

NEW MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Workers Party of the U.S.

VOL. I, NO. 15

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1935

PRICE 3 CENTS

ONLY A SPARK IS NEEDED!

THE inevitable world carnage is drawing near with a speed and precision that is reminiscent of the months that preceded July 1914.

Hitler Germany has taken the last defiant step in denouncing the provisions of the Versailles Treaty which were calculated to keep the vanquished foe of the Allied powers in a state of virtual disarmament. Not only has Der Fuehrer proclaimed that universal conscription is once more to be introduced, but he now openly demands of the other powers the right to increase Germany's heavy ordnance, to legalize her secret air fleet and expand it, and to make her a dominant sea power once again, at least in the North Sea.

Fascist Italy, using its African punitive expedition and the highly charged European atmosphere as its pretext, has announced that it intends to put additional hundreds of thousands of armed men in the field.

Schuschnigg, chancellor of Austria, has asked the European powers for the right to multiply the armed forces of the country to the point where it will have 200,000 men at its command, with corresponding increases in arms and equipment.

The French Chamber of Deputies has voted almost unanimously for a sharp increase in military credits.

Once more the fuse has been lighted that may blow up the powder barrels of the Polish Corridor, for which Germany is now renewing its claim, and Memel, where the antagonism between Germany and Lithuania is only a formal expression for a deeper antagonism among all the rival imperialist powers of the Old World.

The whole continent is being overrun by the diplomatic advance agents for the more substantial and ominous armed forces. From London to Paris to Berlin to Vienna to Budapest and the Balkan capitals and to Warsaw and Moscow—the lines are being kept feverishly busy with the activity of wire-pullers who are setting the stage for the impending war, jockeying for most favorable positions and the greatest and most potent set of confederates.

The imperialist rulers, themselves subject to laws of development beyond their control, are plunging headlong into a new world war, and dragging the masses of the working people along with them, as the cannon fodder to be sacrificed on battlefields in order to determine which of the imperialist bandits, or which set of them, shall exercise the more dominant position in world finance, in world markets, in world politics. The friction among the competitors for leading position has reached that overheated stage where the tiniest spark throws the accumulated tinder into blazing flames. Yesterday, the preliminary shifting for position exploded a bitter civil war in Greece. The day before yesterday, an incident provoked a full-sized military expedition against Ethiopia. Tomorrow, the contest for Memel, or an episode in an even more obscure locality, may prove to have the significance of a Sarajevo—the last straw to break the back of the hitherto maintained armed truce, which is the closest that world capitalism can ever come to a peaceful situation.

With striking force, which must cut to the very heart of every workingman, it is being demonstrated that modern imperialism cannot even approach a solution of the social and economic problems that wrack it, without flinging the million-headed masses into a horrible massacre carried on with all the cruel refinement of a diabolically exterminative war technique.

No longer is the "coming war" to be visualized as something that may or may not appear in the remote future. The "coming war" is at the very top of the order of the day in Europe.

How it will start is really a matter of little moment. Capitalism is naturally pregnant with war of conquest. Any spark may touch it off at any time. The fact that Hitler asks for re-armament rights in the name of the Holy War against Bolshevism, that he pretends to put himself at the service of world imperialism in the role of a super-Wrangell, that he really wants to begin Germany's imperialist re-expansion by exterminating the Workers' State—does not mean that if the war started as a reactionary crusade against the citadel of revolution, it would end that way. Quite the contrary. The conflicts in the camp of the imperialists make a war among themselves inevitable, regardless of the manner in which the hostilities commence.

Nor is it conceivable that the imminent war could be confined to the Old World. The first lesson of the last world war was that there could no longer be a purely European war. The evolution of world politics since 1914 has only accelerated the tendencies which draw every nation inexorably into an interdependent world system from which none of them can escape. In the first place, no war in which the Soviet Union's existence would be at stake, is thinkable without the participation of Japanese imperialism. In the second place, no war of such scope is thinkable without the participation of the world's mightiest imperialist power: the United States.

There could be no greater self-deception practiced in the American working class than that which consoles itself with the illusion that the United States will not enter the coming world war! American imperialism has interests in Europe and Asia far too vital to its preservation and expansion for it to allow them to be affected by the outcome of a new world war without its own, that is, America's active and direct intervention.

It is precisely in this connection that the direct problem of the American working class arises. In the struggle against imperialist war, as, basically, in all other important struggles, the central axis of working class policy revolves around the need of fighting its own ruling class. More than ever, imperialist war puts the question of the principles and policies of this fight in the most acute and inescapable manner. Evasions and half-heartedness which are sometimes possible in "normal" times, become impossible in the struggle against war. Every party, every group, every tendency, is here put to its highest test!

It is in the struggle against imperialist war that a firm

Strike Struggles Grip Toledo

Akron Workers Set For Siege in Rubber

Bosses Import 3 Thousand Hired Thugs As Union Girds for First Test in 20 Years

BULLETIN

AKRON, O., March 28 (By wire).—Big three unions are delaying strike action pending approval from A. F. of L. on overwhelming strike votes at the Goodrich and Firestone plants.

The Goodyear has been granted the right to take a strike vote this Sunday.

3,000 deputies have been sworn in by the companies and organized into Vigilante committees. The bosses are preparing for a long siege.

By JACK WILSON

AKRON, March 24.—Akron's rubberworkers' unions were swiftly mobilizing their growing forces this week for a walk-out on Monday, April 1, in what promises to be the most bitter struggle of labor for its rights since the great strikes of last spring and which should mark the rise of a great strike wave this year.

Unions at Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone plants, the big three of the tire industry, have made strike plans and are preparing to be the spear-head of an industry-wide fight against the arrogant and notoriously open shop rubber barons.

The unions are demanding recognition, abolition of the company unions and a 30 hour week. These have been insolently turned down by Goodyear. Firestone and Goodrich are expected to follow.

A simultaneous strike is expected to begin at Los Angeles, Cal., where the big three companies maintain their most important plants outside of Akron.

Scabs Ready

The companies have already hired thugs from strike-breaking agencies in Youngstown, Ohio, supplied the sheriff with a large stock of tear gas bombs, and are planning to run in scabs, if necessary to smash unionism once and for all, company spokesmen have admitted.

Although the peak production season of the tire industry has passed and hundreds of workers have been laid off, the unions are determined to make a stiff resistance to any attempts to smash them and it is openly predicted by spokesmen that the battle will be a real one.

The fact that the unions have not more than fifty percent of the 30,000 workers involved in the three factories in their membership is expected to be overcome when the walkout is begun since the plants work in three shifts and militant pickets can prevent anyone from entering on the second or third shift with the picket lines being established on the first shift at 7 A.M.

City Tense and Expectant

The city is tense. The entire city, predominantly union labor in character, can be swung to firm solidarity with the strikers if a determined and militant course is pursued by the strike leadership.

Highly-bribed "company union" scabs will try to work and will be guarded by the out-of-town thugs. A call for National Guards is felt to be a matter of a day or so after the strike is called. And this will

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General Strike Shuts Down LA Hat Industry

Morale of Workers High As Strong Picket Lines Surround Shops

BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES, Cal. (by wire).—After four days of picketing the morale of the milliners is sky-high and the strike in an excellent position.

The militant work of the blockers' section has proved very effective in keeping shops closed.

Support has been promised by other labor unions in town. Fulfillment of this promise would guarantee speedy victory.

An effective demonstration organized by Sam Myers in the Downtown shopping section gave testimony to the power of the strike front. It also called forth loud squeals from the bosses and their scabby friends.

By SAM MYERS

LOS ANGELES.—When this story sees daylight 1,200 milliners will have quit their benches in a general strike for union recognition and better working conditions.

After several weeks of negotiations with the Millinery Manufacturers Association it became obvious that the bosses never intended to renew the old agreement or come to a new one. The milliners had but one resort—the strike. They have taken it and mean to win.

The militant strike of a year ago wrested an agreement from the bosses.

On March 20 this agreement expired. Emboldened by vigilante activities throughout the state and the promises of Captain Hynes "Red Squad", the bosses broke off the agreement in dispute over the right to hire and fire at will. Equal division of work is another right refused by the bosses although incorporated in last year's agreement.

Negotiations with the bosses have come to naught. Last minute efforts of the Regional Labor Board have proved futile. The workers are on their feet and will set them in motion on the picket line with the firm conviction that strike action alone will force the bosses to terms.

Dan Tobin Rats on Fargo Drivers But Ranks Remain Firm

FARGO, N. D.—Last week the charter of General Drivers Local 371, Fargo, was revoked by Daniel Tobin, president of the Teamsters International. At Tobin's suggestion, the striking union was also expelled from the Fargo Trades and Labor Assembly; and to top Tobin's attack on the workers, the labor-hating Fargo Forum, at Tobin's request, printed statements

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4 Unions on Strike

Joint Action Committee Established "March of Labor" Takes the Field; W. P. Members Active

BULLETIN

TOLEDO, Ohio, March 25.—The eight-day old milk drivers' strike ended late tonight when 350 union men voted 277 to 48 to accept the agreement drawn up earlier in the day by the Toledo Milk Distributors Association, Union representatives and the Toledo Regional Labor Board. The agreement provides for increases of wages ranging from 14 to 24 percent for the lower paid men. Adjustment of the wages of the higher paid men is to follow. The worse feature of the agreement is a provision leaving the re-employment of strikers arrested and convicted on charges arising from their strike activities to the "option" of the employers. Under such a provision the most militant strikers can be victimized.

The failure to develop the settlement for sympathetic strike action and to secure a better agreement can be attributed to the pressure exerted by the conservative section of the Central Labor Union and representatives of the Teamsters' International. An-

other factor was the inexperience of the leadership of the Milk Drivers Union, which is a comparatively new body, and their failure to understand the possibilities of the situation. An organized progressive force in the Central Labor Union could have successfully mobilized support for the idea of broadening the strike along the lines advocated by members of the W.P. and the Unemployed League. The organization of the progressive labor forces will be given an impetus by the present experience.

TOLEDO, Ohio, March 21.—Toledo is seething with labor revolt. The cauldron of discontent which caught the eyes of the entire country last year is overflowing again. Five strikes are in progress at this writing:

1500 FERA workers in a general walkout on all projects—800 milk drivers in 23 dairies—650 metal workers closing down the four plants of the American National Co.—

500 building trades men working on the docks of the Empire Construction Co.—

25 grocery employees of the Overmyer Wholesale Grocery Co.

At the suggestion of members of the Workers Party a Joint Board of Strategy was set-up to coordinate the activities of the various strikes and direct picketing. This Joint Board of Strategy includes representatives of the striking unions and Sam Pollock of the Joint Action Committee of the FERA strike. The FERA Joint Action Committee previously established is composed of 7 members from the Building Trades Council, the Lucas County Unemployed League and the Relief Workers League.

"The March of Labor" Flying squadrons, the battering rams of the Minneapolis and textile strikes of last year, are the official strike method in the current Toledo strikes. Here, however, they are called the "March of Labor".

This "March of Labor" which might also be called the "Drive for Victory" consists of a mass picket line which concentrates on all the vital and danger points of the various strikes. In two run-ins with professional strike-breakers employed by the Overmyer Grocery Co. and the large dairy establishments the "March of Labor", under the leadership of Comrade Sam Pollock and other W.P. members, and Tim McCormick, militant Socialist and leader of the Relief Workers' League, success attended their efforts. The scabs were physically driven from the job and the plants closed.

On Saturday a giant mass "March of Labor" is being called. All of Toledo union labor will parade through the city. The morale and

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Starvation Faces Million New York Jobless

Relief Inadequate, Conditions Appalling Is Finding of Mayor's Committee

One of every three wage earners employed in New York City in 1930, one year after the crash, is now totally unemployed!

This is only one of the truly appalling figures revealed in the report of the Mayor's Committee on unemployment made this week.

The survey shows that there were approximately 1,000,000 unemployed wage earners in March of last year. With small increases the figure remains substantially the same. Let us quote the report: "There are approximately one and a half workers in an average New York City family, so that the 1,000,000 unemployed wage earners live in 666,000 families. The size of the average New York family is a little over four. Thus the number of persons directly affected by the unemployment of these wage earners must be estimated at 2,644,000—87 percent of the entire population of New York City!"

To date, the report further re-

veals less than half the unemployed have applied for relief. On Feb. 4 this year there were only 245,000 families on relief as compared with a possible total as seen above of 666,000.

To quote again: "Approximately 325,000 families in which wage earners are unemployed but not on relief constitute a reservoir (a reservoir of misery) from which a constantly increasing number will, as the reserves of these families and their friends and relatives are exhausted, be forced to seek relief."

The Mayor's Committee made a further report on the quality of the relief now extended. We shall quote without comment, none is needed, the treatment that part of "the reservoir" which has already come to the attention of our benevolent government receives: "Private agencies use their budgets as guides with the provision that a case worker must in each

cash determine the actual needs of the family. The Home Relief Bureau uses its budgets as inflexible schedules, regardless of the facts of the case. . . . In addition, part of the home relief budget is still paid in voucher rather than cash which discounts its value to the client.

"When the Home Relief Bureau was first set up a committee of expert nutritionists drew up a schedule of minimum food allowances which would maintain health standards if every penny were well spent. Due to lack of funds the Bureau could not apply the schedule, and frequently granted only one half the minimum requirement. In October 1933 a new food allowance was set up which allowed the then current minimum standards. . . . This schedule has been continued up to the present time, although a committee of experts recommended on Jan. 22 that the food allowance be increased to meet the 11 percent increase in the retail food costs. . . ."

"Interviews with the administrators of the thirty-four precincts throughout the city showed that in only one precinct was the

food allowance adequate for maintaining health standards, that it was found barely adequate in three precincts, and inadequate in the remaining thirty precincts. . . .

"Under the present food budget the allowance to each person is eight cents per meal. . . ."

The report includes a table showing the percentage of malnutrition (starvation in plain words) found among school children. It is startling to find the figure 13 percent even in 1932. It increases to 21 percent in 1933, with a slight drop in the last two years.

Quoting again: "Under a ruling made in the past year an additional allowance for food is made to individuals for whom a special diet has been recommended either by a physician or a clinic. The extra allowance, however, is based on the assumption that the basic home relief food allowance is adequate, so that here again the actual increase in the cost of food is not met."

The Sick Allowance Perhaps the full meaning of these formal phrases is not quite clear. In plain language: the re-

lief allowance for healthy persons is not sufficient to maintain their health. They become sick. The allowance which originally destroyed their health is then used as the basis for their sick allowance. Thus the insufficiency of their allowance is twice visited on them, once while they are healthy and once when they become sick. This system is nicely calculated to drive a person either to death or insanity.

"The thirty-four precinct administrators with one exception reported that the home relief rental allowances were not sufficient to meet the average rentals in their districts. . . . The maximum home relief rent allowance is \$25, while average rents in most districts were reported to be from \$30 to \$40 a month.

"To get an accurate picture of the housing situation the homes of 2,201 home relief families were studied. The survey disclosed appalling conditions. Many of the houses were old law fire traps. "The survey showed that 883 of the 2,201 families studied had no private toilets, 647 had no steam

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