

Japanese Imperialism Hurttles Toward Ruin in China

Collapse Brought Closer By Every Fresh 'Victory'

Creation of New "War Cabinet" Reflects Growing Crisis

By LO SEN

With every new "victory" in China, Japanese imperialism is plunging nearer to defeat and collapse.

Japan is expending more in man power, arms, money, and the patience and stamina of the population at home than it will ever have the possibility of getting back from the fruits of military conquest in continental China.

After the comparatively rapid advances of the first six months of the invasion that began last July, Japan's hordes bogged down in Central China. It took three months and the manipulation of nearly a quarter of a million men to effect the capture of Suchow, strategic rail junction. No figures have been released on casualties, but it is now known that at Taiherchwang, a scene of the Chinese victory a month ago, the Japanese lost no fewer than 40,000 killed.

New Battle at Lanfeng

Now, following the capture of Suchow, Japanese forces once more face a stiff battle along their lengthened and precarious lines of communication on the Lunghai railway. At Lanfeng, 150 miles west of Suchow, new forces are being marshalled to bring about another "victory" that will strain the Japanese military machine to the utmost.

To aid in this effort, the Japanese navy has resumed activity along the coast, making an easy capture of Amoy and attacking the Kwangtung port of Swatow. At the same time the air force has resumed its horror-bombings at Canton, where more than 1,500 were killed and a like number wounded in a series of raids last week-end.

Shift in Tokyo

But the most significant and revealing evidence of the growing strain of the war was the transformation of Prince Fumimaro Konoye's cabinet last week into a "war cabinet" dominated by the army and the navy.

Gen. Kazushige Ugaki, former governor general of Korea, became foreign minister, succeeding Koki Hirota. Gen. Seishiro Itagaki became war minister, succeeding Gen. Sugiyama, and Gen. Sadao Araki, foremost proponent of an early attack on the Soviet Union, became minister of education. At the same time, Seihin Ikeda, representative of the great Mitsui financial interests, was made foreign minister.

The new cabinet was formed for the announced purpose of "speeding up" the campaign in China, pushing forward to capture Hankow, "terminating" the war, and intensifying the national mobilization at home.

Rising Cost of Living

Various reports in recent weeks have given some hint of the increasing stringency on the Japanese home front, where the great militarist and imperialist dreams of empire are, in the main, destined to be shattered. According to a study made by the statistical department of the Bank of Japan, the index of commodity prices in Tokyo in January of this year was 184, an increase of 12.4 over the index for June, 1937, on the eve of the invasion.

An index of prices for all Japan compiled by the Tokyo Asahi, taking July, 1931, as 100, showed an increase in prices from 187.9 in January, 1937, to 195.7 in December, 1937, and 199 in January, 1938. In other words, the cost of living in Japan is twice as high as it was before the invasion of Manchuria began seven years ago.

Taxes Skyrocketing

A significant reflection of the rising costs in Japan is the introduction on a large scale, for the first time, of instalment buying. Taxation in all spheres has skyrocketed. Income taxes are up 20 per cent for minor white collar workers. The burdens on the working class, in the form of increased food costs and the almost prohibitive levels reached in the costs of housing and clothing, have been so great that a distinct undernourishment has already been noted on a national scale and an increase in diseases. Special committees have been created under government auspices in attempts to cope with these problems.

Normal business and trade have declined to crisis levels.



PREMIER KONOYE

"The country's economic situation is really serious," said the Chugai Shogyo, Tokyo financial organ (equivalent to the Wall Street Journal) on April 10, "and trading is expected to continue depressed for the time being."

British Gloating

On April 21, in London, Lord McGowan, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, one of Britain's greatest trusts, announced with obvious satisfaction that as a result of the conversion of Japanese industry to war purposes Japanese trade competition on world markets had fallen "to negligible proportions," with resulting increased trade and better prices for British firms.

With every new "victory" in China this dark prospect is going to grow darker and darker for Japan's imperialist hopes and correspondingly brighter for the Japanese proletariat who will lead the masses to the overthrow of the cracking regime of the Mikado. The speed with which the eventual crash will come will depend in important measure on the durability and quality of Chinese resistance.

For National Liberation

A revolutionary resistance, based upon the broadest participation of the masses in the struggle, would have made it impossible for Japan to hold on to an inch of the ground it has won. To organize the masses independently of their exploiters and to lead them to the struggle will be to insure that the ultimate victory of China will not merely benefit the imperialist interests of Great Britain and the United States, the present masters of the Kuomintang, but will really bring about Chinese national liberation and open the road to the exploitation of China's great resources in the interests of its impoverished millions of workers and peasants.

While participating to the fullest in the military struggle against Japan, the political mobilization to this end remains the fundamental task of the Chinese revolutionists and to aid in that struggle is the prime duty of all workers throughout the world.

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AN IMPORTANT BEGINNING

All-American-Pacific Pre-Conference Of the Fourth International

An important beginning in organizing and centralizing the work of the Fourth International on the two American continents and on both sides of the Pacific, was made by the delegates assembled two weeks ago in New York for the sessions of the All-American-Pacific pre-conference of the Fourth International.

The Second International never had much strength in the colonial and semi-colonial lands of Asia and Latin America, and displayed very little interest in their struggles for liberation. In a deep sense, it was and is a "white man's" International, for in practice the parties that dominate it have followed a policy of supporting their respective imperialist overlords and their empires.

Comintern An Obstacle

The Third International, which made a brave and successful start in mobilizing against world imperialism the millions of black, yellow and brown slaves of finance capital, has degenerated into an obstacle to the struggle for colonial emancipation. This is especially plain in Latin America because of the ardent support which Stalinism is now giving to United States imperialism, by means of which it hopes to cement an alliance between Washington and the Kremlin bureaucracy at the expense of the former's slaves in Latin America.

A growing realization of the significance of this reactionary course has permeated the consciousness of the vanguard elements among the revolutionists in Latin America. This fact accounts to a large extent for the gathering strength of the Fourth International on the two American continents.

Movement's Growth

In the last few years, sections of our movement have been established—or the basis for them laid—in a whole series of countries. In Cuba and Puerto Rico, in the Argentine Republic, Chile and Bolivia, in Uruguay, Colombia, and Panama, in Mexico and Brazil, the banner of the 4th International has been raised and

the best militants have rallied to it. In some of these countries, the high political level of our press and the revolutionary Marxist activity pursued, are gratifying promise of victorious struggles to come.

For the purpose of coordinating the work of these sections, of setting forth collectively-elaborated policies for them, and linking their work with that of the comrades in the land of the most powerful imperialist masters—the United States—as well as with the comrades in China, whose work has so much in common with theirs, the second All-American-Pacific conference was called together. The first conference had taken place some time before, when a number of basic political documents were drafted for discussion.

Mandated Delegates

Difficulties, in the form of lack of finance and the vast distances separating the countries (the Fourth Internationalists are subsidized neither by the corrupt Kremlin gang, the French bourgeoisie nor by Hitler!), cut down the size of the conference. But delegates were nevertheless able to attend with mandates from several Latin American countries, as well as from Canada, China, Australia and the United States.

Documents already drafted were taken up by the delegates and it was decided to submit them with various recommendations for the discussion of the various sections concerned and eventual adoption, in finished form, at a large conference to be called in the future.

In addition, the conference adopted political resolutions on the perspectives of the Sino-Japanese war and the tasks of the Bolshevik-Leninists in China, and on the situation and tasks of the Canadian section. A thesis on the world role of North American imperialism, with special reference to its position in the Latin American countries, was also adopted.

Our Obligations

The last-named resolution is of particular importance for the revolutionary movement in the United States. Its tasks and obligations are enormous, for upon it devolves the main burden of the struggle against Yankee imperialism and for the defense of the independence and freedom of Wall Street's colonies. Indifference to the struggle against U.S. capitalism, which is being waged by the millions of Latin Americans to the south of us, is a most corrupting force in the American labor movement, and contributes directly to the chau-

vinistic poisoning of the workers in this country.

With this resolution, the Socialist Workers Party of the United States assumes the responsibility of devoting itself intensively to the problems of the workers and peasants of Latin America and the Pacific, who are its indispensable and invaluable allies in the struggle for freedom of the workers in this country.

The conference discussed, among other things, the situation in Mexico. Due to the disastrous and irresponsible leadership of the former Mexican section of the Fourth International (the International Communist League under the leadership of G....), the conference was obliged to adopt a decision declaring that the Fourth International no longer recognizes the G. group (the so-called I.C.L.) as its section in Mexico. A statement on this matter is being drawn up, to be presented for confirmation to the international conference now being organized. However, plans were laid for the reorganization of a Mexican section, for which excellent prospects exist; the Fourth International enjoys a considerable sympathy among the advanced revolutionary elements in Mexico, who were repelled from it in the past because of the discreditable course pursued by G., who is now, moreover, engaged in repeating all the time-worn slanders of the professional enemies of our movement.

Organizational Steps

Subject to confirmation by the international conference, the delegates elected an All-American-Pacific Bureau and a Latin-American administrative secretariat of the Fourth International—a clearing-house for the sections involved, in which representatives of all the important sections will be seated. In addition, official bulletins of the Bureau will be issued regularly, at first in the Spanish language, for circulation among all the sections. The first one will contain the resolutions adopted and the reports made. Future issues will publish discussion and informational material.

The conference, modest in its composition and objectives, was nevertheless an important beginning. It will help to consolidate, build and unify the movement of revolutionary Marxism—the Fourth International—in the New World and the Pacific. Its work, continued in the future, will speed the day when the victory of the proletariat will inaugurate the united socialist republics of the Americas.

M. S.

Hague Again Frustrates Meeting Plan

C.I.O. Must Take Lead In Struggle Against Jersey Fuehrer

Boss Hague's cops scored another victory when they broke up the mass meeting scheduled for Pershing Field last Friday evening, seized and deported the chief speaker, Representative O'Connell, knocked down his wife, and beat up C. I. O. assistant regional director Sam Macri. Other officers of the Hudson County Committee for Labor Defense and Civil Rights, which called the meeting, were spotted and slugged by Hague's thugs.

Hague again mustered all his forces to crush the challenge of his adversaries. Over 500 cops and hundreds of conscripted office holders were active in the crowd of between ten and fifteen thousand milling around the field when O'Connell arrived. An American Legion band played martial music and Hague's henchmen waved American flags in order to generate the properly patriotic lynch atmosphere for the dirty work of his uniformed gangsters.

Lynch Spirit Kindled

No sooner had O'Connell signified his intention of speaking than the Hague henchmen shouted in chorus: "Kill the bum! Run the Red back to Russia! Throw him out!" Obeying these orders, the police closed in on O'Connell, separated him from his wife and friends, and marched him off the field to police headquarters. After holding him there for two hours, Police Chief Walsh and other "defenders of law and order" deported him on a train for Newark.

Walsh impudently asserted O'Connell was taken into custody to save his life. The Jersey Police Department's ability to protect even themselves against the excessive zeal of their own thugs was shown by the fact that the Chief, and two other high officials were struck by cops during the melee.

After his expulsion, O'Connell had no better method of action to suggest than to announce, once again, that he intended to ask Roosevelt and Farley to intervene against the vice-chairman of the Democratic Party. This will make the hundredth plea addressed to these "defenders of democracy" without any other result than a Department of Justice investigation on which, it was reported last week, no action has yet been taken.

May Block Struggle

O'Connell's proposed action indicates a danger that he will use his rehabilitated prestige for purely personal political ends to impede a real struggle against Hague or to compromise with the forces protecting him. C. I. O. representatives have been conducting negotiations with Hague's assistants in the Democratic Party to effect a compromise with him. The deal was blocked only because of Hague's intransigence.

The C. I. O. workers must frustrate such attempts. No compromise with the Hudson County Hitler that will result in any abridgment of democratic or labor rights! Fight to the finish against Hagueism!

The C. I. O. must step to the forefront and take the leadership of the forces in the fight against Hague. Several C. I. O. officials took prominent parts in Friday's meeting. Several were the victims of the cops. The C. I. O. must meet this challenge by preparing an even mightier counter-offensive against Hague.

C. I. O. Action Needed

In its own name, under its own auspices and with its own speakers, the C. I. O. should mobilize the anti-Hague forces in counter-demonstration. Such a mass assembly requires careful preparation to be successful. The events of last Friday underscore the necessity for the immediate creation of a labor guard to prevent Hague's cops from repeating their brutalities.

Several C. I. O. bodies have already approved the formation of such a defense corps. This is a great step forward in the struggle against the Hudson County Hitler. Other labor organizations should follow this example.

Despite his show of strength and string of minor victories, Hague's regime is weakening. With a correct and aggressive policy the C. I. O. can weld together the fighting force that can smash it to smithereens in short order.

Minneapolis Labor Pays Final Tribute To Brown

(Continued from page 1)

"Bill Brown entered the movement young. He gave it his strength, his fine spirit, his honesty of purpose and the courage of a mighty heart. And he gave it something else—something you cannot measure, something not learned by rote. He gave it understanding. He understood the working class and was united on a world scale. He saw in it a movement that would some day embrace all mankind. He saw the necessity of applying the theories of the great working-class leaders to present-day conditions.

"Bill had his own peculiar and vigorous ways of applying these theories. He saw in the labor movement the instrument that was going to make out of this world something better than a starvation house or a concentration camp, the instrument that would weave a beautiful life for all who toil.

"Bill did not try to force his ideas on those whom he was chosen to lead, anymore than do I. He did insist that if men would be leaders they must give their lives to the labor movement.

Farewell to Bill

"Bill was not merely a leader of the General Drivers Union, he was a comrade in my political faith. His understanding and his attitude towards life should be the spirit to dominate every man and woman that comes here today. He would not want his passing to slow up or hinder in the slightest way the movement that he loved. We must all take up the burden left by his passing."

Members of Local 554's executive board, men who had gone through so many great battles with Bill, carried the coffin down the steps. Thousands followed the hearse to the Crystal Lake cemetery for the last brief ceremony, where Bill's closest associates each spoke a few words.

Harlan Reign Of Terror Described by Witnesses

(Continued from page 1)

On July 7, 1935, a crowd of deputies arrived and began honking the horns of their automobiles to drown the speaking. John Hickey and several deputies marched into the crowd with drawn guns and began slugging right and left.

William Munholland, a member of the United Mine Workers for 49 years, was addressing the meeting and was beaten by the armed thugs. Men, women and children were herded from the scene at gun's point.

No Household's Rights

A whole family was put on the witness stand by the government's prosecutor, Brian McMahon, to prove that the ordinary rights of householders did not exist so far as union miners in Harlan County were concerned. They were Ben Wilburn of Ages, Ky., near Harlan, his wife, his stepson and stepdaughter.

On the night of February 9, 1937, when Bennett Musick, son of a Baptist preacher and union organizer, was killed by rifle fire from night-riding deputies, Wilburn was threatened by Wash Irwin, a deputized thug now

dead. Irwin swaggered up to him, two guns on his hips, and said: "Ben, you're a union man and we're agoin' to get ye."

Wilburn said he rushed home and soon afterward saw Irwin and Lee Hubbard, another deputy on trial, come into the house through the back-yard.

Vicious Brutality

The whole family testified that Wilburn and his stepson were beaten with the deputies' pistol butts until they were covered with blood. Finally Wilburn was kicked off the porch and was "stomped" upon, breaking several ribs.

Wilburn and his stepson were carried to jail by the two deputies. They were released a few days later after being fined for breach of the peace.

As the trial went into its third week the stories of the government's witnesses remain unshaken by cross-examination for the defense. Charles I. Dawson and Forney Johnson, chief attorneys for the coal operators, have not attempted to refute the testimony, but have tried to prove that the witnesses are motivated by personal hatred toward the defendants.

Trotsky Article Features Lively June Issue of 'New International'

What is unquestionably the outstanding number of The New International thus far issued is now off the press. The June issue contains a variety of significant articles, headed by L. D. Trotsky's essay on revolutionary ethics, "Their Morals and Ours." In a penetrating analysis, Trotsky reviews the problem of revolutionary ethics, of aims and methods of the labor and revolutionary movement. The article is a brilliant historical defense of the methods of Bolshevism as applied to the world situation today and a critique of various parties, groups and individuals on this vital question.

Besides this special feature of the June issue of The New International, an excellent analysis of the Roosevelt program, aim and result, is contributed by Maurice Spector, associate editor of the magazine in an article on "The Collapse of the New Deal." Dealt with are The Roosevelt Revolution; The Recovery and its Precipitate Decline; the Social Crisis and the Task of the Revolutionary Party.

In the article, "Max Eastman as Scientist," James Burnham dissects in detail the position and direction of Max Eastman's philosophy and politics. Specifically dealt with is Eastman's revision of his views on Russia and the socialist objective as recently expressed in an article in Harper's Magazine.

The June number also contains other distinctive articles, essays and book reviews, among them being: A review of the recent national convention of the Socialist Party by M. S.; "Reform Labor politics and the Crisis" by David Cowles; "Russia and the Lithuanian Crisis" by Jerome; a third article on India by S. Stanley; Book reviews by William Gruen, George Novack, Bernard Wolfe and W. Keller.

The demand for the June number is strong. The price for a single copy is 20 cents, and the subscription rate is \$2.00 per year. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy may do so by addressing The New International, 115 University Place, New York City.

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