs business man and mining magnate who sent a telegram to the latter "in behalf of the people of El Paso County" that if he grant clemency to Reppin "there may be a danger of a lynching. . . ."

Unemployment Increase According to the A. F. of L. figures made public by William Green on December 30, over a half million workers were thrown out of employment during the month of November. "The worst lay-off," said the report, "were in manufacturing, where over 350,000 lost their jobs. These factory lay-offs are much larger than in any normal year for which we have records; larger also than in any year since depression."

These factory lay-offs, the report continues, represent over half the increase in unemployment from October to November, which was in all about 550,000.

Chaco Imperialist Battleground

Having raged for two years the war between the South American republics, Bolivia and Paraguay, for the possession of the Gran Chaco region continues almost without interruption. The complicated interests involved, the existence of various "peace" agencies interfering with each other's activities, and the extreme difficulty of military operations in the region, are the principal reasons why this war has dragged on for so long a time without any solution.

The Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey has a virtual monopoly over the immense oil deposits of Bolivia proper, although these have been as yet very little developed. The Bolivian deposits are at the eastern base of the Andes and the piling of the oil over a mountain range more than 11,000 feet high is too expensive to be a practical undertaking. The natural outlet for Bolivian oil therefore is by pipe line to some point on the Paraguay River, accessible to ocean steamers.

There is reputed to be some oil in the Chaco itself but this is a matter of secondary importance, as are also the other natural resources of the Chaco, such as hardwoods, grazing land, etc. The Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company is sparing no pains to block the interests of Standard Oil. In this of course the

On the N. Y. Waterfront

Seamen Subjected to Vicious Treatment

The unemployed seamen of New York are subjected to severe ill treatment and abuse down in the Seaman's Institute. . . .

If a seaman comes ashore and applies for a cheap bed at the Institute's dormitory, the first question asked there by the clerk is: "Have you got money?" Then he is grilled about his credentials as a bona fide seaman, when and where born, citizen or not, mother's maiden name, religion, what companies sailed on and, finally, the clerk takes a deep smell of the applicant's breath.

Before closing the deal he does not forget to inform the seaman, if he sniffed some of the recent salt on his clothes, that they have a bar, lunch-room and a cigar stand on the premises.

It surely is depressing to see able seamen living here like prisoners, after they have slaved away ten or twenty years of their lives aboard the stinking hulls—thrown ashore and into this dump, often with no more than soles shoes, ragged pants and a shirt on their bodies, and taking all the insults and abuse on top of it.

The shipping agencies are very particular nowadays in picking the operating staff (crew). One must be a young, husky, and good looking O. S. to get a job as able seaman. Next in order are the licensed men—former officers; and the work-ways are also considered before an A. B. has a chance. The latter are despised mainly for the reason that they are too wise to the tricks of the old man and his mates and refuse to do things not ordinarily expected from a sailor.

The conditions on board are intolerable. Repair bills are held down to the lowest possible level, the green seamen themselves doing the job usually done by shore con-

tractors. They are forced to work sometimes even on cargo, that is—loading and unloading the ship.

Every seaman knows that there are no limits on working hours on board a ship. There are supposed to be three watches on deck on all American ships, and no work outside of that, except where and when necessary—of which "when and where" the old man is the sole judge!

The existing paper unions are all discredited amongst the seamen to the extent that no one would listen to joining or fighting with any of them. The M. W. I. U. is considered a bureaucratic circle dominated by a bunch of "fourteenth street sailors", which in fact it is. Hundreds of the best fighters of the marine industry have gone through it, and they all say the same thing: "This outfit holds no future for the seamen. The I. S. U. is too well known for its hand-shaking policies with the shipowners and with its many sell-outs in the past. The M. T. W. of the I. W. W. has made some headway lately, and many seamen speak favorably of it. But they have been so long on the field without showing any results, that the seamen give them only sympathy. Very few will actually join and work for its revival."

The seamen of today are in a very desperate mood and are looking with anxiety toward a militant organization. Whether such an organization will come and take the initiative in the coming struggles of the seamen, depends upon the active seamen, who are themselves unorganized as yet. The Communist League of America should give them assistance and help to lay a base for the work, which is so painfully neglected at present.

—A MARINE WORKER.

War Two Years Old

The dispute over the Gran Chaco dates from Spanish colonial times, and has on numerous occasions threatened war. On several occasions in the late 1920's frontier clashes were reported, but the actual warfare on a large scale did not commence until about two years ago. Since then a continual saw-saw sort of fighting has been going on over a wide front, without either side gaining any decisive advantage. The same "forts" that were being first few weeks of fighting are still captured and re-captured during the being captured and re-captured today. There have been periods in which the Bolivian forces would win victory after victory and then it would be time for the Paraguayans to come in for their share. During the rainy season, operations had to be almost completely suspended, and during the dry season scouting parties would die of thirst in the grassy desert and the waterless forest. There have been close to a hundred thousand killed in all since the war commenced, which is a terrible toll when one considers the population of the countries participating (Bolivia: 2.2 million; Paraguay a scant 700,000).

Royal Dutch counts on the full support of British imperialism, which has therefore for several years aided Paraguay in her long-standing frontier dispute over the arena.

The Chaco region which for years has been a bone of contention between Bolivia and Paraguay, is made up of an extensive grassy plain, an area of thorn forest and the swampy jungle bottoms lands along the Piconayo River. Both of the disputants have outside of the Chaco great undeveloped areas, and their real interest in the Chaco is not for their own use but rather for the interests of British and American oil companies.

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