

MARCH OF EVENTS

By JACK WEBER

WHO WILL DISARM THE FASCISTS?

Nothing paralyzes the revolutionary activity of the advanced workers in any country so much as sabotage and treachery from within its own ranks.

THE POLICY OF LAVAL

Laval was placed in power by the financial oligarchy in complete control of the Bank of France.

of an economic policy which—by decree—unloads the entire crisis on the backs of the workers, the small functionaries and the exploited peasants.

But perhaps it is not Laval who will really disarm the fascists, but a better friend of the workers, Herriot for example.

The workers must learn that this is the inevitable result of a course of class collaboration, that they remain completely at the mercy of the big bankers.

By L. TROTSKY

Increasing Oppression the Path of Bureaucracy

Leon Trotsky Analyzes the Relations of the Bolshevik Tarov

We have a remarkable document in the letter of comrade Tarov, one of the Soviet Bolshevik-Leninists, a mechanic who of necessity finds himself today outside the Soviet Union.

It appears that as early as 1923, he was of the opinion that the October revolution had created the possibilities for industrialization, immeasurably more rapid than was the case with capitalist countries.

Such are Tarov's crimes. To this we must add that the Bolshevik-Leninists, including Tarov, never attempted to impose their ideas by force.

The Tarovs had several other similar crimes to their credit: From 1923 on, they demanded that work proceed on the drafting of the Five Year Plan; and when, in 1927, the draft of the first Five Year Plan was finally outlined, all the Tarovs argued that the annual increase in industry should be set not at 5-9 percent, as was done by the Political Bureau, but two or three times greater.

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posed the problem of collectivization before Stalin did, because they issued a timely warning against the consequences of the perfidious alliance with Chiang Kai Shek and the future Sir Walter Citrine.

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need of swindlers ready for anything.

Thus, Tarov's attempt to return to the ranks of the official "party" met with complete failure.

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Question Box

By A. WEAVER

Question: Why is it not correct for the Communist Party of Great Britain to support sanctions against Italy since a defeat of Italy will hasten the overthrow of Fascism?

Answer: To advocate that sanctions, applied by His Majesty's government in Imperialist interests, be given the support of the British workers means to advocate support by the latter of an Imperialist policy, and correspondingly, the renunciation of any attempt to struggle for the overthrow of English capitalism.

The Italian chauvinist can, with equal justice, reply: "Italian, and not British imperialism, is the lesser evil since the latter exploits several hundreds of millions of people; Mussolini, less than a hundred million. The material conditions of British colonialism, e.g. India, is worse than that of the Italian masses under fascism.

The reasoning can be carried to its logical conclusion: If, as a result of Imperialist war, capitalism will be overthrown in those countries which are defeated, then it is necessary that the workers support Imperialist war, and in each country conduct it as vigorously as possible so that the opposing capitalism will be all the more speedily destroyed.

Since the arguments are equally strong in all countries, acceptance of them by the workers internationally means the end of the struggle for the overthrow of their respective capitalisms.

What is false in the entire argument is the contention, a version of the "spontaneity" theory, that a victory by one Imperialist power over another necessarily means a victorious proletarian revolution in the nations controlled by the latter.

The political conclusions to be drawn from the case of comrade Tarov are quite evident. It would be sheer insanity to think of "reforming" and "regenerating" the C.P.S.U. today.

On February 20, 1889, Engels wrote Kautsky a truly remarkable letter—published only recently—on the class relations during the epoch of the Great French Revolution.

Because there is no revolutionary party today in Italy, the most pernicious idea that could be advanced is the concept that the Italian revolution can be hastened by eradicating the revolutionary activity of the workers outside of Italy, i.e., in the nations applying sanctions.

Supporting the imperialists who are applying sanctions, therefore, is one of the surest methods of making it next to impossible for the Italian workers to arrive at Marxism, and in the final analysis of setting the world revolution back for decades.

French Stalinists Give the Fascists A Lesson on the True Patriotic Spirit

Vaillant-Couturier, No. 1 French Stalinist publicist and blowhard, has discovered exactly what's wrong with the French Fascists.

"The idea," writes the vaillant Vaillant, "that the League of Nations can really prevent the war in Abyssinia exasperates the French Fascists.

"It is really sad to see Frenchmen blind to such a point by party spirit, that they are ready to sacrifice the vital interests of the French people to the prestige of the black shirts of Mussolini."

Another choice item from France to add to disgusting saga of Stalinist social-patriotism. The French Ministry of the Interior recently issued a ban on the display of foreign flags on public buildings except for some special occasion.

"It seems that this has reference to the Socialist and Communist majorities and the red flag. This is hardly right.

"Finally, because it will be henceforth understood that the majorities will be able to put up outside their buildings, alongside the tricolor, the Soviet flag with its special insignia on such occasions, for example, as the anniversary of the pact of mutual assistance or May First, the legal holiday of the U.S.S.R."!!! (L'Humanite, Oct. 2)

combination that provides the essential elements of the regime. Hitler, as is well known, vented his greatest malice upon his oppositionist brothers-in-arms in the party, the "left wing," which reminded him of his own yesterday.

Yet, Tarov, alarmed by the triumph of National Socialism, turned to the authorities in Moscow with the following proposal: he pledges to give up Oppositionist activity, in return for which, he, Tarov, is to be given the right to return to the ranks of the party, as a disciplined soldier, and there carry on the struggle against the Fascist danger.

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Why the National Government of Great Britain Is Prepared to Embark on a War with Italy

(Reprinted from the British "New Leader," organ of the Independent Labor Party)

The British Government claims to be opposing Italy because of love of the League Covenant and of the rights of small nations. No worker can believe this.

More than once we have pointed out in these columns the strategic importance of Abyssinia for British imperialism. The importance of Abyssinia from the point of view of the immediate interests of British capitalism is not so well known.

But it is not merely a matter of the unity of the British Empire in Africa. It is also a matter of its value for British capitalists. It is doubtful whether any part of the British Empire has yielded to British capitalism such an increase of profits as British Africa since the World War.

We give some striking figures in proof of this. Take, first, the increase in the total trade of Africa (of which, of course, British capitalists control the major part).

Table showing Total Trade of Africa from 1913 to 1928. 1913: £320 millions; 1924: £450 millions; 1928: £580 millions.

It is often not realized how important Africa is in the production of many of the most precious articles. Our next table shows African production compared with world production of four most valuable articles:

Table showing Production of World, African Gold, Diamonds, Nitrates, and Chrom ore.

Increase of Gold from Africa There has been a tremendous increase in gold production, as the following table shows:

Threat to British Owners of Cotton Fields The importance of Abyssinia to British capitalists because it contains the headwaters of the Blue Nile, which irrigates the British-owned cotton fields of the Sudan, has often been pointed out.

Two British companies are mainly interested in the Sudan—the Sudan Construction and Equipment Company, Ltd. (capital, £94 million) and the Sudan Plant Syn-

dicate (capital, 1925, £0.6 million; 1934, £2.3 million).

British Africa has also increased greatly in value as an area for British investments. Here are examples of how the opportunities for British shareholders have increased.

Investments Since 1925 In millions Gold Coast Govt. Securities... £5.7; South African Govt. Securities £42.0; N. Rhodesia Govt. Securities £4.2; S. Rhodesia Govt. Securities £4.2; Nyasaland Govt. Securities £2.0; Tanganyika Govt. Securities £5.5; Rhodasia Railway £13.8; Nyasaland Railway £0.8; African Trade Corporation £8.5; Diamond Mines of S.W. Africa £6.4; West Rand Consols £3.4; Rand Selection £2.3.

These are twelve examples out of hundreds of shares dealt with on the London Stock Exchange. They total £92.0 millions! One other example: in four years £25 millions of British capital were invested in North Rhodesian mines.

Why this expansion in Africa? One of the reasons is that the wages are extremely low—if one dare speak of them as wages. The price of labor in Kenya is ten shillings a week. This is why British capitalists invest money there. They can make greater profits. The low wages in the British Empire in Africa help to cause unemployment in Britain and to undercut British working class standards.

revolted against the system of slavery? It is because they see little difference between slavery in Abyssinia and wage-slavery and forced labor in the neighboring British colonies where Africans are supposed to be free.

The land is taken from the Africans, who are only allowed to possess it in reserved territories. The result is that they are forced to go and labor for British capitalists.

The position of the Africans has been described as follows by an authoritative writer: "White colonization and white industry mean that the black man loses the freedom to move in his own country, is made to work for the white man either by undisguised forced labor or by the corvée or by taxation, which he can only pay by hiring himself out year after year. It means sweating in the field for the profit of the white, sweating in the mines where he is paid a tithe of what a white man earns for the same work.

But why should British workers be killed? The facts given in this article show the importance of British capitalist interests in Africa and indicate why our British capitalist government is prepared to go to the extent even of war to defend those interests against the threat of Italian capitalist and imperialist interests.

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