

# JAPAN STARTS NEW DRIVE IN CENTRAL CHINA

## Seeks To Wipe Out The Defeat In Southern Shantung

Drawing on fresh divisions from other fronts, the Japanese military is making a new and desperate effort to retrieve lost ground in Central China. What is even more important, the Japanese are trying to retrieve the prestige they lost so heavily in the eyes of their imperialist rivals as a result of the defeats inflicted upon them in Southern Shantung during the last month.

The new offensive, for which Japan is marshalling fresh and formidable forces, is designed to achieve the long-delayed objective of capturing Suichow, strategic railway junction which commands the Lungai line across the Central China plain.

### Dissensions and Difficulties

For three months Japanese attempts to achieve this have been checkmated by growing difficulties at home, dissensions in the high command and within the government itself, and by the successful guerrilla tactics of the Chinese forces which paved the way for the victory at Taierchwang, on the north bank of the Grand Canal, three weeks ago.

Whether the Chinese forces will be able to withstand the new offensive does not depend on military factors alone.

The war of China's freedom, like the fight against Fascism in Spain, is fundamentally a political struggle. Japan's military superiority can be counterweighted and overcome only by a surging movement of the Chinese masses led into the broad channels of the anti-imperialist struggle on the basis of a far-reaching social program which will assure them a better life when the war is over. But it is of just such struggle and a program that the Kuomintang and the Chinese ruling class are afraid. That is why a successful outcome for the war under Kuomintang leadership is utterly impossible.

### Striking Power

The defeat inflicted on the Japanese at Taierchwang was a demonstration of the striking power, the magnificent courage and the fighting qualities of the Chinese soldier. It also exploded the shallow myth of Japanese military invincibility.

But the morale and the combative qualities of the Chinese soldier, who is usually of humble peasant origin, cannot be indefinitely sustained in a purely military - defensive war which offers him, at the end, no way out of the social slavery and degradation which have always been his lot.

A radical social program, envisaging the end of the exploitation and oppression of the masses by landlords and capitalists is the only road to a victory for China. That—plus the solidarity of the workers and exploited peoples throughout the world, expressed in action. An inspiring example in this direction was afforded by the action last month of 3,000 Chinese coolies employed in the Japanese-owned Tung-ung iron mines in Trengganu, Northern Malaya, who refused to continue working for the would-be imperialist conquerors of their native land.

According to a Singapore press message dated March 16, the entire 3,000 quit work and issued a declaration refusing any longer to be traitors by working over destined for Japan's munition factories. They proceeded to Singapore, where they were met by large parties of their fellow-countrymen who supplied them with food and arranged for their accommodation.

### Comrades in China Acknowledge Aid

Acknowledgement of the receipt of \$115, representing part of the fund being raised by the Socialist Workers Party for the Communist League of China (Fourth Internationalists) arrived from Shanghai this week.

In a tribute to the spirit of international solidarity displayed by the S.W.P. in this matter, the Chinese comrades express their deep gratitude for the financial aid and transmit their fraternal greetings to the comrades in the United States. "We feel greatly encouraged by your support," they write.

Comrades everywhere are urged to speed completion of the China collection so that we may reach the goal of \$200 quickly.

# Left Wing Forces Issues At Canadian Convention

## Commonwealth Federation Displays Bureaucratic Methods At Do-Nothing Sessions

By E. ROBERTSON

The emergence of a Socialist Policy Group with a Marxist position on war was the one encouraging event in an otherwise farcical convention of the Ontario Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. In general the recent conference set a record in burlesque politics even for the already comic history of the social-democratic movement in Canada.

The Provincial Council acted as a now-perfected bureaucratic machine, with a 20 percent bloc vote in its own right in addition to its pre-conference control of most of the delegates. By a system of maneuvers and delays.

### Wife of Ex-C.P. Head Held by the G.P.U.

Nelly Kaufman, Russian wife of De Bouck, former general secretary of the Belgian Communist Party, and her daughter, are being held in Moscow as hostages, according to a recent report in the London Times.

De Bouck was recently expelled from the party for non-conformity. Stalin is holding his wife and daughter in order to prevent him from telling the world what he knows concerning the inner working of the Comintern and the nefarious activities of the G.P.U. with which it is so closely connected.

### 150 Gather At S.W.P. Dinner

#### Gala Event To Greet N. C. Members

NEW YORK.—About 150 persons gathered at Marini's Restaurant last Saturday evening to greet members of the national committee attending the first plenum of the Socialist Workers Party, held in New York last weekend.

Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, spoke at some length on his recent trip to Mexico, where with a delegation of comrades from the United States he visited Leon Trotsky at Coyoacan. Shachtman assured his listeners that Trotsky, despite the grievous blows the revolutionary movement has suffered throughout the world, and the heavy blows he himself has suffered, is still imbued with confidence in the power of the working class and views with optimism the coming revolutionary struggles.

V. R. Dunne, leader of the powerful and militant Teamsters Union in the Northwest, confidently predicted that the plenum would take a big step forward in building of the revolutionary party in the United States.

E. Robertson, visiting the plenum as a fraternal representative of the Canadian Fourth Internationalists, presented the greetings of the Canadian comrades.

George Clarke and Burt Cochran, members of the national committee and active among the auto workers in Detroit and Cleveland, spoke briefly.

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### Police Seize Arms From Mexican C.P.

MEXICO, D. F., April 18.—The newspaper La Prensa announced today that it had learned police raids on headquarters of the Mexican Communist Party had uncovered arms and explosives. The raids were staged, La Prensa said, on the strength of reports that members of the Communist Party were carrying concealed weapons without permits.

Police seized 187 pounds of dynamite, 18 seven-mm. carbines, 22 Mausers, and 6,000 cartridges. As the police broke in several members escaped carrying two cases of guns.

## NAZIS THREATEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

(Continued from page 1)

which Daladier will have to toe the line with Chamberlain, according to Augur, is the Franco-Soviet pact.

Augur was not quite crude enough to say that Chamberlain is going to demand that France terminate its already-nebulous alliance with the Soviet Union. Instead: "Mr. Chamberlain will object strongly if the French continue to allow the Russians to influence their policy in Europe and even internally as at present."

The aim of British "democracy" is to help Franco's victory in Spain, hasten the Franco-Italian understanding which is already under way and then, in Augur's words, "to renew his offer to the Germans of an all-around settlement on the basis of a multiple pact between the great powers of Europe."

By these tactics Chamberlain hopes to postpone war in Europe at least long enough to permit Britain to bring its armaments up to the desired levels and to guarantee that if war should break out the initial explosions, at least, will shatter the land of the Soviets.

This is the meaning of all the maneuvers on the European diplomatic stage. For the workers it must be made to mean an end to the disastrous fraud of "collective security" nurtured at the breast of Stalinism and now fading because that breast is now barren. It must mean a resolute turn toward the struggle against capitalism, "democratic" and Fascist, as the one means of spiking the plans of the warmakers.

Greetings!

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## SOVIET UNION NOTES

### Council of People's Commissars Feels New Blows—Denny Discovers Destruction of Party Apparatus in Soviet Union

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

### PURGE IN THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS

On March 28 the Council of People's Commissars elected only a few weeks before (in January) convened in its regular session with Molotov in the chair. The following Commissars received "warnings": M. Bruskin, Commissar for Mechanical Construction; M. Shestakov, Commissar for Light Industry; A. Gilinsky, Commissar for Food Industry; A. Zverev, Commissar for Finance; M. Boldyrev, Commissar for Public Health. Among those who appeared before the Council to report was Otto Schmidt head of the Northern Sea Route Administration who was also severely "criticized." The "warning" to Schmidt, incidentally, has been repeated since then in the press, and his removal is only a matter of time.

Immediately after the session, terse reports appeared in the press revealing the consummation of the purge in two departments, those of Land Transport and of Water Transport.

The Commissar for Water Transport, N. I. Pakhomov, has been removed from his post, and replaced by N. Yezhov who now holds two posts (Commissar for Internal Affairs and Commissar for Water Transport). The appointment of Yezhov obviously implies such an intensification of the purge in the Water Transport Commissariat as will leave not a trace of the former administration.

Pakhomov, the purged Commissar, who has undoubtedly been arrested, was one of the seven of Stalin's "old line Bolsheviks" who had escaped the preceding purge. Of the original pillars of the Stalin administration only six now remain in the Council: V. M. Molotov, K. Voroshilov, Vlas Chubar, M. Litvinev, L. Kaganovich and A. Mikoyan.

The downfall of Bakulin, Commissar for Land Transport, has been expected for some time because of the critical condition of Soviet railways, for which, of course, he is made the scape goat.

Bakulin's successor is L. Kaganovich who now holds that post in addition to being the Commissar for Heavy Industry. The policy of combining the departments will apparently be pursued in the future.

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Raskolnikov, the Soviet Ambassador to Sofia has been "recalled."

Dispatches from Moscow for April 10 announce a purge in the Commissariat of Agriculture in the autonomous Tartar republic. Seven functionaries have been shot for "sabotage and adherence to the counter-revolutionary organization of Trotskyites and Rights."

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### THE DESTRUCTION OF THE C.P.S.U.

In a dispatch to the New York Times (April 23, 1938), Denny comments on the elimination of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union as a political power in Stalin's Russia, in pursuance of Stalin's plan to intrude himself as a "legal" dictator.

The Soviet press, in the campaign that is being waged around the current "party elections," reveals that in 1937 more than 40 per cent of the party functionaries in the key Moscow and Leningrad organizations had been replaced by "new cadres," i.e., by people who had never held party positions before. It goes without saying that the same process was extended to party units all over the country. If 40 percent of the Stalinist leading cadres were removed in 1937, what will happen when the "elections" are over in 1938?

The very fact that the G.P.U. permitted Denny publicly to announce the demise of the C.P.S.U. as a political factor in Russia is ample enough proof that it is Stalin's intention to complete the job of "renewing the leadership," i.e., completely to destroy even the fiction of the party in 1938.

The resolutions passed by party units, higher party bodies etc. all call for the intensification of the campaign to root out the remaining "vestiges of the counter-revolutionary Fascist spies and wreckers in the party."

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### SIDELIGHTS ON PARTY "ELECTIONS"

A zealous functionary in Bashkiria overfulfills his directives: "Seyfullin, secretary of the Yanaulsk regional committee of the party, came out at the conference with an anti-party declaration, calling all of the members of the plenum of his regional committee 'enemies of the people.' Unfortunately, such a speech at the conference met with no rebuff whatever. Comrade Zalkin, secretary of the Bashkir provincial committee, who directed the conference, advised Seyfullin to remove all members of the plenum of the regional committee from leadership, and to draw in other communists to replace them...." (Pravda, April 11).

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In the Ural machine plant the party election was opened with dances. "The meeting was called for 7 P.M., but at 8 o'clock only 17 candidates and 9 party members were present. Anybody not too lazy was able to gain entry to the hall. There was no check of party documents. The place was cold and uncomfortable. Everybody sat in their coats and hats.... The report of the secretary of the party committee, comrade Vetrov, was apologetic and full of gross mistakes. Vetrov literally devoted only half a minute to the decisions of the January plenum of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and their fulfillment...." (Pravda, April 13).

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The editors of the Daily Worker charge Denny with an attempt to refurbish "the old canard about Joseph Stalin setting himself up as a 'dictator.'" And to disprove Denny they proudly refer to the party elections! Says the Daily Worker: "And when does Mr. Denny attempt this bit of slander? Just when the Communist Party carries out the most democratic elections for its officers of every category up to the very highest." (April 25).

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