

MARCH OF EVENTS

By JACK WEBER

WAR TECHNOLOGY

Modern warfare when it involves the advanced capitalist countries is no longer a matter of winning battles. It is far more the pitting of the national resources and national technologies against each other.

The United States, for example, has its plans laid in the minutest fashion for the complete mobilization of the necessary industries the moment war breaks out. Contracts for all war materials need only to be signed to start, the production schedules already agreed upon with individual factories.

LABOR AND THE WAR PLANS

An important aspect of this planning is the economic side of production. The allocation of finances in the government budget is based on careful consideration of prices in connection with increased output.

ment, the keeping of a tight rein on the working class. It means the attempt to destroy any organized resistance to the well-laid plans of capitalist profiteers, to check the workers in any effort to maintain their standards of living or to improve them.

WAR IN THE FAR EAST

The situation in North China has reached a critical stage. The Japanese are determined to seize the five northern provinces under the usual fakery of "autonomy," the cherished formula of the Japanese imperialists.

Our Revolutionary Heritage:

Homestead Strike

By Leighton Rigby

Philanthropic Andrew Carnegie has been described as "not only the greatest manufacturer that has ever lived, but the author of a philosophic comprehension of the progress of civilization as wide as could be found in any other writer."

But that's the Andrew Carnegie who is being honored by the innocents here and abroad on the occasion of the centenary of his birth. Surely it's not the Carnegie who stubbornly refused to recognize the workers' right to organize.

In 1889, at the Carnegie Steel Company plants at Homestead, Pa., the company officials and the workers agreed upon a wage scale to extend over a period of three years. When this agreement expired, the substitute offered by Carnegie slashed wages twelve percent.

Carnegie boarded a boat for his native Scotland, leaving his lieutenant, Henry Clay Frick, to face the approaching storm. His literary mind doubtless recalled that line from Shakespeare: "So foul a sky clears not without a storm."

Before the clouds were pierced by a lockout, Carnegie dispatched a notice for Frick to post at the Homestead works. It said, in effect, that the company no longer recognized the workers' union and that the plant would be thenceforth strictly non-union.

determined—the thugs because they were being well paid, and the worker families because the yowler rather die fighting than starve. From the opposite bank, two cannons barked, but the discharges did not touch the Pinkerton barge.

The Workers Victorious The boat that had towed the Pinkerton barge was driven off to Pittsburgh, and the Carnegie storm troops, beaten and seeing no other channel of escape, raised the white flag.

The sheriff of Allegheny county admitted his inability to break the power of the workers' committee. As the next best thing, and notoriously more efficient, the company hired a band of three hundred Pinkertons, thugs who were towed late at night on a floating arsenal from Pittsburgh.

Seine District of Socialist Youth Grows Since Their Expulsion

"ONCE EXPELLED YOU WILL BE NOTHING, NOT EVEN WIND, NOT EVEN DUST..."—From a speech of Lagorrette, right wing leader of the Socialist Youth at the Lille Congress.

By NATHAN GOULD

(Continued from last week)

YOUTH AND RELIEF

For reasons obvious to all, the bourgeoisie has granted to the miserable of this country various forms of "relief": home relief, WPA, FWA, etc. These forms have affected primarily older workers, those having families.

If we are permitted to digress for a moment we might say that the President's speech in Atlanta on Friday, Nov. 29, gave clear indication that even these meager forms of relief are to be suspended in the near future.

Up until 1934 the very best that this section of the population received was vermin and disease-ridden "flop-houses." Since then, three institutions of relief have been granted the youth.

INSTITUTIONS FOR YOUTH RELIEF

1. Transient Camps. In the N. Y. Times of Aug. 14, 1932, C. B. Hurd, giving minimum figure esti-

mates, reports that "there are between two and three hundred thousand youth between the ages of 12 to 20" who roam the country by means of freight trains, hitch-hiking, etc. Since that period the number of youth engaged in this means of livelihood has been increasing until, in the middle of 1934, various sources attributed the number of "roaming youth" to be closer to seven hundred and fifty thousand—a formidable number.

2. National Youth Act: The NYA which, according to a confidential despatch of the U. S. Department of Interior, Office of Education, on April 26, 1935, was designed to relieve "the prolonged thwarting of their (the unemployed youth's) natural desires and ambitions (which thwarting) may result either in a rebellious spirit or in a feeling of inferiority from which some of them will never recover."

Hence fifty million dollars has been appropriated for the purpose of relieving two million unemployed and student youth by paying for skilled and semi-skilled labor for a maximum of fifteen hours per week, the generous, scab, maximum wage of \$3 per week. Forced to scab at 20c per hour—\$3 per week maximum: a happy prospect for the starving youth. At that rate, the government can assure us the production of a fine core of mental deficients and physical incompetents.

Five Years of "Spartacus" War Machine Exploits Misery and Poverty of the Youth to Corral Them for New Capitalist Juggernaut

sources that even that which was described as the purpose of the NYA has been flagrantly and criminally distorted. This significant information was revealed when the head of the New York Department of the National Youth Administration resigned his post, giving as his reason, that notwithstanding the passing of over one third of the period of the plan, nothing, absolutely nothing, had been accomplished insofar as aid to the needy youth was concerned.

3. The Civilian Conservation Corps: The CCC is America's military forced labor camps where unemployed youth are conscripted (by economic conditions of course) to do skilled labor UNDER MILITARY DISCIPLINE at \$1 per day and keep. So successful has been this "conscription" that the government has by this time increased the number of camps from 1,600 to 2,900, and the number of recruits per period (six months) from some 300,000 to almost 600,000.

Mr. Mitchell's article, favorable to the CCC, appearing in The New Republic of May 29, 1935, states that "perhaps one third of the depression youth will go through the CCC." This statement is in view of the fact that it is an open secret, admitted by the military officials in charge of the CCC, that the latter is not actually a relief project or a social or industrial enterprise, but that it is (and they make no bones about it) a military affair; an expedient way of training the youth, of preparing them for war, at army scab wages, for semi-skilled union labor. This explains

why, of the three "relief" projects, only the latter thrives. Hence of the three relief agencies offered the five million or more unemployed youth of this country, the first is abolished, the second is a failure and acknowledged as a mockery by one of its leaders and outstanding proponents, and the third turns out to be a starvation scabbing forced labor outfit designed to give the youth not relief, but to prepare them for a war in defense of the profits of those who deny them life and who impose upon them conditions of starvation and physical and moral degradation.

To these youth a future can be assured only if they can be reached by the Workers Party through its youth instrument, the Spartacus Youth League, to direct them in the struggles for their needs.

ON THE WAR FRONT

It does not require years of experience or great powers of observation to know that youth today figures as the most serious factor in modern warfare. With the introduction of mass production and the system characterized by it, we have simultaneously the introduction of the system of mass murder, of the cream of the population—the proletarian youth. That youth is primary to the victory of a nation in war and vital to the victory of an class is known better perhaps by the bourgeoisie than anybody else.

Long before Karl Liebknecht uttered his rich and meaningful slogan, "He who has the youth has the army," King Frederick William of Germany, speaking for the ruling classes, already pronounced in even more explicit terms this identical thought when he stated: "A civil war needs soldiers who will obey blindly; which is as

much as to say that it needs well drilled children and minors. The most loyal recruits are to be found among the kids who have only just left school. Unquestioned faith is a soldier's best ammunition."

And further: "Youth recently confirmed make the best fighting men." Hence Van Roon raised the cry: "Away with the Landwehr! Not for the simple increase in the army, but for the creation of an army which should consist mainly of youth."

How loyally the American bourgeoisie had conducted this policy is strikingly illustrated not only by the conditions of its draft laws, by the ages of the individuals comprising the present standing army, but more so upon its specific stress and attention upon those military institutions for civilians which attract almost entirely youth. The size of every military and semi-military youth organization (particularly the National Guards—and the Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts and other children's organizations) has grown tremendously in the past five years. The C.M.T.C. (Military training camps for civilians) attracting almost exclusively youth has in the past seven years almost doubled, the number of its camps and more than doubled its yearly enrollment which amounts to over one million.

Nor have they neglected the advice given with regards the student. An article in the Chicago Daily Tribune of Aug. 26, 1935, was headlined: "ROTC Already Biggest in U.S.; To Be Doubled." The Reserve Officers Training Corps, a military institution in the high schools and colleges, is operated under the direct jurisdiction of the U. S. War Department. Aside from its military function in warfare,

WORLD OF LABOR

Belgian Labor Party Bureaucrats Push Expulsions As Left Wing Adopts Revolutionary Position

The leadership of the Belgian Labor Party (P.O.B.) follows close on the heels of its brother bureaucrats in the French Socialist Party in hounding revolutionists from the organization. They take their cue from the bourgeois police who intensify the repression against revolutionary opponents of war in direct ratio with the imminence of the conflict.

Moreover in Belgium, national unity with the bourgeoisie is already an accomplished fact. Vandervelde, spiritual guide and leader of the P.O.B. is a member of the Van Zeeland cabinet which at this moment is being challenged in its anti-working class monetary policy by the threat of a wide-spread miners' strike. More the reason for the threat of expulsion against the comrades of the Action Socialiste Revolutionnaire, organ of the left wing in the P.O.B.

The following quotation from the A.S.R. is therefore published with great gratification since it indicates that the left wing comrades mean to fight and not capitulate: "As the leadership of the P.O.B. becomes ever more deeply involved in the field National Union for War it must be foreseen that disciplinary measures—so-called—will be taken against the groups and elements who are fighting against special-patriotism and against the tendency which under cover of the struggle 'against Fascism and war' prepares the workers to participate on the side of their bourgeoisie in the new imperialist war."

"Last week we indicated the attack being prepared in top committees against the Action Socialiste Revolutionnaire. The quarrel which the leadership of the party sought to provoke with the J.G.S. (Young Socialist Guards) depriving them of the subsidy and disciplinary measures, arises from the same cause. Similarly with the first sanctions against the L.I.G.A. (anti-war league under left wing control) which has adopted a position close to that of the A.S.R. on the problem of war."

"The attack unleashed by the leadership of the P.O.B. against the opponents of its policy of National Union with the bourgeoisie for war necessitates a rapid coordination of the left forces, of the revolutionary forces determined to hold high and firm the banner of internationalist socialism, the banner of proletarian revolution."

Ever since the removal of the renegade Speak who mouthed the most revolutionary phrases only to become a minister in His Majesty Leopold's cabinet in the first serious crisis, and the break with the Stalinist hireling Dr. Marteau, the A.S.R. has moved consistently to the left. The entry of the Belgian Bolshevik-Leninists and their close cooperation with A.S.R. contributed not a little to this leftward movement. We have just received in the mails the latest copy of A.S.R., containing a manifesto on war which takes an outright revolutionary position. Lack of space permits the reproduction of a few

excerpts only. Following an introduction in which they explain the causes of the Italo-Ethiopian war and the world war which may follow, they continue:

"Consequently it is necessary to combat and defeat capitalism to obliterate the causes of war and assure lasting peace among the peoples by international proletarian revolution and the institution of the socialist society! In order to put an end to war, it is above all in its own country that the proletariat must fight and defeat capitalism!"

"... As in 1914, the leadership of the workers' movement—the Second (Socialist) International and the Third (Communist) International—unite on the question of 'national defense' in a capitalist regime, preparing the workers to participate in the new imperialist war on the side of their national bourgeoisie."

"The attitude which they have adopted in the Italo-Abyssinian conflict and which consists in placing the workers' movement at the service of the League of Nations, is proof sufficient. It is not an enemies but as servants of their respective imperialisms that the workers are called upon to act! This road, lauded by the leaders of the Second and Third Internationals, leads directly into national union for war and to a new massacre of millions of human beings for the defense of capitalist interests."

"... 'Fascism means war' is the deceptive formula by means of which the leaders of the workers' movement want to drag you behind the capitalists for the defense of the capitalist fatherland in which you are not and can never be anything but slaves! For the defense of the capitalist interests they propose that you sacrifice your life, in case of war. But when your interests are involved they are opponents of the revolutionary struggle against your exploiters! Against external Fascism expressing the imperialist capitalist interests opposed to those of our bourgeoisie, but they are partisans of war; but against Belgian Fascism they are opponents of direct action, of the physical and armed struggle of the workers."

"To follow the directives of the Second and Third Internationals on the question of war will, as in 1914, lead directly into a new catastrophe for the international labor movement."

"... No confidence in the League to 'guarantee peace!' It is the den of imperialist bandits, oppressors, of the peoples."

"No confidence in the Van Zeeland government of Belgian capitalism, which has aided and still aids Italian imperialism in its aggression by supplying it with raw materials!" "Our slogan remains: Not a train, not a boat, not a penny, for Italian imperialism! Immediate boycott by the workers of all production and transportation for Italy! Independent action of the working class!"

"But at the same time struggle against our own capitalists and the government to wrest from it increases in wages, unemployment grants, pensions, in proportion to the rising cost of living!"

"Only by carrying on the struggle on this class basis can the toilers simultaneously fight war, capitalism and Fascism!"

"Against the policy of collaboration with the class enemy!" "For a policy of direct struggle of the masses against their exploiters."

"Against 'National Defense' under a capitalist regime, against National Union for war!"

"For revolutionary defeatism and the victory of the revolution through the armed insurrection of the working class!" "Down with the capitalist regime, cause of misery, Fascism, and war!"

"For the seizure of power by the toiling masses through revolutionary struggle: Mobilize!" "Long live the dictatorship of the proletariat!"

"Down with the capitalist national states and their frontiers!" "Long live the Soviet United States of Europe!" "Long live the international working class revolution!"

A KRON WORKERS! HEAR MAX SCHACHTMAN speak on "WAR AND THE WORKERS" Friday, Dec. 13th, 8 P.M. Tailors' Union Hall 21 S. Main Street

any?" will be determined by the answer which the W.P. will give through the S.Y.L. to the question: "Who will have the youth?" (Next article: Youth and Fascism, and Youth in Other Labor Organizations.)