

WAR!

The Enemy Is
In Our Own
Country

NO MATTER how highly developed the armed strength of a nation may be, the coming war, like the last one, will be fought by the masses who are compelled to employ the weapons of warfare.

But before the workers of all nations can be driven to the trenches, their minds must first be poisoned with chauvinist gases, the bayonet of lies and misrepresentation must first rip out the bowels of their class solidarity.

In the last war, the masses were led to fight for Pan-Slavic czarist expansion in the name of the struggle against Japanese autocracy and German Kaiserism; the enemy of the Russian workers was in... Tokyo and Berlin. The German worker was called on to defend the Junker's fatherland from Russian barbarism and French "revenge"; his enemy was in... Moscow and Paris.

In most countries, the official Socialist parties turned recruiting sergeant in behalf of the imperialists. It required the immortal Karl Liebknecht to exclaim: "The enemy is in our own country!" In 1917, the Russian masses learned the meaning of these words. They turned on their real enemy, they took power, they brought the war to an end in their way.

The working masses are now being mobilized for imperialist war in the same way. Only, today it is not the Kaiser who is "forcing a war upon us"; his place has been taken by Hitler.

Does Fascism mean war? Yes, but only because Fascism means the rule of capitalism organized in the nakedest, most dictatorial and murderous way. It is imperialist capitalism that produces war, be it organized as an autocracy, a constitutional monarchy, a Fascist state, or a "democratic republic."

The social democrats are merely repeating their old role when they shout about the need of the workers defending the "democratic" countries against the "Fascist aggressor."

The Stalinists are merely lending a helping hand by creating illusions about the League of Nations, about "disarmament" as a cure for war, about the "capitalist powers that do not want war" and the "capitalist powers that do want war."

Does this mean that it is a matter of indifference to the workers whether or not they are ruled by Fascism? Not at all! Just because we are ready to fight tooth and nail for the right to organize, to speak, to meet, to publish our press, to strike, to picket, to fight for improved conditions and for freedom from capitalism—we stand intransigently opposed to the imperialist war. These are precisely the rights that are curtailed or abolished by even the most "democratic" countries the minute war is declared.

Many battles were fought in the class war to win these rights; battles are fought every day to preserve them. We will not surrender them lightly. We will fight to retain them, in the only war the working class can support—the class war—because we need them to defend ourselves better against the daily attacks of capitalism, because we need them for the speediest and most effective overthrow of capitalism!

It is Hitler who crushes the German proletariat. It is and will be American capitalism that exploits the American working class and reduces it to gagged and fettered serfs.

The enemy is in our own country!

Ever greater numbers of workers will realize this profound truth.

It will immunize them against the poison of chauvinism.

NEW MILITANT

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

VOL. 1, NO. 17

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1935

PRICE 3 CENTS

Labor Rallies to Aid of Akron Strike

ROLL, TIRE, ROLL!



Juror Hits Verdict in California

Goldman Appeals for New Trial as Deal Is Uncovered

SACRAMENTO, April 4.—Sentence was not passed today upon the eight workers convicted of criminal syndicalism Monday. Judge Dal M. Lemmon's schedule was upset when, on the motion for a new trial, Albert Goldman, attorney for the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, instead of limiting himself to dry technical arguments, exploded a bombshell which forever destroys the validity of the guilty verdict in the minds of all but the frame-up prosecution and the court.

Opening the defense argument for a new trial, Goldman denounced the verdict as an illegal horse-trade. The crowded court was electrified when he read an affidavit by a juror affirming this view. The judge immediately discounted Goldman's argument, but broke off proceedings to seek legal authority not to grant a new trial. Court will reassemble April 10 for further argument, Goldman having left Sacramento today for his home in Chicago. In the meantime, the judge has refused to set bail.

The affidavit impeaching the guilty verdict especially in the cases of Norman Mini of the Workers Party and Caroline Decker of the Communist Party, is signed by Howard S. McIntire. An accountant, he worked 27 years in the State Adjutant-General's office and is a Past Master of the local Masons, who last week presented him with a diamond-studded watch-chain. McIntire held out for 118 ballots before agreeing to a horse-trade on Mini and Decker in order to get a verdict.

Jurors Threatened

McIntire, who is indebted to one of the local banks back of the prosecution, finally gave in because of threats by other jurors. During the deliberations, Foreman Rackliffe and Mrs. Mary A. Perry, instruments of the prosecution, denounced as Reds those jurors who opposed convicting everybody on two counts. They threatened not only McIntire, but Juror Mrs. Clara F. Keith, whose son is a traffic cop, and Juror W. W. Jackson, former railroad worker who lives off a Southern Pacific pension. Fully conscious of the State's failure to make a case, McIntire nevertheless surrendered after a fight lasting 66 hours, and a horse-trade was arranged.

McIntire's affidavit was given voluntarily to the defense in order, as he stated, to get a new trial for innocent people. Immediately after the verdict he sought out Attorney Goldman in the lobby of the latter's hotel to tell him about the horse-trade. He shed tears of shame and regret. Next day he encountered on the street Jack Warnick, acquitted defendant, Norman Mini's father, and Herbert Solow of the N. P. L. D. to whom he told the same story. On the second day after the verdict, he sought out Solow and Warnick in the former's hotel room, and there expressed a desire to try to undo his action. As a result he composed a statement, which he then swore to before a notary and

(Continued on Page 2)

Continue Fight for the Scottsboro Boys

In handling down its unanimous decision to set aside the verdict in the Scottsboro trial, giving a new trial to Clarence Norris and Heywood Paterson, the United States Supreme Court performed a political act of the highest significance. The Supreme Court gave nothing from the goodness of its heart or from the mere formal excellence of its juridical brains. Seething unrest among the Negro masses, and to a degree, its organized expression in the Scottsboro campaign has bumped square into the oppressive exploiters and discriminators against the Negro population. The decision of the Court is a political reverberation of that collision.

The victory is only a partial one. The scene shifts back to Alabama where, in a new trial, the ruling class will try another maneuver in their attempt to railroad the Scottsboro boys.

As a result of the Supreme Court decision Governor Bibb Graves has ordered a revision of jury boxes in Alabama. The prosecutor—now Lieutenant-Governor Knight—has promised a new and ironclad case. It is obvious the state will now try to avoid all technicalities without giving the boys any better chance.

Some Negroes may be allowed on the jury. They will be drawn from the thin middleclass stratum of the

Death and Destruction 'Peace' Record of 1934

During 1934 throughout the world 2,400,000 men and women died of starvation and 1,200,000 men and women committed suicide because they had no further means of existence.

At the same time the social order which permitted and condoned this state of affairs evolved as a remedy to alleviate this misery the peculiar device of destroying

- 1,000,000 wagon loads of wheat
- 267,000 train loads of coffee
- 516,000,000 pounds of sugar
- 50,000,000 pounds of rice
- 50,000,000 pounds of meat.

—Steel, in The N. Y. Post.

Negro people and, lest any of these go astray, intimidation—open and concealed lynch threats—will be used against them.

Now, if ever, real victory is not far off. The I.L.D. has always been the cat in the boot; yet so near and yet so far.

Only a mass movement can save the Scottsboro boys!

The Supreme Court will not and can not save the boys!

The I.L.D. alone cannot save the boys! Only by building a mass defense, with all working class elements represented with rights of criticism, can the Scottsboro boys be finally freed.

The Scottsboro boys shall not die!

Men Flocking into Chevrolet Union

BULLETIN

(By Wire to the New Militant)

TOLEDO, O., April 9.—Despite instructions from the A. F. of L. to the workers not to participate in the election at the Chevrolet plant in Toledo arranged by the Auto Labor Board, 1,326 men voted for the A. F. of L. and only 508 voted for no affiliation. Only a handful failed to vote at all. Organization sentiment is running high, and the workers are flocking into the Federal union. Action talk is heard everywhere and a strike appears likely in the immediate future.

By ART PREIS

TOLEDO, O., April 9.—Organization of the production and skilled and office workers in the large Toledo plant of the Chevrolet Motor Corp. is proceeding rapidly following two jammed and enthusiastic mass meetings conducted by the Toledo local of the United Automobile Workers Federal Labor Union.

Over 900 workers have attended the meetings and it is expected that all will be signed up in the union by this Saturday. This is one of the most successful attempts which has been made to unionize a plant

(Continued on Page 4)

Solidarity Pledged by Cleveland & Detroit

Intervention of Perkin Threatens to Continue the 'National Run Around'

LATEST STRIKE ASPECTS AT A GLANCE

The Cleveland Federation of Labor and the Metal Trades Council have formally pledged their support to the Akron rubber workers' union.

F. J. Dillon, A. F. of L. auto head in Detroit, announces that "in the event of a strike in the Akron rubber factories we are prepared to give support."

"Impartial observers," say press reports, "are practically unanimous that the walkout (in Akron) will be under way before the present week is ended."

Secretary of Labor Perkins has stepped into the Akron situation, conferring with company officials, in hope of averting the strike of rubber workers.

By JACK WILSON

AKRON, April 9.—Akron's 30,000 rubber workers stand poised and ready to strike against the provocative attacks of the Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone companies and establish union recognition. Certain

outstanding facts this week indicate that the rubber struggle is the most important political event for the working class since the New Deal.

The strike is purely defensive in character. Insolent rejection of all A. F. of L. compromises, lay-offs, wage cuts and every other means of antagonizing labor have been used by the rubber barons to provoke a strike.

The National Manufacturer's Association, pushed by Dillon, Read and Company, the Wall St. bankers, is directing this offensive. The 3,000 armed guards, the barbed wire fences, the sand-bank entrenchments—these are the forces of repression which the capitalists are bringing to play.

Major Battle of 1935

The purpose of the industrialists is plain. They want to smash the union completely and show the working class that the dreaded open shop is here to stay. A defeat for the workers in rubber would have nationwide effects. It would mean that the capitalist offensive against the workers was succeeding and the American proletariat was being defeated in its first major combat with capital in 1935.

The issue of the Akron situation is the right to organize. The capitalists want to drown this fundamental right in workers' blood.

Furthermore, the whole future of the American Federation of Labor is involved. Green, having definitely committed himself to a strike, is playing his last card, being pushed by circumstances to such a position. All the A. F. of L. class-collaboration has failed. The capitalists have insisted on class struggle, feeling sure of themselves. Either outright capitulation and ruin in rubber and elsewhere or a fight faces the A. F. of L. and it seems to have chosen to fight. Of course, one or two more maneuvers can be expected. Probably Green will appeal to Roosevelt directly, but it doesn't seem possible that he can control the rank and file, who want to strike.

Sentiment Militant

The rubber workers are rapidly seeing the entire political aspect of the situation. "This will be a minor revolution," is the sentiment of many rank and file.

Coleman C. Claherty, A. F. of L. organizer in rubber, has himself declared that the key to the entire labor situation is in Akron. If the rubber workers win, it spells the doom of the open shop in steel, auto, and other industries. He says the A. F. of L. is concentrating its entire strength behind the Akron workers.

The working class is showing amazing militancy. Flying squadrons, military squads, outlining of strategic spots in the companies' fortresses—for such the factories are—these and other strike weapons are being utilized and will play a prominent role in the battle.

While newspapers and preachers—in particular preachers—cry against the workers, the workers calmly continue to get ready for a stiff battle which can only be described as impending civil war.

The workers' ranks continue to grow. The strike vote proves that. Scabbing will be done only by few misguided workers, if they can get in. It doesn't seem likely that they will.

Of course, the A. F. of L. has promised nation-wide support. This promise must be made a reality. Otherwise the struggle of the Akron workers against the entire capitalist structure will be made more difficult.

Nation-wide Strike Against War Stirs Students

On April 12, at 11 A.M., thousands of students throughout the country will go out on strike against war and fascism. The response on Friday will be an indication of the strong anti-war sentiment on the part of the student youth. As a militant anti-war manifestation the strike should receive the support of every student and worker and their organizations. It will be an indication of the disillusionment with capitalism's fake peace promises and the determination not to be cannon fodder for the next imperialist war.

It is unfortunate that such a strong expression of student opinion should be misguided and diverted into channels which will mar the success and effectiveness of the demonstration. No small measure of the responsibility for this can be laid at the door of the Young Peoples Socialist League and the Young Communist League. Proper guidance and leadership can be given only by the working class through its organizations. The Spartacus Youth League, realizing this necessity, appealed to the Y.P.S.L. and the Y.C.L. for a national united front of political working class youth organizations to give leadership and support to the strike. To date no answer has been received. The strike committee is in the hands of the Socialist S.L.D., the Stalinist N.S.L. and the Methodist Youth Council.

In every school where it has any foothold the S.Y.L., while affirming its support of the strike, has attempted to correct false slogans advanced, has analyzed for the students the nature of imperialist war and has pointed out the only method of ending it—revolutionary struggle against capitalist war. In many instances the slogans raised are purely pacifist and entirely distort the role of the students in the anti-war fight, helping to spread the illusion that the students can conduct their struggle entirely independently of the working class. Where the slogan "Against War" was raised, S.Y.L.ers succeeded in some cases in making "Against Imperialist War" the central issue of

the strike. In Franklin Lane High School, Brooklyn, where the administration attempted to avert a strike by persuading the students to call it after school hours, we were active in getting the students to agree to walk out at 11. In N.Y.U. members of the S.Y.L. in conjunction with the Student League for Industrial Democracy called an anti-war rally at which they demanded that Prof. Sidney Hook be allowed to speak at the strike mass meeting. This was in protest against the National Student League policy of allowing only people who agreed with their line to speak. In City College of New York members of the S.Y.L. fraction issued leaflets exposing

the pacifist channels into which the local strike committee was leading the strike and calling on the students to avert the danger. In Penn State College the local S. Y. L. branch issued militant leaflets calling for support of the strike. Lincoln High School S.Y.L.ers have issued the first bulletin which analyzes the war question and calls for support of the strike. Throughout, though criticizing wrong policies and slogans and attacking all attempts by the organizations in the official united front mechanically to control and dominate the local united front committees, the S.Y.L. has asserted its support of the strike and assisted in the preparation for it.