

Labor and The Second World War

The First Installment Of a New Pamphlet

By J. R. Johnson

Germany and the "democracies," Great Britain and France, are once more locked in murderous conflict. President Roosevelt, like Woodrow Wilson, has declared America's neutrality. But moving even faster than Wilson, Roosevelt, in his first broadcast after the beginning of hostilities, incited the American people to participation on the side of the "democracies": "Even a neutral has a right to take account of facts. Even a neutral cannot be asked to close his mind or close his conscience."

Hitler and the German imperialists bear their full share of responsibility for the competition in murder now raging in Europe. We work and wait for the day when the European workers will sweep away fascism. But to work toward the destruction of fascism does not in any way mean to support the "democracies." What are these "democracies"? Today Great Britain rules by force of arms nearly 400 million people in India; and in 1935, while the British representative at the League of Nations was protesting against the Italian bombing of Ethiopia, British airplanes were bombing civilians on the northwest frontier of India.

British "Democracy" in India and Africa

Forty million Indian peasants do not get one square meal in two days. The 1931 census showed that 321 out of 350 million people were illiterate. Over 40% of the Indian revenue is used for the upkeep of the military forces that hold the people in chains. So powerful is the spirit of revolt against this 300-year-old exploitation and tyranny that in ten years the Indian National Congress, on a program of complete independence from Britain, has grown from 400,000 to 6,000,000.

In Africa Britain holds sixty million Africans in a condition of semi-slavery. In Kenya and Rhodesia natives work for ten and fifteen cents a day. All through South and East Africa they live in locations, which they are forbidden to leave after curfew without special personal permission. Representatives in the governing council they have none.

To crush a revolution among the Burmese peasants in 1929 cost ten thousand lives. Sixteen "rebels" were decapitated and their heads exhibited in a row by the representatives of British "democracy."

In Palestine the British set Arab against Jew, in Canada English against French. In Egypt they gave a share of the pickings to the Egyptian aristocracy in return for their aid in suppressing the millions of peasants. In Ceylon and the West Indies, Malta and Hong Kong, one glance destroys the fiction of British "democracy."

British "Democracy," Strangler of Ireland

It is not only colored people or backward nations over which British "democracy" stands as jailer for the sake of power and profits. The millions of Irish in American cities are there because of British "democracy." In 1847, at the time of the potato famine, the London Times, then as now the organ of British imperialism, rejoiced at the

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Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

The papers here have failed to take notice so far of an extremely significant interview given to the London News Chronicle by Sven Hedin, the aged Swedish explorer who called on Hitler a week ago under conditions that seemed to suggest he might be called upon to play the role of an unofficial bearer of peace proposals from Hitler to the western powers.

Hedin indirectly quoted Hitler as saying that Anglo-German cooperation against the "westward advance of Bolshevism" (i. e., of Stalin) was the only thing that could save "western civilization." Such cooperation, he said, is still "Hitler's dream."

The News Chronicle asked Hedin if Hitler would join a western bloc strong enough to dictate reorganization of Europe.

"Germany would undoubtedly do so," Hedin replied. The Hedin interview offers a further glimmer of light into the shadows in which the present war of arms, nerves, power diplomacy has enshrouded itself. With the opening of the winter season it is now generally assumed that military operations will continue on their extremely limited scale while the more important battles are fought out in the chancelleries and diplomatic back-alleys.

On the diplomatic front the western Allies have been winning the victories so notably absent in the military sphere during the last few weeks. The pact with Turkey has at least for the time being established a pro-Ally balance in the eastern end of the Mediterranean and has severely weakened the slim chances that remained that Germany would be able to count on any cooperation

from Italy. Signature of the Ankara pact has been followed by the opening of new diplomatic drives in the Balkans by the Italians and by the Russians, both of which are seeking to form blocs of the southeastern European states which they could manipulate as the further course of the war dictates.

In Moscow, Izvestia, the government paper, blustered that a fresh Anglo-French attempt to set Germany against Russia had failed, that the Russians had "nothing to regret" over the outcome of the parleys with the Turks. Nevertheless, the Kremlin has embarked upon a Balkan fencing campaign upon which Germany can look with scarcely a benevolent eye. And the reopening of Russian talks with Turkey is confidently predicted in London.

This, taken together with the obvious coolness developing between Rome and Berlin, has given the British diplomats a somewhat easier breathing space and has provided the basis for continuing with the waiting game that the Anglo-French general staffs have evidently decided upon.

Just what they are waiting for is the prime problem of the war. To guess that they hope for the replacement of Hitler by a German military dictatorship which will fall in with plans for a joint war against Russia is probably not very far from the mark. It may very well be the pressure of the military leaders that is forcing Hitler to go easy on the western fronts and to send out feelers, such as that carried by Hedin, for a possible understanding with his present enemies.

Socialist Appeal

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Official Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International—Issued Twice Weekly

VOL. III, NO. 82

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 27, 1939

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SHACHTMAN ON NEW YORK BALLOT, BOSS POLITICIANS DROP CHALLENGE

3 More WPA Strikers Convicted in Second Mpls. Frame-Up Trial

Convicted Face Two Years' Imprisonment And Fines Up to 10,000—No Workers on Juries Trying Indicted W.P.A. Strikers

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 21—Yesterday at 9:45 a.m. the jury in the second of the Minneapolis WPA trials filed into Judge Joyce's court and announced its verdict: three of the four defendants were found guilty of conspiracy and overt acts in connection with the WPA strikes at projects on Lake Calhoun and Cedar Lake in Minneapolis. Found guilty were Milton McLean, Charles Connors and William Riley. Charles Moore was judged not guilty. Jurors took three ballots to reach the guilty verdict, six ballots before they decided Moore was innocent.

On Tuesday morning the jury in the first trial had found five of the eight defendants guilty of conspiracy and intimidation.

The score in the campaign of the federal government against the Minneapolis unemployed now stands as follows:

Indicted—161 men and women and youth

Arrested—138

Found Guilty—8

Found Not Guilty—4

Next Trial in Series—25 men and women, charged with conspiracy, to start October 30.

Next meeting of federal grand jury—starts Monday, October 23, to investigate St. Paul aspects of WPA strike.

Will Be Sentenced November 4

Defendants found guilty in the first two of the ten trials so far scheduled were ordered by Judge Joyce to appear before him November 4 for sentence. They face penalties of up to two years imprisonment, and fines up to \$10,000.

Directly after the verdict Friday, District Attorney Victor Anderson moved for trial of no less than 90 defendants in one huge "conspiracy" indictment. The defense moved for separate trial and Joyce agreed to try 25 of them October 30. The third trial will be one of the most important in the current persecution of the Minneapolis unemployed. Included among the defendants are many active members and leaders of the Federal Workers Section and the Youth Section of Local 544—Ed Palmquist, Oscar and Margaret Schoenfeld, Max Geldman, Eddie Albert, etc.

Tom Davis, defense counsel, rested his case in the second trial without presenting any witnesses. Victim of Circumstance While waiting in the courtroom for the jury to bring in its verdict, Charles Connors, Negro defendant, mused about his case. "Here's me," he said, "I'm really a victim of circumstances." Connors, who served 15 years in the U.S. Army, is now a truck farmer living near Osseo. "So help me," he said, "I never raised my hand at a soul, and I never went around trying to chase people off the project. I was working on the Robbinsdale project, in the blacksmith shop. Riley was there, too. They came along and pulled us off the job first. We were the first job to be closed down. Riley and I went along with the rest of the strikers to the belt line project and the gravel pit. I walked into the gravel pit to talk with Martocchio. He made an insulting reference to my race. Then I did take a pass at him but he warned off the lick, just like he told the jury."

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What Has Changed What has changed is that, in April, Browder's boss, Stalin, was in the "democratic" camp, and Browder's party was doing its utmost to defend the Roosevelt government against the strikers. Now Stalin has shifted camps and, as part of the war drive of the Roosevelt govern-

ment, the Roosevelt government's drive against the Communist Party got down to cases this week, when Earl Browder, head of the Communist Party, was speedily indicted, arrested and released on \$7,500 bail. He is now awaiting trial by a Federal court under the indictment, which charges him with twice using a passport originally obtained on the basis of a false statement.

Only Pretext The flimsiness of the charge is enough by itself to reveal that it is merely a pretext. Browder's "crime" consisted of failing to indicate on a passport application that he had secured previous passports. He is protected by the statute of limitations against prosecution for securing the previous passports under assumed names, so that the government was limited to the merest technicality in its move against him. Even more to the point, it is clear that this information was in the hands of the government last April, when the "passporting" trial took place. At that time, the Socialist Appeal and other labor papers pointed out that US Attorney John T. Cahill was obviously not producing in court all the evidence he had, and was going to considerable lengths not to have the record show that the defendants were Soviet agents.

Why has Cahill now moved against Browder, and announced that this is only the first of a series of indictments? What has changed since April?

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Socialism In One Country Goes International



EARL BROWDER ARRESTED ON FLIMSY CHARGE

Real Motive Is Stalinist Shift to Nazi-Soviet War Camp

Major Struggle Ahead in India, British Reject Freedom Demand

By SHERMAN STANLEY

The Indian Nationalist Congress—representing 5,000,000 organized members and tens of millions of Indian nationalists—this week ordered its ministries in the eight leading provinces of British India to resign in protest against British imperialist policy.

These resignations precipitate the first serious political crisis of the present world war. Although the war is a bare two months old, all the conditions for a major revolutionary situation exist in India!

Last week the British imperialist rulers again gave a true indication of one of their reasons for participating in the present imperialist war.

For weeks since the war began, the British-appointed Viceroy of India had consulted

with leaders of various political and communal organizations. He had bent special efforts to win over (buy off with concessions) the leaders of India's Nationalist Congress.

The Premier of the Bihar Congress Ministry stated the position of the right-wing leaders and followers of Mahatma Gandhi in a resolution he introduced in the National Assembly to the effect that England must clearly state its war aims with regard to India.

And then the answer—immediate cause of the present crisis—came in the form of a "White Paper" issued by the Viceroy.

The answer was a flat refusal to grant the 375,000,000 people of India their freedom and independence, coupled with several exceptionally vague promises.

Lord Linlithgow, the Viceroy answered three specific questions that had been put to him: (1) What are the war objectives of the British government? To this his reply was that Chamberlain had already given the answer—that is, of "destroying Hitlerism." His Lordship does not feel it necessary to go beyond this evasive and hypocritical statement.

"See About Future" (2) What is to be the future of India after the war is over? The Viceroy's reply was equivalent to the statement, "Well, we'll see about that when the time comes." True, some mention (Continued on Page 2)

Decide On Write-In Drive for G. L. Paine

New York SWP Girds All Its Forces For Final Campaign Sprint

After having successfully smashed the attempts to have its Bronx candidate for Councilman, Max Shachtman, removed from the ballot, the New York district of the Socialist Workers Party completed its plans for swinging into concerted action for the last two weeks of the municipal campaign.

At the hearings before the New York Board of Elections, before which the thousands of signatures to the petition for placing Shachtman on the ballot were being contested by one of the local reactionary politicians, the objector failed to appear and thereby tacitly acknowledged that he did not even have the faintest basis for a challenge.

A number of other candidates, in all the boroughs of the city, were, however, disqualified by the Board of Elections, acting for the most part under the direction of Tammany politicians who apparently not only insist on choosing the candidates running for them but also the candidates running against them.

Write-In Drive for Paine

In Manhattan, however, the petition of the S.W.P. candidate, G. Lyman Paine, was invalidated by the Board on the basis of a number of cheap technicalities with the result that his name will not appear on the official ballot. This procedure, which it was more difficult for the Board to apply in Shachtman's case because of the many thousands of signatures over and above the number legally required for placing a candidate on the ballot, will necessitate the continuation of the Paine candidacy on a write-in basis. Workers in Manhattan are being asked to vote for Paine by writing in his name.

An increasing number of indoor and outdoor meetings under the auspices of the Socialist Workers Party Campaign Committee are already arranged, especially in the two boroughs where it is running candidates, with larger crowds than ever expected in attendance.

Concentrate on War Issue

All efforts are being made to concentrate on the main issue in the election—the war issue, which the other parties and candidates are making a cowardly attempt to evade, out of fear of putting forward openly the unpopular pro-war position which they take in actuality.

In addition to the meetings scheduled directly under the auspices of the Socialist Workers Party, the two candidates, and other party representatives, are to appear at various meetings organized under the auspices of open forums, non-party groups and fraternal organizations.

Plans are also under way for a whirlwind conclusion to the campaign on the eve of the elections themselves, in which every force at the disposal of the party will be utilized to reach the maximum number of workers in Manhattan and the Bronx with the platform and views of the Socialist Workers Party.

NOTICE

There will be an important membership meeting of all New York SWP and YPSL members this Sunday, Oct. 29, at Webster Hall, 119 E. 11th St. Time: 2:30 p.m.