

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Vol. III, No. 68 September 11, 1939

Published twice a week by the SOCIALIST APPEAL PUBLISHING ASS'N. at 116 University Place, New York, N. Y. Telephone: ALgonquin 4-8547 (Published three times a week beginning Sept. 9)

Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for six months. Foreign: \$3.00 per year; \$1.50 for six months. Single copies: 3 cents per copy in the United States; 5 cents per copy in all foreign countries. Single copies: 3 cents. Bronx and Manhattan subscriptions are: \$1.50 for six months; \$2.00 for one year. Reentered as second class matter February 16, 1939, at the post office at New York, N.Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Editor: MAX SHACHTMAN Associate Editors: FELIX MORROW, EMANUEL GARRETT, General Manager: MARTIN ABERN, Assistant Manager: SHERMAN STANLEY

FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY FOR:

- 1. A job and a decent living for every worker. 2. Open the idle factories—operate them under workers' control. 3. A Twenty-Billion dollar Federal public works and housing program. 4. Thirty-thirty! \$30-weekly minimum wage—30-hour weekly maximum for all workers on all jobs. 5. Thirty dollar weekly old-age and disability pension. 6. Expropriate the Sixty Families. 7. All war funds to the unemployed. 8. A people's referendum on any and all wars. 9. No secret diplomacy. 10. An independent Labor Party. 11. Workers' Defense Guards against vigilante and Fascist attacks. 12. Full social, political and economic equality for the Negro people.

Food Profiteering

The war has been going on barely a week, but the nation is already in the grip of a major price rise, the inevitable accompaniment of modern war.

In New York City, prices of meat, sugar, lard, flour and other staple foodstuffs have gone up from 10% to 25%. Housewives, remembering the last war, are beginning to stock up on sugar. (This, by the way, is an interesting index of just how much faith the masses are putting in the New Deal's promises to keep the country out of war.)

The current rise in food prices reflects the soaring prices on the commodity exchanges. Commodity prices have reached their official maximum limits in the first few hours of daily trading. On a single day in the Chicago exchange more than 100,000,000 bushels of wheat, corn, oats, rye, and barley futures changed hands—a two year record which resulted in the most violent price changes since the middle of 1933. The big chain stores and independent retailers are taking advantage of this large scale speculation to soak the consumers.

Mayor LaGuardia, after receiving over 500 complaints from housewives, is going through the usual motions of appealing and warning against high prices and hoarding. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, making a pious gesture, has turned complaints about food profiteering over to the Department of Justice for "investigation." At the same time, however, he indicated "that for the time being the Administration was not displeased by price increases" (New York Times, Sept. 6).

But, the workers, the consumers are displeased at the increased cost of living. More fear continued increases in food prices and an extension of price raising to all the necessities of life. What can be done?

In the first place, it must be recognized that neither the federal nor local governments will voluntarily take any serious steps to curb the speculators, the big chain stores and the independent retailers.

Second, the trade union organizations, C.I.O. and A.F.L., the farmers' organizations and genuine consumers' cooperatives of the country must set up a joint committee for curbing the speculators, and controlling prices.

Third, local committees which include the neighborhood housewives must be set up to work for the control of prices.

Fourth, the trade unions must immediately consider ways and means of including in all their contracts a provision for an automatic increase of wages proportionate to the increased cost of living.

In other words, consumers must be united in the fight against increased prices. It is up to the trade unions to take the lead in this struggle. Above all, the trade unions must guarantee the real wage standards of their members by insisting on a rising scale of wages which would keep pace with rising prices.

In the Streets

"A yearning to keep out of the European war was probably the most common reaction among New Yorkers, second only to their realization that we might not," according to New York Times reporters who circulated among crowds

at Times Square as war news first started to flash from the Times Building Monday.

"My boy—what is going to happen to him now?" they quoted "a father, apparently Italian or French" as musing. "And a block away," the reporters noted, "Mike, Italian-American boot-black was saying, 'For what? I went over before. For what I went over? Man can't get a job, have to shine shoes in a street. . . .'"

Franklin (I Hate War) Roosevelt opposes a popular referendum on war because he dreads just such sentiment, expressed on a national scale. The people of this country do not want war!

Internal Passports

United States Senator W. Warren Barbour of New Jersey, addressing the American Legion state convention there, spoke for requiring all citizens to carry identification cards. He is going to introduce a bill for that purpose in the Senate.

No barbaric repression waged by Czarist Russia excited more horror in the civilized world than the Czarist system of internal passports. It was the subject of many a homily in the parliaments of the Western nations. Yet a United States senator is now proposing to introduce that system here. We cite this as but one of the many steps—and many of them will be enacted into law here, as many of them have already become law in the European "democracies"—which demonstrates that this war is not a war for democracy but a war to end democracy.

He Ought to Know

"Lying War Rumors" is the title of an interesting piece by General Hugh S. Johnson, ex-NRA chief and—even more to the point, Bernard Baruch's right-hand man in running the War Industries Board in the last war. He ought to know what he's talking about when it comes to war lies! He says, in part (N. Y. World-Telegram, September 6):

"Truth is the first casualty of any war. We should keep that axiom pasted on our bathtubs. Of one thing we may be certain. . . . Unless a fact is so big and conspicuous that it could no more be hidden or camouflaged than a bull in a china shop, we will get it only in such form as the various nations think will fool us in their favor. . . ."

"We don't know exactly what happened to the Athenia, but remembering the Lusitania, it seems incredible that the German Admiralty would sink such a ship unless it has gone stark, raving mad. . . ."

"Why would German bombers fly around Warsaw and seek out and devote their attention, a valuable bomb cargo and risk of their lives, to blow up the country castle of Tony Biddle? Does Hitler want to force us to enter the war? Not unless he is crazy. Is he gunning for Tony? Absurd. I have no doubt that bombs were dropped on Biddle's villa, but I want to hear. . . ."

Then and Now

International Youth Day, founded in the midst of the war on September 6, 1914 as a day of struggle against imperialist war and its "socialist" apologists, was celebrated by the Komso-mol (Young Communist League) in Moscow this year with slogans which when compared with those issued last year show how the Y.C.L., like all the Comintern organizations the world over, is a mere tool of Stalin's foreign policy.

A summary of the differences in the slogans was wirelessly to the New York Times, Sept. 5, by its Moscow office:

"For instance, the word 'fascism' is absolutely eliminated from today's battle cries as a denunciation of the universal enemy. Last year a call for resistance to fascism was the characteristic note of seven of the slogans.

"Today's first slogan runs: 'Long live the twenty-fifth International Youth Day—the day of struggle of the toiling youth of the world against the incendiaries and provocators of war'; and Premier V. M. Molotov's phrase of last week, 'For peace, for socialism.' Last year the slogan was defined as 'Against imperialist war and fascism.'"

"Where a year ago the fourth slogan was, 'For the united front against fascism—deadly enemy of our youth,' the corresponding one this year merely sends 'Greetings to the revolutionary youth of capitalist countries.'"

"Slogan No. 7, which last year conveyed 'Bolshevik greetings to the revolutionary proletariat of Germany, to the heroic Communist party of Germany. Long live Comrade Thaelmann!' runs this year, 'Long live the wise foreign policy of the Soviet Union, guided by Comrade Stalin's instructions, 'Do not let the country be drawn into a conflict by war provocators who want us to pull their chestnuts out of the fire.'"

"The final international slogan of last year, 'Long live the glorious pilot of the Comintern, the fearless fighter against fascism, Comrade Dimitroff,' is gone and left no trace behind."

What Life in U. S. Will Be Like When It Enters War--a Preview

More Light on the Life in Store for the American Worker When M-Day, Now a Plan Carefully Designed by the Generals, Becomes a Horrid Reality for all the Youth of the Nation

By HAL DRAPER

If America goes to war . . . what will America be like?

More light on the war dictatorship which is planned for this country on M-Day has been shed by two authoritative sources in recent weeks—the American Legion and General Hugh Johnson.

"There is a group of men in Washington today that spends all its time thinking in terms of M-Day," says an article in the American Legion Monthly for August 1939. "If the United States were to go to war tomorrow they would be ready. Tucked away in the files of the War Department they have an already written law with which they could conscript ten million men. They have files of posters to help sell the war they constantly think of, and thoroughly detailed information on the radio-listening habits of people in all sections of the country. Their files contain sample news and feature stories to be pumped into newspapers. . . ."

"They have sample registration cards for the draft in every state capitol—ready to go to the printer on a moment's notice and be ground out in million lots. They have maps of locations of the 6000 boards required to draft men into the service, and lists of personnel to man them. . . . Plans are complete even to the number of square feet of floor space required by various agencies."

While Roosevelt says he "believes" this country can keep out of war, the draft cards are already on file in his executive offices!

WAR PREPARATIONS BEHIND OUR BACKS

"Perhaps it would be annoying to Henry Putty (the cynical Legionnaire author's name for the average man—Ed.) if he knew how completely his life has been planned for him. But of course he doesn't know."

No, Roosevelt's war preparations are taking place behind the backs of the people. Only the "proper" people are permitted to know what the American workers are in for. Hugh Johnson, for instance.

"I have seen the latest mobilization plan," writes General Johnson in his syndicated column in the New York World-Telegram for August 31. "Its details are naturally confidential, but it betrays no confidence to say that in both form and detail it is one of the best

and most compact and complete documents of its kind that I have ever read. . . ."

"If a new world war should come to us our industrial mobilization could become the most important influence on our daily living. It could be just about as important as the Constitution and laws of the United States. We can't avoid an economic dictatorship if we get mixed up in modern war."

So Johnson has seen the latest version of the blue-print for dictatorship. Why doesn't the government publish it for the benefit of the people with whose lives it deals? Isn't it clear that Roosevelt is afraid that if the workers knew what they were in for when America goes to war, they wouldn't fall so readily for the propaganda which is and will be shoveled into them?

WAR PROPAGANDA MACHINE IS READY

The fact that a propaganda machinery rivaling that of Goebbels in Germany is part of the war-mobilization set-up is verified by the August 1939 American Legion Monthly.

"The 300-odd men in the permanent and ever-enlarging selective service organization are not blind to the fact that there is a more widespread and articulate anti-war philosophy abroad in the land today than there was in 1917. They are aware that many people have read and heard a great deal of pacifist propaganda; that war has been depicted as a nefarious enterprise; that there is such a thing as the Oxford Oath and other solemn commitments against bearing arms. Moreover, there are thousands and thousands of others who . . . don't want to live in tents, wear uncomfortable uniforms or be shot at by total strangers."

"It is needless," they continue, "to catalog the multiple devices by which a reluctant citizen can be 'educated' to the point of making him acquiescent to the demands of military service. . . . Take away Goebbels and you wouldn't have Hitler. Proscribe the radio and Father Coughlin would be just another parish priest. . . . A man will have to be a stern and rugged individualist, indeed, to resist the high-pressured appeals of M-Day."

"The posters already drawn indicate that the publicity division recognizes a higher level of national intelligence than that

which existed in 1917. Today most people would refuse to believe in babies skewered on bayonets, in breasts amputated in the spirit of vengeance, or in women crucified on hastily devised crosses. The posters drawn for the next war suggest an appeal to reason of the type used in the best institutional advertising. Newspaper feature stories, however, have a familiar emotional ring. One will serve to illustrate. It begins: 'I didn't go last time and I've hung my head ever since. . . .'"

YOUTH WILL PROVIDE MOST CANNON FODDER

Of the utmost importance especially for American youth are the "yield" figures which are published in the Legion article—that is, the crop of cannon fodder that can be expected. In the following table the age span for the draft is divided into three categories: 18 to 21, 21 to 30, and 30 to 45. The second column gives the present population falling between these age limits, and the third column gives the number that could be called for immediate service.

Age Population To Be Called table with columns for age groups (18-21, 21-30, 30-45) and population figures.

"Two out of every three boys between 18 and 21 to be called to the front! Reason? 'They are healthy, have fewer responsibilities, and are less valuable to industry than older, better-trained men.'"

"In the aggregate," conclude the Legionnaires, "the machinery already set up is geared to produce 330,000 men every 30 days; or 4,000,000 every 12 months."

Both Johnson and the American Legion Monthly carefully refrain from mentioning that the most important section of the war mobilization plan deals with the suppression of labor, control of trade unions and breaking of strikes. The totalitarian dictatorship that is planned is a dictatorship over the working class, directed by the representatives of America's Sixty Families like those who have already been appointed to the War Resources Board.

It is being planned behind our backs. And with good reason. For if the American people knew what was in store for them, the Sixty Families and their tool, the government, would never succeed in carrying out those plans.

There Is a Division of Labor Among the Many War Mongers

If all the war-mongers in America came out flatly for America's immediate entry into the war, the issue would be clearly drawn and the genuine anti-war forces would crystallize and consolidate in direct conflict with the war-mongers. Precisely for this reason, the war-mongers do not all come out for war. The better to break down the resistance to war, the war-mongers divide among themselves various tasks. Some of them call for war; others call for "peaceful" aid to the "democracies"; others call for removal of the embargo provisions in the name of "real neutrality"; still others express themselves as genuinely neutral in order to be able all the better tomorrow to howl for the war (Father Coughlin is playing this latter role with particular skill).

Example—"The Nation"

An example of a number of phases of this division of labor within the pages of one journal is the September 9 issue of The Nation, "liberal" weekly. In a signed article its editor and publisher, Freda Kirchwey, calls for war, for the "Western nations" to "fight for their existence." An unsigned editorial, presumably representing the collective position of the editors, entitled "Measures 'Short of War'," belittles the embargo provisions of the Neutrality Act and assures us that "it is absurd to pretend that the passage of this bill (to remove the embargo provisions) would bring us any nearer to war" and, in fact, declares that "Actually the issue of our participation or non-participation is not likely to be much affected one way or another by the existing neutrality law or any other act possible of passage." The collective editors, in other words, play the "peaceful aid"

racket, even going to the point of saying that not even "an economic stake in an Allied victory" would be decisive.

Only fear of a German victory, say these students of the cause of war, will be "the basic cause" of American entry.

In its "news" summary, without so much as a blink of an eyelash, The Nation accepts the British Propaganda Office version of the Athenia sinking, on the ground that "the world puts more faith in the word of a British seaman than in that of the great liberator of poison gas."—as if he had talked to a British seaman about it!—speaks warmly of Winston Churchill's "qualities of imagination which should prove most valuable" (they proved so when he waged an undeclared war against the Lenin government while swearing to the British workers that he wasn't); informs us that responsibility for the attack on WPA "rests directly with the 'economy bloc' in Congress" (deliberately ignoring Roosevelt's April 27 relief budget message fixing the sum for WPA, his initiative in ending the prevailing wage, his out-lawry of the strike, etc., etc.).

Louis Fischer Deserts

The same issue carries an article by Louis Fischer, with whom the Nation editors connived (he was its Moscow and Spain correspondent) in defending the Moscow trials and the Stalinist assassinations of revolutionists in Spain. Now, without a word of explanation in this paper in which he regularly writes, Fischer bolts his Moscow paymaster—perhaps it would be more accurate to say that Fischer got fired with Litvinoff—for a job as an Allied propagandist. His article was radioed from Paris on September 4. The Nation does not even

rise to the Hearst press level of morality—even the latter printed the warning that all foreign dispatches are censored; The Nation does not.

Louis Fischer's formal announcement of changing employers appeared in The New Republic issue of September 13. "I find the Russo-German non-aggression pact totally indefensible," he says:

"All discussions of this startling agreement must begin with one indisputable premise: Moscow knew that the British and French governments had dropped their policy of appeasement. A high Soviet official in western Europe said to me three days before the announcement of Ribbentrop's flight to Moscow: 'There will be no second Munich.' The Kremlin had received reports to this effect, Voroshilov's talks with the French and British military experts confirmed it and the whole history of the last six months made it abundantly clear to the Bolsheviks." Note that last word—Fischer in recent years has never used it; Russia has been one of the "great democracies." He revives the term now as an Allied propagandist.

Fischer calls the Nazi pact "devastating" in its "moral effect," "unpardonable" and ends: "morally it will haunt us." But a political explanation of Moscow's turn he does not provide. Its relation to the Moscow trials and purges in which tens of thousands were killed as Hitler's agents? Its relation to Stalinist destruction of the Spanish revolution? In a word, its relation to all the infinite crimes of Moscow that Louis Fischer defended and condoned? Not a word about this from Fischer. Instead this utter scoundrel covers up everything with his moral indignation.

From England A Revolutionary Manifesto Against Imperialist War

On the eve of the outbreak of the Second World War, the Militant Labor League, a left-wing group within the Labor Party, issued the revolutionary call which we print below. While the Labor Party officialdom slobbered all over itself to assure the government of its fidelity, and, more, shouted loudest for war, the voice of this small group rang out with heartening militancy. The treachery of his Majesty's Loyal Opposition, did not silence the voice of revolution. The Militant Labor League will no doubt continue to find means for its revolutionary agitation despite the war-time dictatorship.

Manifesto of the Militant Labour League

After nearly a year of unrelieved tension the world is again on the brink of war. The energies and resources of all nations have been devoted to the piling up of immense armaments and the regimentation of whole peoples for slaughter.

WORKERS! What would you get out of war? In 1914 they promised you

- A land fit for heroes to live in. An end to militarism and autocracy. That it was a war to end war, to safeguard small nations and make the world safe for democracy. And they gave you Mass unemployment and wage cuts. Fascism and dictatorship triumphant in two-thirds of Europe.

Small nations abandoned to their fate and your democratic rights attacked on all sides.

Who gained from the last war? The British, French, and American bosses. They got immense new tracts of territory whose resources and inhabitants they could exploit—they reaped immense profits out of your blood and suffering.

The bosses are still in control; they make the same lying promises. Do not be deceived.

This will not be a war for democracy. Democracy does not exist for two-thirds of the inhabitants of the British and French Empires. A few months of war would see the disappearance of the remaining democratic rights and free organisations of the workers. The Emergency Powers Act is an earnest for the future.

This will not be a war for peace against aggression. Britain and France, Germany and Italy are all greedy, aggressive imperialisms fighting for a re-division of the colonial plunder.

Another war will mean: Death and suffering to millions of toilers. Wealth and fortunes to the small boss class which controls the means of production.

STOP THE WAR!

The leaders of the Labor Party and Trade Unions urge you to support the class enemy in their crime against humanity. Clear out the traitors!

The Communist International, under the whip of the Stalin gang has demoralised the revolutionary workers of the world. Now to save the miserable anti-working class Stalinist regime in Moscow they cynically abandon the workers to their fate.

THE ENEMY IS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY

Labor Party Workers! Communist Workers! Trade Unionists! There is still time to stop the slaughter. Chamberlain and Hitler may yet compose their differences, but so long as capitalism lasts war remains a constant threat to the toilers of the world. No pacts or treaties can prevent the rivalries of imperialism breaking out into open conflict. Only the workers' struggle against the boss class for socialism can ensure peace.

Demand Special Meetings of your branches! Demand that the whole power of organised labor be thrown against this imperialist war! Build up the revolutionary vanguard! Join the Militant Labor League!

Demonstrate against the war in the factories and in the streets. Not a man, not a gun for Imperialist war!

Labor Looks Through The Press By Arthur Hopkins

It ought to be easy now to tell a Stalinist—even if they keep their mouths shut. It's because of their look of perpetual astonishment.

SUCCESS STORY: At Fort Snelling—a \$21-a-month private gives out the secret of his success—work hard, join the army, obey your officers implicitly, and have a relative will you a \$95,000 estate. It is reported that the soldier is seeking to buy his discharge from the army as the result of his deceased uncle's bequest.

Seven persons allegedly involved in a Minneapolis dope ring were held as an aftermath of a brief flurry when two federal narcotic agents, arresting the two men in a tavern, were mistaken for armed gangsters. A perfectly natural "mistake."

DAILY DOUBT: "Everyone is predicting war and preparing for it and that is the very thing that will prevent it," says Dr. John R. Mott.

Socialist Appeal 116 University Place New York City.

I would like to get better acquainted with your paper, the Socialist Appeal. Please send me sample copies for the next few weeks.

Name Address City