

The Negro Struggle

By ALBERT PARKER
In an interesting series of articles in The Pittsburgh Courier...

After demonstrating that the Philadelphia case shows how freedom of speech has been stolen from those in the Army and Navy...

Professor Ming goes on to show that the officer caste has still another weapon to keep the mouths of conscripted soldiers shut...

Where the Criticism Falls Down

But these articles in the Pittsburgh Courier are at their weakest point when the writer attempts to indicate how full rights for Negroes may be obtained...

How is the power of the officer caste to be limited? Operating under the Articles of War, they do just what they please...

Says Professor Ming: "Practical solution of this problem created by the conflict between Army regimentation and civil liberty is possible..."

What are these civil courts anyhow? Fair and impartial; or the instrument of the ruling capitalist class? If Professor Ming doesn't know from his own personal experience...

If we consider here not the words about "justice" that are written into the laws, but really understand how they work, then we can understand that workers in the armed forces, colored or white, would get no better treatment from the civil courts than they do from the military...

If you really want to abolish Jim Crowism, if you really want to protect the rights and improve the conditions of the soldiers and sailors, there can be no half-way measures: the officers will either have the power to do what they want, or they won't...

A Correction

In our pamphlet on the Philadelphia men, issued before their discharge, we feared because of the silence that surrounded the case that the boys would be framed-up in a court martial...

According to Professor Ming, however, this is not legally correct. His explanation not only clears up this point, but shows why the boys escaped court martial and even worse punishment than they received...

The War And Coming Revolutions
The Germs Of Workers' Uprisings Infect All Warring Nations

By ART PREIS

The first symptoms of a new wave of workers' revolutions are appearing in Europe and, in the first instance, in Italy. Churchill and the "democratic" ruling class have been quick to label it the "Italian disease"...

The capitalists in each country today likewise label the "disease" of proletarian revolution in one which can strike elsewhere but not in their own country...

The violence of this campaign against defeatism is in itself an admission of the discontent with the war so wide-spread among the Italian masses. The same Il Popolo di Roma on December 13 cries against the defeatists...

FASCISTS TRY TO APPEASE MASSES

Mussolini's regime, unable to gloss over the appalling living conditions, makes haste to lament with the masses. A campaign suddenly blossoms forth against the "hoarders and profiteers"...

THE WORKER-SOLDIER WILL NOT FIGHT

This defeatism, and it grows with each new military setback, is the reflection of a much more serious condition in the Italian armed forces. It is the custom of the "democratic" capitalist press to attribute the defeats of the Italian army in Greece and Albania to the "brave fighting qualities" of the Greek and British forces...

STRIKE STRUGGLES IN BRITAIN

One of the indicative symptoms that the workers of England are not too ready to "sacrifice" in the interests of British imperialism, is the persistence of strikes in vital British industries...

Women And The Class Struggle

By MARY DANTE

The role of the woman worker has always been a decisive factor in the history of the trade union movement. At first the boss utilized her as a source of cheap labor and later to replace men who were engaged in union activities...

The ten hour day, then the eight hour day, labor legislation, higher wages and better conditions enjoyed by workers today, are the result of the militant struggles of men and women workers...

So we have the daughters of native New England farmers in Dover, N. H., 1828, organizing one of the first walkouts by women, against wage reductions and monthly payments. These textile workers organized street parades and protest meetings to publicize their demands...

in the cause which his arms are supposed to uphold. Leland Stowe, in a dispatch to the New York Post of December 26 describing an interview with Italian prisoners of war in Greece, writes:

"There is an enormous difference between the attitude of officers and common soldiers. Virtually all the officers profess confidence in and loyalty to Mussolini, and most of them attempt to justify the invasion of Greece. The higher ranking professional militarists show obedience to the regime and unquestioned patriotism. Young lieutenants, aggressively fascist, are frequently defiant and arrogant, sometimes sneering and discourteous."

"On the other hand, the Italian soldiers are mostly a spiritless, pitiful assortment. They are ragged and miserable, and only a few have a vestige of self-assurance left. Again and again, they say frankly, 'We've had enough.' They seem to have no shame over having thrown down their weapons. They want nothing except food and for the war to end and to get back to Italy."

But it is mere wish-thinking, when the Churchills brand it an "Italian disease." It is precisely the knowledge that this is not an exclusively "Italian disease" which brought forth Churchill's recent incitement of the Italians against Mussolini—against Mussolini and not against the entire ruling class of Italy...

BRITISH "DEMOCRACY" PUTS THE SQUEEZE ON

We can expect that Churchill, like Mussolini, will shortly be forced to denounce the "hoarders and profiteers." On December 26, the British press announced that Lord Woolton, Food Minister, is expected to introduce a further reduction in the food rations in January, 1941. Even the cheapest, poorest meat scraps are to be rationed, under the new regulations...

GLARING EXTREMES BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

While the Lancashire garment strikers were whipped back to work with prison threats, the New York Times on December 22, published the following:

"MANCHESTER, England, Dec. 22 (UP)—Corporate profits of Lancashire's cotton spinners this year will be the largest since 1921, a United Press survey disclosed today. Milo M. Thompson, chief of the Associated Press London Bureau, who has just returned from England, describes the luxury and comforts of the bomb shelters for the rich in London, such as that of the Savoy Hotel, and contrasts it with those for the ordinary people...

POVERTY FOR NOW; PROMISES FOR LATER

It is a sign of the complete degeneration and incapacity of the British ruling class that it permits this fantastic spectacle to go on. Future historians will record that not all the previous contrasts between rich and poor drove the British masses toward revolution as much as did the luxurious underground p l a y ground shelters of the rich.

Nor is it that the British ruling class is unaware of the danger. Every week Harold J. Laski, Raymond Postgate and other "labor" supporters of the war wall in The Tribune: "We wonder if Mr. Churchill is aware that, in spite of all the talk, there is no evacuation scheme... no improvements of shelters... The outcome of the war may well depend on the speed and efficiency of adequate sheltering..."

Churchill, on December 18, speaking at Harrow, exclusive school for the British upper classes, declared that "the advantages and privileges which hitherto have been enjoyed only by the few shall be far more widely shared"—when the war is over.

Hitler, a few weeks ago, stated that he will introduce the "perfect socialist state"—when the war is over.

Thus it is, that each in turn, offers the benefits of a mild inoculation of "socialism," to offset the dread "plague," the workers' revolution.

War and revolution—they were inextricably connected in 1917. It took three years, the last time, for the first rumblings of revolt. It will not take that long this time!

Why Browder & Co. Now Yell For U.S.--USSR Amity

Stalin's general staff appears now to be convinced that Germany cannot successfully invade Britain. This is the conclusion to be drawn from the latest article estimating the military developments signed—like most of the previous ones—by "Colonel Vasilyev," published in Trud, and cabled from Moscow to the Stalinist press here.

Had Germany launched an invasion last Summer, immediately after the French defeat, says the article, (Daily Worker, Dec. 29) "there is hardly any doubt that they (the Germans) would rout England's armed forces in comparatively short time. However, Germany at that time evidently considered herself unprepared for the operations against English territory with the aid of land forces..."

As for the present situation, the article says: "Lately the question of invasion of England has again been the subject of lively discussions. Estimating the situation in the Anglo-German theater of military operations, one draws the conclusion that irrespective of the methods of conduct of the war by Germany, the struggle will remain a protracted character."

Which is a cautious and diplomatic way of saying that Germany cannot succeed, in the estimation of Soviet military experts.

German aerial warfare, says the article, "did not achieve decisive results."

Neither is Germany succeeding in her attack on British communications lines: "In spite of the fact that the losses of the British merchant fleet are 'severe,' the total tonnage of British merchant vessels nevertheless exceeds the required minimum."

"But British successes," the article concludes, "cannot yet be called the turning point in the course of the war." It is clear, however, that this Soviet article considers that that turning point is likely.

In this estimate of the war by Soviet military authorities we have the clue to the suddenly-launched campaign of the Communist Party and its front-men for American "friendship with the Soviet Union." A letter by Corliss Lamont to the New York Times, urging a Soviet-U. S. rapprochement, speeches by Browder and Foster cautiously launching the same line—this is preparation for a new turn by Stalin back toward the "democracies." But as long as Hitler has his teeth, Stalin will remain respectfully ready for new deals like the partition of Poland.

Stalinist preparations for a possible new turn in the United States are already evident in the slogans raised here on military questions. In Britain and its colonies the Stalinists are ultra-radical. For example, in Canada the Young Communist League recently issued a manifesto which says to drafted men: "Trainees, form camp committees, to protect your daily interests... Fight against the fascist officers' clique in the army..." (Daily Worker, Dec. 15).

In the United States, however, no slogans remotely resembling this are raised. Here there is not a whisper of soldiers' committees from the Stalinists. After all, the United States is the unquestioned dominant figure among the "democracies," and the one which Stalin will have to court, if Germany loses the initiative in the war.

One Sabotage Case They're Not Pushing

There's been lots of talk about labor's "sabotage" of the war program, but here's one story of sabotage that they haven't been yelling about.

Fort Sill, Oklahoma, was for a few years the home of the Army's Field Artillery School. The site was considered unsatisfactory as the years went by. It was an area of subnormal rain fall, and the water shortage was getting worse with the years. But the school had a normal garrison of about 3,400 men, their water supply could be supplemented by bringing in water, and the usual inertia of the army kept the school there. But the situation was conceded to be bad.

Yet, in September, when the Forty-fifth National Guard Division, comprising Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Arkansas, was ordered to active duty, an astonishing thing happened. Fort Sill was selected as the site for the Division's tent camp! Every army officer who knew his business knew the trouble with Fort Sill—but nevertheless it became the site for the tent camp which was eventually to house some 30,000 to 40,000 men.

A total of 8,500 men and officers were sent into camp. Construction was started on hospital buildings, recreation halls, utilities, etc. The camp was prepared with much labor to house more than 21,000 men in short order. Work went on. Soon the number in camp reached 14,000 soldiers. To make a long story short, the tent camp—its cost is estimated at \$5,000,000—was well on the way to completion, and many additional projects connected with it were completed.

Finally, in mid-December—i. e., nearly three and a half months after the camp was selected—the water situation became so bad that the camp had to be abandoned. The Division will be transferred to Abilene, Texas—as soon as a tent camp has been constructed there.

A crew of Oklahoma businessmen are at the bottom of it. They stood to gain and did gain from the selection of Fort Sill. They had friends among the officers who had a say in it. They're not weeping about the "mistake," they made plenty out of it.

There are no indignant articles in the press about Fort Sill. Nobody is pointing the finger of indignation at those Oklahoma businessmen. Can you imagine what would happen if a trade union made an honest mistake which cost one percent of what this Fort Sill spree cost?