

Workers Of The
World Unite!

Socialist Appeal

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Czechoslovakia - Another

"Poor Little Belgium"

The entire liberal and labor press drools with chauvinistic enthusiasm at the very mention of the name of Czechoslovakia. The "socialist" *New Leader* and the "communist" *Daily Worker*—to say nothing of their brethren of *The Nation* and the *New Republic*—outshout the capitalist press in acclaiming "brave little Czechoslovakia" and the resistance she is prepared to offer any Hitlerite intervention.

All the editorial writers are, of course, devout adherents of Peace. Like Roosevelt, they hate war. Whatever conflicts they may have among themselves, each puts forward his policy with the assurance that its acceptance will guarantee both peace and democracy.

Yet the case of Czechoslovakia shows that all of them are prepared for war. Not only that, but they have already made up their minds as to which side of the coming war they will call upon the workers to lay down their lives for.

As in 1914, the trenches are to be piled high with corpses for the loftiest—oh, the very loftiest!—ideals: for Democracy, for the Independence of the Small Nations.

This time, however, it is not Little Serbia, or Little Belgium, but Little Czechoslovakia. But while the country involved is different, the trick is not.

Issue Is Not Self-Determination

The conflict between Hitlerite Germany is *not* over the right of self-determination of national minorities or of small peoples. It is *not* democracy that is at stake. Whoever says it is, is deliberately lying.

When Hitler seeks to incorporate the 3,000,000 Sudeten Germans into Greater Germany, it is not because he is animated by the great principle of allowing all peoples to determine their own governmental forms and allegiances. If he were, he would not simultaneously demand that millions of Negro peoples in England's African colonies be turned over to the control, oppression and exploitation of Germany regardless of the wishes of the natives.

On the other side, there is absolutely nothing democratic about compelling the Sudeten minority to remain under the rule of the Czech bourgeoisie, especially when this minority has made amply clear its desire to join Germany. Under present circumstances, no revolutionist would advocate the incorporation of the Sudeten territory into the Third Reich, any more than he advocated the swallowing up of the Saar by Hitler. But the *fact* remains that the Czechs are holding the German minority against its will.

Similarly, there is no regard for democracy or the right of self-determination by the Czech ruling class when it keeps artificially and forcibly under its domination the millions of Hungarians, Poles, Slovaks, Ruthenians and other national minorities whom the Allied victors of 1918 arbitrarily compelled to submit to Masaryk, Benes and Co.

Furthermore, Hitler doesn't give a hoot in hell about the democratic or racial feelings of his Sudeten blood-brothers. If he intervenes in Czechoslovakia, it will not be to "liberate" the Sudeten Germans (God help them!), but to take over the vast and powerful Skoda munitions works, and to complete his domination of Central and Southern Europe.

French Imperialism Decisive Factor

The Czech bourgeoisie, however, will resist Hitler not for the sake of democracy or self-determination, but in its capacity of faithful vassal of French imperialism, of the French munitions magnates, Schneider and Creuzot, who control the Skoda works and other industries and financial enterprises of Czechoslovakia.

The Czech bourgeoisie are not fighting to retain the independence of the country, for the simple reason that Czechoslovakia, from its inception, has been nothing but a pawn of imperialist France and anything but independent.

In the general world war that would follow instantly upon a German-Czech conflict, the question of "independence" would disappear as completely as did the question of "Belgian independence" in the last world war.

The workers of Czechoslovakia would march to war against Hitlerite Germany in a just cause only on one condition: that the workers were masters of the country! To give an ounce of support now to Benes and Hodza means to sacrifice the life and independence of the labor movement, and of the workers and peasants in uniform, for the greater glory of French imperialism—nothing more.

The latter could wish for nothing better than to mobilize cannon fodder behind it on the basis of the war-cry of national independence, democracy, freedom of the small nations. The Second and Third Internationals are cold-bloodedly throwing their meat-hooks into the working class to provide France with her cannon fodder. That is the significance of the social-democratic and Stalinist campaign for Poor Little Czechoslovakia!

Minnesota Socialists Reject Party Of Norman Thomas, Join the S.W.P.

The following letter, sent to Roy E. Burt, executive secretary of Norman Thomas' Socialist Party, speaks for itself. We hail the action of the Golden Valley (Minnesota) militants in repudiating the moribund Socialist Party and warmly welcome them into the revolutionary fighting ranks of the Socialist Workers Party.—Ed.)

Roy E. Burt, Executive Secretary, Socialist Party,

Dear Sir: Your letters of June 15 and 16 inform the Golden Valley Local that the Socialist Party has canceled its charter, and you ask that we at once return all records, files, papers, monies of any kind in our possession to the national office of the Socialist Party.

Your request amazes us. I don't have to remind you of the way in which yourself and the other "democracy-loving" leaders of the

Socialist Party expelled the revolutionary socialists from your party, and then instituted a vicious gag law in the party.

The Golden Valley local, to a comrade, has taken its stand with the Socialist Workers Party, the only upholder and defender of revolutionary Marxism in the United States today. The Socialist Party, such as it is, has no claim on our records or funds. We are functioning as a unit of the Socialist Workers Party, and all our efforts and money are devoted to that party.

We wish also to strongly protest your sending a person who belongs neither to your party nor to ours—Mrs. Erickson—to Golden Valley to inquire as to our status, records, etc.

I hope this makes the position of the Golden Valley Local crystal clear. Fraternally, William Englebretson, Secretary, Golden Valley Local, S.W.P.

Stalin Murders Foreign Communists Who Sought Refuge In The U.S.S.R.

Writer Gives Grim List of Victims Shot or Imprisoned by G. P. U. Without Semblance of a Trial

EDITORIAL NOTE — The recent imprisonment in Moscow of the head of the Hungarian Communist Party, Bela Kun, lifted a small corner of the curtain behind which hundreds of Hungarian, German, Polish, Greek, Rumanian, Estonian, Latvian and other communists sojourning in Russia, have been murdered or imprisoned by the G.P.U., without even the semblance of a trial. We print below a sensational list of some of the leaders of the German and Polish communist parties who have been shot or jailed by Stalin in recent times. The article, by comrade "X," is translated from the May-June, 1938, issue of the "Bulletin of the Opposition," organ of the Russian Bolshevik-Leninists abroad.

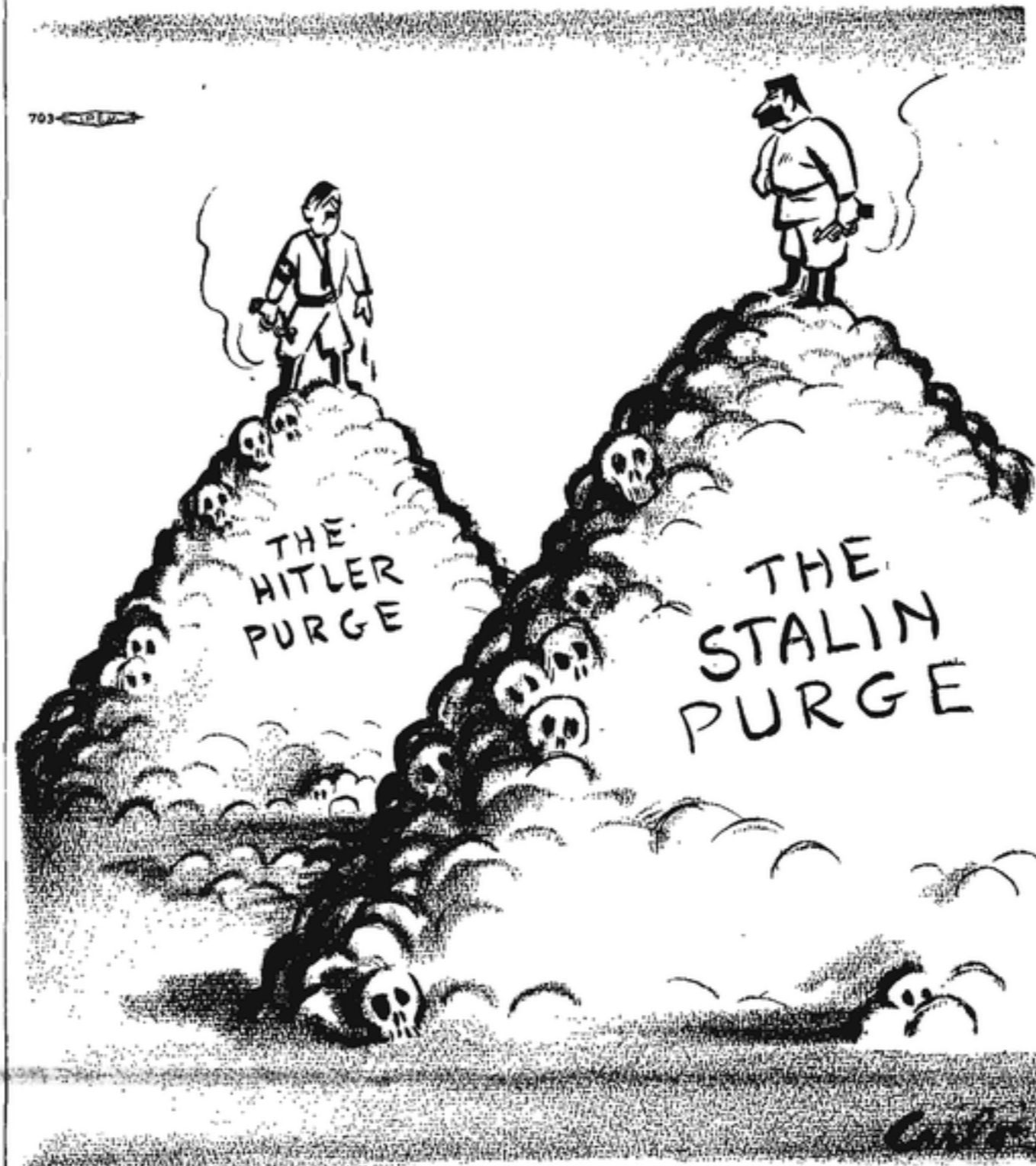
I—Poland

Arrests and shootings of Polish communists began in the year 1933, after many Ukrainian and White Russian communists had already been arrested and executed. Even prior to the mass arrests, in 1929, the Comintern, with the assistance of the G.P.U., "adjudged" the controversy between the Right grouping in the Central Committee of the Polish C. P. (Varsky, Kostzeva and others) and the Left grouping (of Lensky) by sending the majority of the Rights into exile. Lensky's group—the partisans of the general line—remained in leadership up to the end of 1937.

In 1933 arrests among the Rights began, and in 1938 they made arrests among Lensky's group.

The Rights Accused — The Rights were accused of assisting agents of Pilsudski to worm their way into the leadership of the party, and of maintaining contacts with the nationalist elements in Polish Ukraine and White Russia, and of having supported Trotsky in 1923-24.

A beginning was made with the execution of Zharsky and his wife, Matseyevskaya. Zharsky was a member of the party from 1920 on (prior to that time he was a member of the left wing of the Polish Socialist Party); he participated in the party leader-



Catching Up And Outstripping ...

ship and was elected by the Communist Party to the Sejm. Both of them "confessed" that in 1919 they had wormed their way into the party on the instructions of the Polish counter-espionage system and the P.O.V. (Pilsudski's

Polish military organization). Together with them, Sokhatsky (Bratkovsky—Communist deputy in the Sejm—and Vovyeudsky—leader of the revolutionary peasant movement in Poland (organizer of the Independent Peasant

Party, N.P.K.)—had joined the party. All of them also confessed that they gave false information to the Polish C. P. concerning internal relations within Pilsudski's camp, as a consequence of which (Continued on page 3)

STALIN FOUND GUILTY OF FRAME-UPS

DEWEY COMMISSION ISSUES EXHAUSTIVE REPORT OF ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE MOSCOW TRIALS, FINDS CRIMINALS IN THE KREMLIN

NOT GUILTY!

That is the verdict reached in the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Charges against Leon Trotsky at the Moscow Trials, which has just been made public in an impressive volume issued under the imprint of Harpers' Brothers, and already briefly reviewed in our last issue.

From the very beginning, the composition of the Commission was a guarantee that the Moscow Trials would be examined with the thoroughness, the intellectual integrity, and the determination to get at the truth behind the official charges, which was made so essential by the confusion and doubt aroused by the trials throughout the world.

The Composition of the Commission

Every one of the Commission members has been associated prominently with the radical, labor or progressive movements for years. John Dewey, philosopher, educator, and progressive, long known for his sympathy with the Soviet Union, was chairman of the Commission. Suzanne LaFollette, former editor of *The Freeman*, and mainly responsible for the actual writing of the magnificent final report, was the Commission's secretary.

Its members included the well-known labor journalist, Ben Stolberg; the anarchist leader, Carlo Tresca; the critic, John Chamberlain; the famous attorney of Tom Mooney (and Earl Browder!), who acted in a legal capacity for the Commission, John Finerty; and such distinguished personalities of the labor and revolutionary movements abroad as the former communist Reichstag deputy and biographer of Kary Marx, Otto Ruehle; the former member of the Executive Committees of the Communist International and the Red International of Labor Unions, Alfred Rosmer; the leader of the conservative wing of Italian socialism, Modigliani; the noted Mexican revolutionist, Zamora; and many others.

They Only Shrieked Insults

No wonder the Stalinist press and Ambassador Troyanovsky covered the Commission with abuse and insults from the very moment of its creation! They knew only too well that it would adhere rigorously to its task of penetrating the lies and frame-ups of the Stalinist murder gang and getting down to the truth. That is why Troyanovsky, and the Communist Party and its best-known lawyer, Brodsky, refused the invitation extended them by the Commission to appear before it to argue for the findings of the Moscow courts.

Watch for Spain Article Next Week

Next week marks the second anniversary of the outbreak of the civil war in Spain. The significance of the struggle, the lessons to be derived from it, and an analysis of the present position of the war and the prospects of its termination, will be dealt with in a detailed study in our next issue to mark the anniversary. The article will be written by Max Shachtman. Watch for it!

First Year of China War Shows Japanese Imperialism Doomed

Army Victories Not Effective Beyond Soldiers' Bayonet Points; Japan Plunges Toward Bankruptcy

CHINA'S STRUGGLE SHOWS WEAKNESS

By LO SEN

To attempt to strike a balance of the Sino-Japanese war as its first year draws to a close is like trying to pass judgment on a play after viewing the prologue.

Titanic struggles have been fought on Chinese battlefields. Nearly one million men have lost their lives. Millions of men, women, and children have been plunged into the direst misery.

As in Spain, only on an infinitely larger scale, the world has been treated to a ghastly advance showing of the horrors of the coming imperialist war. For that is what this war has been, for all its magnitude, for all its cost—a prelude, the curtain-raising scene of a drama that has still to be played out. Its theme is the fate and the future of civilization.

SIT-IN STAGED BY STRIKERS IN N.Y. PLANT

Workers Hailed to Court After Cops Evict Them

NEW YORK.—When trucks arrived to move machinery of the Sagamore Metal Goods Corporation from Long Island to Middletown, N. J., last week, 24 workers, on strike for ten weeks, barricaded themselves behind steel fireproof doors in a desperate attempt to prevent the concern from moving.

More than 300 employees, members of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers Union, have been striking for a union contract and a 20 per cent wage increase. The company planned the move to a new plant in New Jersey as a means of evading the demands of the strikers.

Police Force Doors — Jacob Morrison, president of the corporation, and three office workers were forced to remain in the plant as the 24 men held off the trucking crews. An emergency squad of police used crow bars to pry open the heavy steel doors and then forced their way through the improvised barricades.

Retaliation by the courts against the bold efforts of the strikers to save their jobs and livelihood appeared imminent as the 24 were arraigned in Felony Court on charges of unlawful entry, damage to property, and detaining the corporation's president and his three clerks against their will.

Meanwhile, trucks carried the plant's machinery across the Hudson to New Jersey, enabling the company to permanently displace the striking 300.

Japan's attempt to establish its imperialist domination over China by force of arms has already been proved, in this first year, to be an adventure hopelessly doomed to defeat. China's vastness, Japan's frailty, and the struggle for power among the great imperialist nations of the world, all spell defeat for the ambitious robber who is seeking, belatedly, to imitate his older imperialist brothers in the game of conquest.

Not even from the military point of view can Japan boast of any important achievement in this year of warfare, especially when we consider the inferiority of Chinese military equipment and the even more important fact that the present bourgeois leadership in China has not dared to draw on the real resources that lie in the Chinese masses for resistance and counter-attack. Superficially regarded, Japan has scored an impressive series of triumphs. It has occupied most of seven provinces, or nearly a third of China proper. It controls all but one or two ports and all but one of the important railroads.

But its control over this vast area is of the most tenuous kind. All kinds of correspondents, including even the notoriously pro-Japanese Hallett Abend of the *New York Times*, have testified that Japan's control extends little farther than the points of its bayonets in the occupied areas. Should the present drive along the Yangtze River result in the capture of Hankow, the provisional Chinese capital, this fundamental fact will not be changed. Across every Japanese "victory" falls the shadow of ultimate defeat.

Already Crumbling

This is true, in the first place, because with the greater part of its task still lying ahead, Japanese imperialism is already crumbling at home. Japan's capital resources are already seriously depleted. At the end of its fiscal year in April the national debt had swelled to 13,000,000,000 yen, a huge sum for small Japan, and in the current year this debt is scheduled to increase by 50 per cent. A country already so heavily drained has been unable to meet the new demands placed upon it. Tax returns in some of the newly-imposed categories have proved to be less than half those expected and counted upon. In 1937, some 60 per cent of new (Continued on page 3)

Omaha Drivers Reply to Police Attack On Union; Appeal Sentence

OMAHA, Nebraska.—The campaign of the Omaha police against the organized teamsters met with vigorous opposition when General Drivers Local 554 challenged the cops' illegal seizure of the personal property and correspondence of Alfred Russell, 554 organizer.

Dewey Hanson, an Omaha attorney, was retained by the union, and a writ of replevin was filed to force the police to return Russell's property, seized in a raid on his apartment. The suit was filed on the ground that Russell's constitutional rights have been violated, thus leaving the way open to carry the case to the highest courts.

Appeal Vagrancy Sentence

The union also filed notice of an appeal against the 90-day sentence by police court, which found Russell guilty of vagrancy, although he is employed by the union and was working in the union office at the time of his arrest.

In passing the sentence against Russell, the police and the court

have plainly implied that even a working driver is guilty of vagrancy, for Russell, by a vote of the membership at a regular meeting, was given a salary approximating the wage of a working driver. If the cops and their courts can sentence a paid union organizer as a vagrant, what can the average employed worker expect, let alone the unemployed?

The material found in Russell's apartment was used by the police to promote a "red scare", with the intent of splitting the union. This failed dismally when the membership voted overwhelmingly to support the union leadership and to carry the fight to the police.

Another test on this issue came last week when reactionaries attempted to bar Russell as a delegate to the central labor body, on the grounds that he is a "Communist." The rest of the delegates from Local 554, to a man, backed Russell's right to sit as a delegate, and the right of Local 554 to pick its own union officials without interference.

Truth Is On the March!

But the voice of the apologists for mass murder is growing feebler as the voice of condemnation rings out louder and more firmly than ever before. Truth is on the march and nothing can stop it! The Dewey Commission report is proof of this. It is a big part of the dramatic history of our times. It is a big contribution to the making of that history. It is a mighty weapon in the hands of the revolutionists who are working to cleanse the system of the labor movement from that most insidious and corrosive of all poisons — Stalinism.

Without this weapon, every worker will find himself but half-equipped. Hence our job: to get a copy of this remarkable document into the hands of every man and woman in the labor movement!