

NEW MILITANT

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Dark Clouds in Italy

Considerable significance may be attached to the report from Rome that the government has issued a decree permitting the Bank of Italy's gold reserve to fall below the statutory 40 percent coverage. The action is "unanimously interpreted, in Italy," according to the Times correspondent, "especially in banking and Stock Exchange circles, as the thin end of a devaluation wedge."

To this should be added another item in the report to the effect that the Fascist regime now finds itself owing foreign governments the sum of 500,000,000 lire (ap. \$4,000,000), for which it does not have on hand sufficient foreign currency and, payment for which would have to be made by digging into the gold reserves of the Bank of Italy.

If it is borne in mind that the rising debt has been incurred by the increasing purchases of materials abroad for the Italian preparations of war against Ethiopia, and that the impending "devaluation" hits directly at the living standards of the masses in Italy, a clearer picture is presented of the inseparable connection between Mussolini's African adventure and the prospects of mutiny behind the lines—at home!

The living conditions of the workers and peasants of Italy after more than a decade of

Fascist sovereignty, are quite different from the glowing idyll depicted by the blackshirted demagogues prior to the march on Rome. Only a few years ago, the League of Nations made public data which showed that the standard of life of the Italian workers was close to if not actually the lowest on the European continent. The bourgeoisie of Italy owes a great debt of gratitude to Mussolini for having saved the profit system from being overthrown by the masses by the simple expedient of reducing the latter to the state of serfs, held under the yoke by the drawn pistol and the naked sabre.

The imminent outbreak of the war against the Ethiopians may, and does mean increased profits for the ruling class, as is already shown by the rise, in one day, of the shares of the largest Italian rayon concern from 401 to 410, of automobile shares from 394 to 401 and of mining shares from 188 to 193. But it means only increased misery and poverty for Italy's toilers. The "devaluation" which is inevitable as a result of the tremendous expenditures that will be required to keep a quarter of a million armed men in the field against the Ethiopians, means only a further rise in the cost of living which, under Fascism, is not going to be compensated by an increase in wages.

Mussolini is thus preparing for himself a defeat on two fronts. The subjugation of the Ethiopian people will not prove to be a simple matter, and will not be accomplished in a day, if at all. Every blow that the dark-skinned warriors deliver to the Fascist conscript army, will be an axe-blow at the legs of Mussolini's throne. Every depreciation of the standard of living of the masses at home will produce such an addition to the accumulated hatred for the regime as will ever more threaten its very existence.

Herein, once more, is shown the community of interests of the Italian masses and the Ethiopian peoples. They have one foe: Italian Fascism. Into this community of solidarity must enter the workers of the entire world. A death-blow to Italian Fascism will mean the beginning of the end of Fascism everywhere. It will restore the self-confidence and the militancy of the labor movement in every land. It will destroy the made pretensions to immortality of the assassins of the people. It will give a tremendous impulsion to the liberating movement the world over.

For the Boycott of Fascist Italy! Against Italian Agression in Ethiopia!

International Communist League Calls For World Struggle

"Abyssinia," states Mussolini, pretending to justify his invasion of eastern Africa, "is a gun aimed against the security of Italy." Just the contrary is true. By massing his troops on the frontiers of the Ethiopian plateau Mussolini is aiming his cannon against these people in order to seize their territory, profiting by the general chaos now prevailing in the entire capitalist world. Mussolini wants to repeat against Abyssinia the very same operation with which Japan succeeded in the Far East against Manchukuo. Will Mussolini be permitted to act with the same free hand with which the Japanese bandits acted against Manchukuo? This time the consequences will be much more serious. Peace which rests on crossed bayonets cannot long endure. The hour of the bloody denouement approaches. Mussolini's war against Abyssinia will only be the signal for the European powers which are suffocating in their steel cages.

Mussolini can no longer either retreat or delay his adventure. In the face of unprecedented internal difficulties (unemployment, deep-going financial crisis, extreme impoverishment of the peasant masses, ferment in the youth demanding that the regime finally satisfy their needs, etc.) Mussolini is seeking a way out of these unsurmountable contradictions by a war against Abyssinia. But this country is not only the coveted booty of Italian fascism. England, France and Japan also have their rapacious appetites to satisfy. And Germany is not the last of the European powers to demand its share of the loot. The naval pact between England and Germany on the one hand, and the German-Polish pact on the other demonstrate that Germany is feverishly seeking a favorable opportunity to provide the spark for the conflagration for which nothing else is lacking. The aim of the explosion is already apparent: it is

directed against the U.S.S.R.

The Thieves' Kitchen

Thus it can be seen how criminal it is to spread the illusion that peace can be assured by the very people who endanger it, the imperialist bandits. The entry of the U.S.S.R. into the League of Nations was depicted as an attempt to reinvigorate this decadent organization with new prestige and force. Vain hope! The League of Nations has not ceased to be an instrument in the hands of imperialist bandits against each other. Its impotence as an instrument of peace was revealed in the case of the Chaco war, in the case of the aggression against Manchukuo, and now it is to be seen in the case of the Italian rape of Ethiopia.

The toilers have nothing to hope from those who incessantly conspire against peace. The latter are their imperialist enemies, regardless of the flag they fly. Laval, Mussolini, Hitler and their ilk—is it not significant that all these gentlemen lay equal claim to the self-same desire for peace?

Once more we say to the toilers that those who paint up the bourgeoisie of their own country as peace-loving, deceive and betray them. The toilers can rely only on their own strength in the struggle against war. Assuredly, if the workers are to be strong, they must be united, but there is no condition for unity other than a break with their own national bourgeoisie and with all its agents in their own ranks. Thus the problem of the struggle against war is the problem of revolutionary unity of the working class. To feed the workers on the illusions of pacifism which is beyond all historical possibilities would be to open the road to war and fascism.

Action Alone Counts

For the struggle against war we must no longer wait for what tomorrow will bring, no longer wait until it is too late to translate into action the threats which fill all the appeals and all the resolutions passed at meetings. War cannot be staved off by protests filed by Barbusse and Co. with the League of Nations. The imperialist bandits will not be halted by addressing petitions and sighs to them. Words must be followed by deeds. That is what we propose to all organizations that sincerely aspire to the struggle for peace.

Mussolini attacks Ethiopia. This is an indisputable case of banditry. If Mussolini is allowed to have his way, then in the coming months we shall witness the transition from the stage of preparations to that of open warfare, with all that we have predicted for Europe and for the rest of the world as a consequence. How prevent it? What can we do?

Proletariat Still Mighty

Without a doubt, thirteen years of the bloody dictatorship of fascism in Italy has paralyzed the working class; undoubtedly Hitlerism in Germany has annihilated the most powerful proletariat in Europe; to this we must add the Austrian and the Spanish defeats. Nevertheless the proletariat in Europe and in the other continents remains a titanic force while the imperialist enemy is torn internally by its contradictions, corroded by decay. The problem is to be able once again to utilize the colossal revolutionary potentialities of the workers, while confusion reigns in the enemy camp. If the enemy is given the time to act, it will also gain the opportunity to consummate its destructive plans.

There must be no repetition of what took place during the annihilation of our brothers in Vienna and in the Asturias. We can no longer remain passive and neutral spectators while the bandits pillage and run roughshod as in the Far East over Manchukuo. Every inch of soil lost by the toilers in any country whatsoever is a loss for all toilers. But, if the working class has the will, it can still do wonders by its prowess. Let us set to work to imbue the working class with this will. The Fascist aggression against the Abyssinian people is the link which we must seize upon today.

Organize the Boycott

Without delay it is necessary to organize an international boycott of

Fascist Italy and its allies in the war against Ethiopia. If we are unable to organize such a boycott, Italian Fascism may well, as it does, laugh at our appeals and protests.

No convoy of soldiers and ammunition must be permitted to embark in Ethiopia. Every shipment, every Italian boat carrying merchandise of Italy or for that country must be stopped.

It is not a question of proclaiming "not a penny, not a man" for the war of Italian imperialism against Ethiopia, it is a question of organizing the international struggle which will enable the workers of Italy to feel the solidarity of the international proletariat, and, imbued with this solidarity, to resume the march toward their emancipation.

Those who speak of "unity of action" must demonstrate by deeds that they really mean it. From London to Moscow, from Paris to New York let us organize. There is no time to be lost in this or that negotiation with the two internationalists, as was done at the time when the miners in the Asturias were mowed down, arms in hand. From all corners of the earth, in a mighty universal action we must speak to the workers of Italy and prove to them our firm will to defend the right of self-determination for the peoples in the Dark Continent. We must immediately establish contact with all working class organizations prepared for such a struggle. Ours is a clarion call issued so that the slogan be put into effect everywhere and without delay.

Organize for Action Now!

An international day of struggle must be organized which will serve as the crystallizing center and at the same time the starting point for action on the part of the toilers against Italian Fascist aggression aimed at the Abyssinian people. Let such a proof of the will for action, concrete proof of the international front of the oppressed and the toilers against their enemy, imperialism under all banners, be given, and the forward march of Fascism will be truly checked by the resurgent power of the world proletariat.

LONG LIVE PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM! DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM, BREEDER OF WARS! LONG LIVE THE INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM! AGAINST ITALIAN AGGRESSION IN ETHIOPIA! BOYCOTT THE BLACK SHIRT "CIVILIZERS"! FOR THE LIBERATION OF ALL OPPRESSED NATIONALITIES FROM THE IMPERIALIST YOKE!

Manifesto of the W. P. U. S. on Anti-War Day

Continued on Page 3 the foundations of socialism. No capitalist state, whatever temporary military maneuvers it may execute, can loyally and effectively defend the Workers' State, can in the end do ought but seek to destroy it. The whole system of imperialist war preparations constitutes the weapon for an attack upon the very existence of the Soviet Union. The real defense of the Soviet Union is the elementary and weighty duty of all the workers of the world.

War Will Involve U. S.

All this directly involves us, the workers, farmers and intellectuals of the U. S. There could be no greater error than to console ourselves with the illusion that the U. S. will not enter the coming war. No war, for example, in which Japanese imperialism was involved, as in a war against the Soviet Union, is thinkable without the participation of the U. S. American imperialism has interests in Latin-America, in Europe and Asia far too vital to its expansion and its very existence to allow them to be affected by the outcome of the next war without the direct and active intervention of American forces. Else why the vast naval-building program under the allegedly liberal and pacifist Roosevelt administration?

This war which advances with such swift precision upon us and in which the American masses are certain to be involved, will if it runs its course without the revolutionary intervention of the workers, wreak unimaginable havoc and destruction. It may give a crushing blow to all western civilization and plunge whole nations back into barbarism and savagery.

There is only one way to destroy the curse of war—capitalist-imperialist war. That is to destroy capitalism and imperialism. Pacifist measures of all kinds, disarmament campaigns, "peace pacts," League of Nations, etc. fail, in fact serve as the screen behind which war preparations go on, because none of these measures strikes at the root of the matter.

Only Revolution Can Stop War Capitalism and imperialism can be stopped and crushed only by the working class and its allies. They can achieve the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist states only under the leadership of the international revolutionary party of the working class based upon the tested principles of Marx and Lenin.

First and foremost, therefore, in this awful crisis impending for the working masses and for all humanity, the workers must know where the Marxist-Leninist party is, and must subject every party and group, no matter how great its numbers or how imposing its traditions, to the severest test in order to determine whether it will lead the masses to victory and freedom or repeat under far more dangerous conditions, the monstrous betrayal of 1914. By this test the so-called Commu-

nist International and its sections under Stalinist domination stand condemned as renegades to the teachings of Marx and Lenin, engaged in capitulating to pacifism and social-patriotism, preparing jointly with the Second International to betray the masses in the next war and by that same token to betray the Soviet Union.

Behind the screen of Stalinist lip-service to revolutionary internationalism, of imposing but impotent "united front" maneuvers, of loudly heralded "Leagues Against War and Fascism," of entry into the League of Nations, of military alliances between the Soviet Union and capitalist states, this complete and shameful betrayal of the working class of the world in its greatest crisis proceeds.

We of the Workers Party and the Bolshevik-Leninists throughout the world have long proclaimed that the Stalinist doctrine of building Socialism in the Soviet Union alone, would, after emasculating the revolutionary parties in capitalist lands and transforming them into mere border defenses for the Soviet Union, lead to complete and open betrayal of the world proletariat in the crisis of war.

Stalinism Has Betrayed!

Today in the most official manner we have from the lips of Stalin himself, from the Comintern Congress, now in session in Moscow after failing to meet at all for seven of the most critical years in which the proletarian movements in Germany, Austria and Spain experienced tragic defeats, from the responsible spokesmen of the Comintern in France, the United States and elsewhere the conclusive evidence that this betrayal in the war-crisis has been fully prepared. It is indeed fitting that the reporter on War at the Comintern Congress should be Ercoli, himself a social-patriot in the last war.

Stalin himself states that he "understands and fully approves the national defense policy of France keeping her armed forces at a level required for security." These are the "armed forces" required for "security" of French imperialism and the suppression of the French proletariat!

Thorez in France and Clarence Hathaway, editor of the Daily Worker in the U. S. say that if an imperialist nation such as France engages in a war against a Fascist nation and is allied in that war with the Soviet Union, then that imperialist nation will not be waging an imperialist war but a war in defense of the Soviet Union. An imperialist nation can wage a war, according to these "leaders" of the working class, for other than imperialist ends! An imperialist nation can and will defend the Soviet Union!

Chemadanov, the secretary of the Young Communist International, on this basis threatens the Socialists of France, brazenly seeks to club them into support of war carried on by the French imperialist state saying: "War?

If war occurs against the U.S.S.R. and you make your revolution, you will be traitors!"

The social democrats in 1914 carried out their historic betrayal under the slogan "Defense of the Fatherland" and by means of the fiction that there are "advanced" or "liberal" capitalist powers which may be supported and "barbaric" and "autocratic" capitalist powers which must be fought, though that did not prevent these social democratic fakiers from fighting for or side by side with either "type" of capitalist state when the "Defense of the Fatherland" required it.

Lenin or Stalin

Now the Stalinists confuse the workers, aid the war preparations of the imperialist powers and help to make the outbreak of war more certain by creating the myth of bad, Fascist capitalist states and good, democratic capitalist states. But Fascism is only one of the state forms through which the capitalist dictatorship operates. Capitalism inevitably resorts to Fascism everywhere when it can no longer escape its contradictions by less open and brutal measures. The outbreak of war will see an iron dictatorial regime established in the "democratic" nations also. To fight to defend such democratic rights as workers may still retain in certain countries is one thing. To fight anywhere to defend the hypocritical bourgeois democratic state is another thing—is to plunge the workers over the precipice into complete disaster.

Lenin and Karl Liebknecht

League for Industrial Democracy, Socialist Party and Workers Party in favor of a united defense staff for all eight Sacramento prisoners, the Committee will again urge the International Labor Defense, representing Min's fellow-prisoners, to collaborate. It will also seek to draw in other national bodies and trade unions.

Broad Committee

The Committee now includes the N.P.L.D., League for Industrial Democracy, S. P. and W. P., which sent out invitations to the July 16 meeting, and the Workmen's Sick and Death Fund, Spartacus Youth League, Young Peoples Socialist League and National Unemployed League. The Workers Alliance of America, General Defense Committee, American Civil Liberties Union and Communist Party Opposition have sent observers to the Committee, and have been asked to join actively. The members of the committee at present are Selmar Shoenberg, Murray Baron, William Gombert, Karl Lore, Jack Herling, Ernest R. McKinney, George Street and Herbert Solow.

Solow, who directed the N.P.L.D.'s work in California during the Sacramento trial, is temporary secretary of the N.S.A.C. He reported on the present status of the case, pointing out that if the attorneys' legal arguments are backed by an aggressive, broad, serious campaign they will cause the higher California court to hesitate to sustain a

verdict which one of the jurors has already impeached in an affidavit. The N.P.L.D. gave the new body a financial report, showing that it starts in the unusual condition of having a cash surplus of about \$50 with all trial expenses paid. Roughly estimated, the appeal may cost fifteen hundred dollars. In addition to the other reasons for a unified appeal, there would be the financial saving to the working class and its organizations.

Information from San Quentin reveals that copies of the New Militant, Socialist Call, New International and Modern Monthly have been denied Min. The N.S.A.C. will raise with the Warden the question of Min's rights to receive these papers.

SAN FRANCISCO.—Demand that waterfront employers pay retroactive wages to which longshoremen are entitled has been made by Pres. Harry Bridges of the San Francisco local, International Longshoremen's Assn.

Failure of employers to live up to an arbitration award granting the men retroactive pay is responsible for unrest on the waterfront, Bridges charged. He also accused the U.S. army with violating the award in regard to work at the army docks.

Push the Club Pias!

taught the workers: The enemy is in your own country. Stalin tells the workers that their own capitalist government is their enemy—but only under certain circumstances!

Lenin said: Turn the imperialist war into civil war. Stalin says: Do not interfere with the military operations of the capitalists who are our "friends"!

No other conclusion can be drawn from the social democratic—Stalinist repudiation of the revolutionary struggle against war—their betrayal of the masses in this world crisis—than that new revolutionary parties and a new revolutionary International must be built, and built immediately!

As the banners of the Second and the Third Internationals are once more lowered and dragged in the dust of treason against the workers, the Workers Party of the United States, along with the International Communist League, the Revolutionary Socialist Labor Party (R.S.A.P.) of Holland, the Workers Party of Canada and the French Section of the Bolshevik-Leninists joins this week in again raising aloft, higher and higher, the banner of the Fourth International.

Forward for the 4th International!

No more appropriate time could be found than this Anti-War Week for publishing the Open Letter for the Fourth International. On the basis of revolutionary internationalism which it lays down, under

this banner, the forces of the vanguard workers may be welded again into a disciplined, solid, aggressive force: Under the leadership of this international party the masses throughout the world can be rallied for the one real war against war, the one war in which the workers can win, the revolutionary struggle for the overthrow of capitalism and imperialism, for the establishment of the workers' state under which unemployment and starvation will be abolished and a higher civilization built.

On with this struggle against war, which must also be the struggle against perfidious social democracy and Stalinism, the struggle for the Fourth International!

Against the imperialist armaments race! Against the war preparations of the Roosevelt administration!

Against Fascism! For the defense of workers' rights! For the liberation of political prisoners!

For the support of Ethiopia against the aggressions of Fascist Italy and the manipulations of other imperialist robber nations!

Down with Stalinism which undermines the foundations of the Soviet Union!

For the revolutionary defense of the Soviet Union!

For the revolutionary struggle against war and imperialism!

For the Fourth International—banner of hope and pledge of victory for the workers of the world!

Green Dodges Auto Confab

(Continued on Page 2)

be elected, what the powers of the convention will be, or for that matter, even received an announcement of the fact that on August 26 a constitutional convention will be held.

Officials Dodge Question

In view of the fact that only about four weeks intervene between now and Aug. 26th, and that some of the federal automobile locals meet only once every two weeks, the conduct of the A. F. of L. officials can only be characterized as lightminded and that they are not seriously concerned about the setting up of an International in the automobile and auto-parts industry.

If the activities of the leadership of the A. F. of L. is characterized by delay and sabotage, the growing rank and file movement in many of the federal automobile locals, especially in Toledo, characterized itself by its militancy, class conscious leadership, and a growing confidence in its ability to organize the automobile industry and conduct the affairs of the union. The voice of this progressive movement is making itself heard in many of the federal locals more and more clearly, demanding that a constitutional convention be convoked in

Detroit on Aug. 26th, as announced; that only bonafide delegates elected by the men of the locals be permitted to vote; that an International be set up including all workers, skilled and unskilled, engaged in the manufacture of automobiles and auto parts.

An Industrial Union Aim

In other words the demand is unmistakably for an industrial union to be completely democratic in form, electing out of the convention all of its officers and that the membership have the right to recall any officer who does not carry out his duties in the organization; that the new International include tool and die makers, maintenance men, etc. etc., and that all workers of this industry be eligible for membership in the union with no discrimination because of race, color, creed or political affiliation.

The automobile workers have become steeled in two years of battle with government mediators, boards, automobile corporations and treacherous officials in their own midst. They are now in no mood for "playing around" with the idea of an International union. Regardless of what the intentions of the officials in Washington may be, the progressive workers in the automobile unions are determined that a constitutional convention be called on Aug. 26, for the purpose of setting up an International on the above mentioned basis, and are determined that nothing shall stand in their path for the realization of their goal.

BOOK SALE

SUMMER CLEARANCE SPECIALS

Table with 3 columns: Title, Reg. Price, Now. Includes books by Leon Trotsky, G. Plekhanov, Raymond Postgate, E. C. Fairchild, H. M. Hyndman, R. L. Worrall.

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