

The Negro Struggle

By ALBERT PARKER

The Army is the Boss!

Roosevelt knows how to put over his policy of Jim Crowism in the armed forces in a smooth and polished manner, but not all his assistants have the same experience and technique that he has. They often bungle and show the truth of the situation which his sweet words cover up.

For example, take the case of Brigadier General Hershey of the Selective Service Administration, one of the men in charge of the draft.

When he was asked in a recent interview how it happened that the administration was segregating colored soldiers and sailors when the Selective Service Act had a provision prohibiting racial discrimination in the armed forces, he replied:

"The act says there is to be no discrimination, but the act also says that no man may come into the army who is not acceptable to the army. The navy, of course, is worse, and the marines will not accept colored applicants. I regret this state, but unfortunately the army gets the final say."

And then, as if to make sure that everybody got the point, he said, in discussing the policy of separate regiments for colored men:

"The selective service system has nothing to do with where the man goes. We are purchasing agents. What they do later is of no interest to us... Even though the act provides against discrimination, the army has the right to introduce the question of acceptability."

A Scabby Role

We have had occasion in the past to criticize the action of Edgar Brown, head of the United Government Employees, in approving Roosevelt's Jim Crow policies in the armed forces, and to point out how he in this way played into the hands of the Negro people.

Now comes new testimony to corroborate our charges against him.

For last week, Judge William Hastie, civilian aide to Secretary of War Stimson, issued a statement which by implication at least tries to divert part of the blame from Roosevelt. Said he:

"Divided opinion among colored citizens on the problem of segregation in the army makes for great difficulty in solving the problem. As long as people who are opposed to mixed units are able to point to colored persons as also agreeing with this position, our problem is extremely difficult..."

Usually, when the great majority of the workers in a factory have organized a union and presented demands to the bosses for a contract and better conditions, one or two scabs appear who say that the boss is a great guy and doing what he can to help the workers, and so on, and the bosses always point to these scabs as justification of their attempts to smash the union. Brown is playing the same role as a scab in the fight against Jim Crowism.

It's Always There

In Philadelphia last week "the city's business, professional and military leaders" threw a luncheon at the exclusive Manufacturers' and Bankers' Club in honor of the first 150 young men they were sending off to the draft from that city. Among these were 16 colored men.

Then, the story goes, "twenty gifts were presented each of them by mid-city merchants and pretty girls pinned carnations on their lapels."

Then Judge Vincent A. Carroll, a colonel in the Cavalry Reserves, had a speech to make about the Negroes and "national defense."

"You are showing the world," said he, "that the Negro people of this nation have at heart the maintenance of democratic freedom, as they have since Crispus Attucks, one of their race, lost his life on Boston Common with the other patriot martyrs of the Revolution."

But the photograph of the affair printed in the newspapers shows—yes, you guessed it—the 16 Negroes segregated off at a separate table!

Cavalrymen Won't be Jim Crowed

An interesting story was printed in the *Afro-American* last week, telling of the determination of several members of the Tenth Cavalry situated at Fort Dix, N. J., not to be Jim Crowed.

Motion pictures were being shown at the post theatre, and those in charge of it attempted to segregate Negro soldiers into one part of the building. They refused to be party to such an act, and left the theatre, demanding their money back.

But the most interesting part of the story tells the complaint of one of the men to the *Afro* reporter:

"The colored soldier is not promoted because of his character, intelligence and ability, he said, he is promoted because of his docile attitude, his inability to think for himself, and his willingness to accept orders from his superiors in a 'hat-in-hand manner.'" The order to segregate the soldiers at the post theatre would be rescinded if our (colored) officers demand it, he said."

This emphasizes again the need for a system of military training under control of the trade unions, which would end discrimination and segregation, and would establish special officers' training camps to train workers to become officers, so that the worker-soldiers would have officers on whom they could depend to fight for their rights.

Next week we shall discuss the widely publicized Conference on the Participation of the Negro in National Defense, held at Hampton Institute, Va., and see what if anything it contributed to the fight for equality in the armed forces.

Women Workers In The Last War

Now, Again, As The Men Face Death, The Women Face Factory Horrors

By MARY DANTE

Almost from the beginning of American industry, women have slaved in the factories. With the development of improved machinery requiring less operating skill, the manufacturer maintained and raised his profits through employment of cheap labor, including that of women and children.

What reasons did government officials and "respectable" citizens give for colonization of women into industry? Alexander Hamilton's declaration on this question is typical: "In general women and children are rendered more useful by manufacturing establishments than they otherwise would be."

ONE EXCUSE OR ANOTHER

The "respectable" citizens insisted that women were kept out of vice through employment. Instead of being destitute they were provided with "abundance for a comfortable subsistence." In all periods the capitalist class have found one excuse as good as another to justify their exploitation of the wage worker.

It was not until 1914 with the outbreak of the first world war, however, that women were recruited into the factories on a mass scale. From then on women assumed increasing importance as a section of the working class.

From Research Report No. 8 of the National Industrial Conference Board, we find the following: "The proportionate increase in employment of women appears to have been particularly marked in the war industries, especially in the metal and machine trades."

IN WAR INDUSTRIES

In 1917, 1,366,000 women in 15 states were employed directly or indirectly in factories necessary for carrying on the war. Approximately 100,000 were employed in munitions, airplane, and metallurgical factories all of which are

and night shifts alternating every two weeks. Sanitation, air and light were inadequate in most factories.

Extreme pressure from the workers forced government investigations and in many factories such necessities as lavatories, washing facilities, and drinking water were finally given the workers.

Women complained that the vibrations of the big machines made them nervous and tired after a few hours work. They enjoyed no home life or recreation after work. In families where the mother and father worked different shifts they would not see each other from one day to the next. There was no chance to provide adequately for the rearing of the children.

LEFT IN CHILDREN'S HANDS

Serious difficulties arose in many families. Of necessity small children took over the household duties of the working mother. Such cases as this were common: An eleven year old girl cared for three younger children one of whom was a two year old baby. She did the housework and fed the children. In spite of her efforts the children were undernourished, unkempt and peevish.

This was the family life the capitalist class held up as "sacred" when they slandered the Russian workers who in 1917 risked their lives to overthrow a government which bred and upheld the same "sacred" home life.

LIVING COSTS GO UP

The increasing demand for more labor power forced the bosses of munitions factories to pay higher wages than the mercantile establishments. This, however, did not mean that the workers enjoyed

of predominant importance in war.

Loading lumber, wheeling and shoveling coal, and working as street car conductors were some of the other occupations performed by women during the last war. Citing the "emergency," the capitalists demanded suspension of labor legislation. The representatives of the capitalists in the state and federal government bowed to these demands. The government was the first to take away the eight hour day in the Navy yards. The governor of the state of Vermont approved an Act empowering the authorities to suspend existing labor laws relating to the employment of women and children for the duration of the war, etc. etc.

ROBBED OF 8-HOUR DAY

What effect did the war have on the women workers? In the munitions industry they were unorganized and as a result the "munition kings" began to rob them of the eight hour day established by the men workers after long struggles.

Without organization the women were unable to offer any effective resistance to the boss. In some factories women were forced to work from 7 A.M. to 5 or 6 P.M. No more than 15 minutes was generally allowed for lunch time. Certain workers were not allowed to leave their machines even while they ate their lunches. Other girls worked 10-12 hours a day on split shifts, or on day

New Union Problems, As Tool Industry Expands

The needs of the imperialist war machine have suddenly spotlighted the machine tool industry as one of the vital parts of American industry.

Until recently this industry withstood the great specialization which characterized other industries. The all around machinist, trained over a period of years, was in demand in preference to the man who could operate only one or two machines.

With the introduction however, of automatic and semi-automatic machinery, the skilled machinist has in many cases given way to the specialized machine hand. Once this division began, its spread in the industry proceeded at a terrific pace, until today one can list more than 30 different types of machine hands.

ELECTRIC EYES DO WORK

This division of labor has followed the increasing development of technological improvements in the industry. Semi-skilled men can now operate lathes equipped with electric eyes and turn out minute precision work at a very high rate of speed. Formerly this kind of work could be done only by highly skilled men and at a much lower rate of speed.

The big machine plants find this development economical for them in more than one way. Over a period of many years the skilled machinists both in the AFL International Association of Machinists and the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers have built up a relatively high wage standard.

The bosses find it much cheaper to hire a semi-skilled man and place him on one machine, doing a specialized operation, than to hire trained machinists or tool makers and pay the full scale.

Many of the older men in the trade refer to the younger semi-skilled workers as "half baked." These older workers have not yet understood that as a result of the improvements machinery today does more quickly and efficiently a great deal of the work which they had to spend years in learning.

THOUSANDS IN SCHOOLS

To meet the need for large scale production, the government is putting thousands of young workers through the defense schools, giving them a quick training in preparation for running specialized machines in war industry.

After the war has ended and the market it created for machine tools collapses, these young workers will find themselves out of jobs.

At present, many of the older workers in the industry resent the sudden influx of these younger semi-skilled workers, seeing in them a threat to the wage scales

they have built up by hard struggles after a period of many years.

Thus the development of the industry poses big problems for both the skilled and semi-skilled men. The answer cannot be simply a blind opposition to new technological changes—changes that are inevitable.

Nor can the answer be found in opposing young workers learning a trade. Those union leaders who believe the problem can be solved by simply demanding some trade union representation in the administration of the schools will find that this too will leave everything exactly as it was before.

There is only one solution—a real campaign by both the skilled and unskilled workers for the six hour day with no decrease in pay!

This is the only way in which the wage scales of the skilled men can be protected and opportunity given to absorb the semi-skilled

and unemployed into the industry.

That this solution is not utopian is shown by the fact that some unions have already taken it up and in at least one case, that of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has achieved some real successes.

For the 6 hour day with no decrease in pay!

In Los Angeles

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TROTSKY MEMORIAL FUND

The following additional contributions to the Trotsky Memorial Fund have come in during the last week:

Milwaukee	\$ 3.10		
Buffalo	5.00		
Detroit	85.00		
Boston	13.00		
Chicago	16.00		
Philadelphia	8.00		
TOTAL	\$130.10		
Branch	Quota	Amount paid	%
Milwaukee	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.10	102%
Baltimore	10.00	10.00	100
Rockville	7.00	7.00	100
Toledo	50.00	50.00	100
Detroit	200.00	200.00	100
Lynn	100.00	83.00	83
Boston	100.00	72.50	73
Chicago & Indiana Harbor	200.00	121.07	61
Newark	150.00	70.50	47
Allentown	15.00	6.00	40
Flint	150.00	56.00	37
San Francisco	100.00	35.00	35
Los Angeles	150.00	49.15	33
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Individual Contributions		2.30	
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Natalia's Thanks to All Who Shared Her Grief

December 1, 1940

Dear Friends and Comrades:

I must ask that you pardon my long silence. Only a short time ago I finished reading your letters and telegrams in which you share with me the burden of the loss of the one who inspired all our lives. After the death of our son Leon, his father wrote, "There is nothing more for us to lose," because we always thought that our own death would be together.

On the twenty-fourth of May of this year we were very close to such a death... three months later I did not have the good fortune to save him. I pass through one more trial, the most difficult of all...

I thank you deeply for your support.
Coyoacan, D. F.

NATALIA SEDOFF TROTSKY

a higher standard of living. Following a slight rise in wages the cost of living hit a new high.

Many workers were forced to live in homes which had inadequate lighting and ventilation. Improper sanitary facilities and room congestion contributed to the spread of ill health and disease. Families were broken up, wholesale evictions took place.

Today we are witnessing a repetition of 1914-1918. Roosevelt is preparing to throw the American masses into the war under the guise of "national defense." Women will again replace the men in industry. The war mongers and profit-makers will once again try to rob women workers of favorable working conditions and labor legislation won through long and bitter struggles.

In order to fight this it is the duty of every woman worker to educate herself in the problems of the class struggle. In the coming period there will be the tremendous task of protecting those fruits of the great struggles of the American labor movement. To do this she must not only understand the problems of the trade unions, but also profit from the lessons of the women workers of the world war.

From this she must draw the logical conclusion, and that is to recognize the important role of the working class political party. She must join the Socialist Workers Party, the only party that will lead her, along side of the working men to the victorious emancipation of the working class.

Capitalism Rules German Economy

The capitalists and their intellectual pimps are conducting a campaign to show that Nazi economy is "socialist" and thus discredit the idea of socialism. Prof. Sidney Hook is among those who have tried to picture Nazism as having "overthrown capitalism."

Let him, if he can, explain the following: The *German Economist*, a leading Nazi financial magazine, has recently launched a campaign under the slogan, "More private financiers to the fore!"

The magazine makes a plea for the investment of more private capital, pointing to many fertile fields for investment which lie fallow at the present time. The magazine reveals that there is a vast capital-hungry market in Germany.

The *German Economist*, which prints the mind of the Nazi regime, also advocates alleviation of taxes on businesses and corporations in order to facilitate the creation of more private capital.

HITLER'S REAL FACE

"High dividends cannot be considered immoral," states the article, and suggests that established enterprises increase dividend payments to shareholders as a means of increasing the amount of capital in private hands for development of new enterprises.

The article concludes that there must be an increase in the number of people who can dispose of private financial means, i.e., more wealthy capitalists. The article warns that "Otherwise private initiative would be overruled by State administration."

Lenin wrote in *State and Revolution*: "Imperialism in particular, the

era of financial capital, the era of gigantic capitalist monopolies, the era of the transformation of simple trust-capitalism into State trust-capitalism shows an unprecedented strengthening of the 'State' and an unheard of development of its bureaucratic and military apparatus, side by side with the increase of oppression of the proletariat, alike in the monarchical and the freest republican countries."

LENIN FORESAW IT

He adds, as if to complete the picture of the modern Nazi regime: "Here we have what is most essential in the theoretical appreciation of the latest phase of capitalism, that is imperialism, viz., that capitalism becomes monopolistic capitalism. This fact must be emphasized because the 'reformist' middle class view that monopolistic capitalism, whether private or State, is no longer capitalism, but can already be termed 'State Socialism' or something of that sort, is one of the most wide-spread errors."

The trusts, of course, have not given us, and indeed, cannot give us, full and complete order and system in production. But, however much of an ordered plan they may yield, however closely capitalist magnates may estimate in advance the required extent of production on a national and even international scale, and, however carefully they may regulate it, we still remain under capitalism—capitalism, it is true in its latest phase, but still, undoubtedly, capitalism."

Thus 15 years before the coming to power of Hitler, Lenin called the turn on those "democratic" capitalists who term "socialistic" the State Capitalism of the malevolent Hitler rule.

Military Arts For Workers In New Book

NEW WAYS OF WAR. By Tom Wintringham. Penguin Books, 126 pages 25c.

By CARL O'SHEA

The author of this pamphlet, before he became commander of the Local Defense Volunteers in England, was a Stalinist. He commanded the British Battalion with the International Brigade in Spain and his explanation for the failure of the Loyalists—"we lost because Hitler and Mussolini had then... friends in Britain, powerful enough to prevent us getting arms and food"—is one quite acceptable to the Comintern although it has parted company with Wintringham.

But let that lie for the moment. Tom Wintringham, while he has no political credentials, does have military credentials. One goes to the pamphlet *NEW WAYS OF WAR* for what the author has to tell us about the very practical side of the military arts. And the average worker can find a great deal of valuable information in this little pamphlet.

NEW WAYS OF WAR is the hand-book which millions of British citizens in the Local Defense Volunteers are using today. It gives one a picture of the historical development of war. It shows how military tactics and weapons parallel changes in industry and transport.

Concrete and Practical Information

Now for the meat of the book. Would you like to know how to make home-made grenades that can stop tanks and armored cars? how to drill men intelligently? how to make effective ordinance of a regular shot-gun and shot-gun shells? how to make a field unuseable as an air-drome? how to stop a tank with home-made grenades? how to construct an anti-tank trap? to defend a house (or a trade union hall)? to defend a city against modern arms? to make a road-block and to defend it? how to check motor cycle troops? how to build a defense position?

You will find this priceless information, together with illustrations and formulas, in *NEW WAYS OF WAR*.

Despite its political dress, this is one of the most valuable books published in recent years.

I recommend this book to every comrade, to every serious worker, to every Union Defense Guardsman in the United States. Study it, pass it on to your friends.

Wintringham tells how troops in Spain were trained by being shown old war films, corrected by short lectures. Wintringham's hand book is to be used in the same way.

His Politics Worse Than Useless

Politically now, he is a Fabian with a strong People's Front hangover from Spain. His political criticisms are those of the Fabians. Wintringham would reform the British army, but would not call for an army under control of the organized workers. Wintringham is for defense of the British "fatherland," now, under Churchill. He is not for socialist revolution.

But let him speak for himself: "Those who say that this war is a war between two great Empires, each fighting for the right to rule and exploit other peoples without the latter's consent, are speaking of a war that is past. They are, to be exact, speaking of Mr. Chamberlain's war. Mr. Chamberlain lost that war. It is over. We are now engaged on quite a different struggle," etc., etc.

And Wintringham wonders why India is not given its freedom, and why the British government, instead of arming the Local Defense Volunteers, takes their weapons away.

But as I say, we go to this book for military, not political, knowledge.

Trade Union Control Of Military Training

Our party advocates universal military training under trade union control, and financed by the United States government. Whether we can achieve this will be decided by the struggle. If enough organized workers demand it, we can have it. Our very demand raises the political understanding of the workers.

In the meantime we have the problem of guarding our union halls, our picket lines, from fascist groups. The fascists will have a mighty tough job cut out for them if every trade unionist assimilates the knowledge available in this pamphlet and helps form a Union Defense Guard to defend himself and his union. This pamphlet should be a hand-book for every worker.

READ!!

"Defend The Negro Sailors of the U. S. S. Philadelphia"

16 pages 2c per copy
1 1/2c in bundle orders of 10 or more

Learn the truth about how the colored sailors and soldiers are Jim Crowed in Uncle Sams' Armed Forces! And in industry! Read this pamphlet and understand why it is absolutely necessary that we have union control over the military training of the workers!

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