

THE FIGHTING

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A Pirates' Stew Boils In India

Only Proletarian Revolt Can Bring Independence

Two recent developments in India reflect the deeply seething unrest of the Indian masses and the strategic position of India in relation to the imperialist war.

In the first instance, there is what may well be the beginning of imperialist war operations on the Eastern Front in the form of the military struggle now raging between British troops and the half million men of the Fakir of

Ipi for control of the vital Khyber Pass. At a time when Britain masses tens of thousands of troops in the East, when Downing Street seriously considers the invasion of the Baku oil fields section of the Soviet Union, it must crush such military opposition.

While this military leader, long a thorn in the side of British imperialism, claims to fight in the interests of the Moslem minority, officially inspired British sources

Mr. Welles Goes To Market

An American army has invaded Europe, the army of 18 billion dollars gold stored in Kentucky vaults, the army of the American dollar now represented by Sumner Welles in European capitols.

No one in Europe is glad to see Mr. Welles, and yet every country receives him like a king. He is whisked to see Mussolini, Hitler, Daladier, Chamberlain. Everyone is ever so courteous for Mr. Welles represents hundreds of billions of dollars of wealth.

No one is glad to see this representative of American Imperialism because his mission, aside from paving the way for an attack against the Soviet Union and to keep down revolutions, is to gain a powerful foothold in Europe.

Through Cordell Hull and the state department American ambassadors are lining up neutral countries on an economic program very favorable to Uncle Sam — end barter trade, against autarchy, and an open door for American goods. Germany, especially, is outraged at this program.

SHARPEN ANGLO-AMERICAN ANTAGONISM

Mr. Welles is putting the squeeze on John Bull. He is intensifying the conflict with British Imperialism. As a result of his trip American trade to Europe will no doubt be greatly increased, and a good part of this increase will be at the expense of England. A 100 million dollar loan to Italy with which to buy American goods, especially coal, is already being discussed, according to present rumors.

From every angle the American antagonism to Great Britain is sharpening. Britain refuses to recognize Uncle Sam's contraband control. She announces that she will fight to gain "German markets" lost in Latin America, markets that American capitalists are now scooping up. She opens mail coming from the U. S., searches ships, and is getting American dander up.

The war of the "democracies" versus the "totalitarian" states, of which the reformists talk about, aside from bringing to the surface more and more the main struggle between proletarian revolution and world imperialism, is also showing up an even greater "imperialist war", the economic and political war between the two "great democracies", Britain and the United States.

openly hint that he is in the pay of Moscow. That Stalinism would only too eagerly employ military tools of this kind in its "defeatism" for Britain, i. e., aiding its Hitler ally, goes without saying. The important point is that such nationalists as Ipi in no way aid or further the proletarian interests of the Indian toilers; rather they sidetrack the struggle into bourgeois channels for the "victory" of one group of imperialists with its Stalinist tail, against another.

OTHERS AID ENGLAND

Such fakers as the fakir of Ipi have their counterpart on the other side; while he and others support Hitler and Stalin, powerful forces within the Indian National Congress temporize and compromise with British imperialism. The Congress, the open voice of the Indian bourgeoisie, has talked with loud WORDS since the war about its opposition to British imperialism. For months it has demanded a constituent assembly and "independence" (dominion status).

But these gentlemen cannot agree on how far to "oppose" Britain. Some of them like Mohandas K. Ghandi, who openly recruited for the army in the last world war, talk of opposition to Britain only to stifle real revolutionary opposition from below. Others, more clever, insist on a campaign of civil disobedience to wrest concessions from their British masters.

At the present time these latter have carried a motion for such a campaign, but its date has been left hanging in the air until they and Ghandi can "confer" and lick the boots of the British government to have it "accept its demands".

"Nothing short of complete independence will be accepted by the Indians" states the latest Congress resolution. But these gentlemen mean independence for them to maintain and extend the oppression of the Indian toilers. They differ in tactics, true, but they can only basically serve to compromise with the British imperialists or enter into the service of the Hitler imperialists.

The Indian toilers must recognize that all these varieties of "opponents" of British imperialism, be they Ipi, Ghandis, etc. in reality stand in the way and can only hold back the REAL struggle for independence, the struggle for proletarian revolution — of which the first Phase will be the National Revolution.

«The Land Of Plenty»

A St. Louis grocery market decided to try a brand new advertising stunt. It offered one free ham sandwich and a 3c bottle of pop to all comers. Imagine their surprise when hundreds of hungry men, women, and children stormed the joint and they had to call the cops to preserve "order."

Nazis Eager To Spread War to Involve Soviets

Near East Bristles With War Preparation

The victories of the Red Army in Finland against the imperialist lackeys has created panic in the robbers roost. Direct aid to the Finns in larger quantities is proceeding more rapidly. At the same time the Anglo-French have sent a number of warships to start a blockade of the Arctic in the Petsamo-Murmansk area.

As a step toward open intervention in the Finnish campaign it is essential for the Anglo-French to clean up the Arctic area of German and Russian warships and trade. This move on the part of London has caused new difficulties for Berlin.

As a Chicago News writer points out, "Germany has every reason to wish the Russo-Finnish campaign brought to an end as soon as possible. It has served its purpose of putting the Russians in German hands, as in demonstrated by the new agreement signed Monday between the Germans and the Russians whereby Germany receives the right to exploit special oil wells to the north of the Caspian sea now producing 4,000,000 tons of oil annually." At the same time Germany does not want Russia to have too firm a hold in the Scandinavian area and to use up too many war supplies which Germany hopes to buy. The FIGHTING WORKER pointed out this Hitler-Stalin relation many months ago.

NEAR EAST

But the pressure of events are moving beyond the Hitler-Stalin desires. Russia will be unable to "mop-up" in Finland and then withdraw from the military struggle. Hitler fears not only Anglo-French troops in Finland, but above all the increased pressure of these troops in the near east and the direct threat through the Balkans. Toward this end Hitler will be forced to involve the Soviets deeper into the military conflict even though it will cost him needed military supplies.

It is admitted by all military experts that the question of merely starving Germany out, as long as supplies can be obtained through Italy and Russia, to say nothing of the ring of neutral countries, is a long range perspective. A new war front must be created either to the north in the area of the countries of the North Sea, or a thrust through the Balkans from the near east.

In either case, in Finland or the Near East (with the exception of the Low Countries) this strategy must take into consideration the Soviet Union as a first factor. Not only have the Soviets become a first rate problem from a military standpoint of the IM-

PERIALIST war, but above all it exists as the most important political and social problem of the war — the fear of the extension of the October Revolution in spite of Stalinism. For these reasons we can expect increased pressure on the Soviets.

LABOR AGAINST WAR

The fact that over 241 labor organizations in England came out against starting a war against the Soviet Union and proposed that the Labor Party take up active opposition to the war government is of great significance. It indicates the general trend of class relations even at this early stage of the war. On the heels of this labor blast against its leaders and the war government, "liberal" ex-Minister Lloyd George also talked against the Plan to war on the Soviets.

The blunders of Stalin in his capitulation to Hitler (instead of an independent working class position against ALL imperialists) has helped tighten the imperialist grip around the Soviets. In spite of the victories of the Red Army in Finland the imperialist threat here remains and grows. At the same time the imperialist threat against the Soviets in the near east is taking shape and may any day breakout into open struggle.

The campaign of Stalinism in India, rather than unleashing the social forces of revolution is disorientating and stifling these for Stalinist bureaucratic ends. In Asia the Japanese threat against the Soviets on the Siberian front has not lessened even though there is a momentary lull. Everyone of these factors, in the imperialist ring around the Soviets is directly bound up in the further developments of the imperialist war.

GERMANY'S ROLE

Mr. Welles trip to Europe is also bound up with the struggle against the Soviet Union. The American dollar is being used not only to intensify the trade war, to take away German and English markets in Europe and the rest of the world, but it is laying the groundwork for a struggle against working class revolts.

And last but not least, the most dangerous outside enemy of the workers of Russia at the moment are the hundreds of German fascist agents that are being sent in as "technical" advisers, etc., who are and will continue to be invaluable in preparing the counter-revolution in Russia.

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION DESPITE A N D A-GAINST STALINISM!

D O W N WITH THE IM-
PERIALIST WAR!

LIFE AND LIBERTY

Madame Frances Perkins asks for "some common sense" in the U. S. immigration laws. She confined herself to obvious absurdities such as the situations where families are broken up on technicalities... We can get a little further. Alfonso Ciolino, a former convict, obtained writ of habeas corpus which will permit him to stay in the country and support his wife and four young children... So far, so good. But meanwhile the California Assembly (42 to 6) asked Congress to pass a law allowing deportation proceedings to be brought against Harry Bridges, West Coast leader of the marine workers... In Detroit an American-born woman, Rebecca Shelley, is trying to regain the citizenship she technically lost when she married a German in 1922, shortly before the passage of the law permitting a woman to retain her American citizenship regardless of her husband's nationality. Miss Shelley was secretary of the Emergency Peace Federation during the war and her citizenship is being denied because she has conscientious scruples against bearing arms...

And what does American citizenship mean? In the case of William Bioff, motion picture labor leader, ordered extradited from California, who returned to Chicago of his own volition, it means a jail sentence on an eighteen-year-old charge of pandering. He was convicted in Chicago and lived there openly for ten years, but the charge was not pressed against him until he became a menace to the motion picture interests...

If the Seattle "One-Two Plan" goes through, the old struggle between Jefferson and Hamilton will be revived—namely property qualification for voting. The idea is: one vote for all eligible citizens, two votes for all citizens eligible to vote and who can show an income tax or real estate receipt in their names...

Meanwhile, not to be outdone by the West Coast, New York City has a Councilman, one Joseph T. Sharkey, who hopes to set up a "Civil Liberties Committee" to parallel locally the work of the Dies Committee in Washington... And the New York police are now being trained in the new infantry drill that was adopted for the army last September. "The new police regulations will serve well when the police and the army troops are together in parades". The White House police force is being increased from sixty to eighty members "to assure the Chief Executive adequate protection"...

Abroad, war or no war, progress is being made. A bill has been introduced in the Quebec legislature to give women in Bermuda the vote; and the pope has ruled against "direct" sterilization of human beings (as in contrast to "indirect" sterilization incidental to other medical treatment)... Wonderful, isn't it?

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF MARXISM

Dialectical Materialism
Outline of the May 3-7 Insurrection — Barcelona

Outline of Volume 1 of Capital
Militarism and Youth under American Imperialism
Road to Power in Spain
Mexican Oil

New Zimmerwald

5 cents each

The Main Enemy Is At Home

American Imperialism - The Main Driving Force For War

American Imperialism has digested all the lessons of that first big world pirate — Britain. In the course of hundreds of years of conquest Britain's military ventures have been very costly. Time after time the natives have risen up against British rule in Africa, Asia and everywhere else. The harsh rule of the foreign oppressors has caused whole populations to be wiped out by disease and murder. In many of her possessions Britain — and France — have found it difficult to find the necessary labor to develop their projects. To maintain her rule over the colonies Britain has been forced to spend billions for its armies stationed in the backward countries under its yoke — 600,000 soldiers in India alone.

Rising as a new imperialist power after the Spanish American war, the United States confronted the situation where all the rich plums were already owned by Britain, Germany, Italy, Russia, France, Belgium, Holland. The game of hi-jacking these other powers could only proceed under the hypocritical formula, "the open door". Instead of sending an army to conquer the rich plums from England and the others, under this formula, Uncle Sam merely sent the dollar into these foreign parts to conquer markets from Britain, Germany and the others.

U. S. AND THE FIRST WAR

After forty years of this policy the American dollar has shown itself to be far more powerful than the combined strength of the German, Japanese and British armies. That is the crux of America's imperialist policy, behind which, of course, stands its armed might.

Britain won the world war from Germany, but the American dollar conquered the whole Latin American market from Great Britain. Nominally Canada is a British Dominion. But actually the 4 billion American dollars make that country merely another state of the Union — its policies are dictated in Wall Street, not in London. The Caribbean is an American lake in just as real a sense as the English Channel is British. Since the first world war the Anglo-American antagonism has been and remains the main inner imperialist antagonism.

Under Roosevelt the policy of the "open door" is being pushed through Hull's trade treaties.

In the struggle between the U. S. and the other powers on the ECONOMIC sphere after the war, it was inevitable that the U. S. would come out victorious unless the others used political and military measures. The U. S. has the richest resources in the world, the finest industrial technique, the most efficient labor. If there was an "open door" everywhere on earth the U. S. in the course of 15 or 20 years would drive all the other powers out of business because of her superior economic position.

It is precisely this economic pressure which has driven Japan to war in China, Germany to war in central Europe, Italy to fight against Ethiopia. Those countries which can not meet the competition of the American Goliath on the economic sphere must seek OTHER MEANS, i. e. military means. But the MAIN aggressor, the force that is driving most towards a new armed redivision of the earth, is Uncle Sam.

OLD STORY — NEW DRESS

The theory of "manifest destiny" is not just a Japanese term to cover up its conquest of China. It was used in the United States a hundred years ago. It means precisely for Latin America what the term means for Japan in Asia — conquest, the "closed" door. So that while the U. S. is fighting to keep an "open door" everywhere else on earth, while it revokes treaties with Japan because it is trying to close the door in Asia, the U. S. has successfully kept the door closed in the western hemisphere, its own backyard.

American experts from the National City bank, Brown Brothers and Seligman, the First National Bank of Boston, Chase National bank, and others — sit in Latin American countries and supervise such things as customs, taxes, the building of railroads, etc. For every loan that these banks float — some of them forced down the throat of unwilling Latin American countries — the economic noose is tightened around the necks of these nations. And this is true not just of Latin America but many other countries throughout the world as well. Standard Oil owned by Rockefeller is a much more powerful dictator throughout the world than Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, and 8 or 10 other countries combined. So is

General Electric and U. S. Steel.

Instead of DIRECT political control, however, the U. S. is content to control the smaller powers under its wing through its economic experts, its ambassadors, its engineers. It is perfectly content to leave in nominal power native puppets like Vargas in Brazil, Gomez, Cardenas, and all the others. This is at one and the same time much more efficient than the British method and much cheaper. No armies are needed — only an occasional landing of marines and the subsidizing of native revolutions; and the natives are less hostile.

Of the four forms of imperialist rule, dominions, mandates, colonial rule by the home country, and indirect rule through a native puppet, America uses primarily the last method. It is especially suited to America's special role, the most powerful nation on earth. If the U. S. were weaker economically it too would have to use the other methods, open, direct, military measures and control via the bayonet.

On this basis American capitalism can cloak its war measures. It can hide its imperialist aggression and penetration.

BALANCE OF POWER

The "isolation" policy of the United States — "no foreign entanglements" — does not mean, as many simpletons believe, that the U. S. plays no role in Europe and Asia. On the contrary American Imperialism plays the decisive role, it is the "balance of power". The "isolation" policy merely permits the U. S. to use one power against another in Europe and Asia, and weaken them both to the advantage of American Imperialism. "Isolation" helps the U. S. throw its weight one way and then the other. Now it fails to go along with England on its sanction policy; Italy gets the oil she needs and weakens England's power in Africa. On other occasions the U. S. participates in parallel action with Britain in an attempt to check Germany in central Europe, or Japan in Asia. Again, "isolation" just like "peace" and "open door" is merely the most convenient cloak for the Imperialist policy of the U. S.

But the very strength of American Imperialism is its greatest weakness. America produces more surplus goods than any other nation on earth. It needs markets for these goods and capital. A few colonies in Asia, for instance, — which might allay Japan's internal decay for a period — would hardly be a beginning for Uncle Sam. He must take over dominance of the WHOLE WORLD, replace England and the Pound in world politics and reduce all other powers to secondary powers, if he is to repair his broken-down home economic fences.

The depression far from making this need smaller, has intensified it. American capitalists have rationalized their industry, have introduced labor saving devices that in the present war period has increased their productivity by at least 25%, according to recent figures. The need for new markets to absorb newer and larger surpluses thus becomes ever greater. Eighteen billion dollars in gold lie in the Kentucky vaults alone with no use for it whatsoever — a sum equivalent almost to the whole American foreign investment abroad.

WORLD DOMINANCE

American Imperialism is not yet in the war, as we write these lines, in the military phase of the war, that is. Uncle Sam's strategy is to stay out of the military phase of the war as long as possible, until Germany, Britain and all the others are so exhausted that the U. S. can enter and dictate a peace which will give American Imperialism world hegemony. On the basis of the loans they intend to float — with the aid of the 18 billion dollars — after the next war, to rehabilitate Europe and Asia, Messrs, Morgan, Rockefeller at all expect to gain the same dominance over Europe, Asia and Africa they now have over Latin America.

Very likely American Imperialists intend to extend their control after the next war through the same demands for an "open door", for full independence of the British Colonies and French possessions, and for the conquest of these markets and indirect political control over them by the Almighty Dollar.

Very likely too the plans of Uncle Sam for aggrandizement and exploitation of larger areas of the world, are

(Continued on page 3)

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FINLAND AND THE NEAR EAST

Some of our great "theoreticians", Shachtman, Lovestone, Stamm and company, are shedding tears over the "independence" of Finland and crying for the defeat of the Soviet Union. We wonder if the British battle-ships now near Murmansk and Petsamo, and the rumored reports of a British expeditionary force to Finland will open the eyes of these gentry, or will they continue to speak of "little Finland" and its "independence".

The war now is about to spread to the Near East. Already there is a struggle between British troops and the guerillas under the Fakir of Ipi around the Khybber Pass, the door into India. The good Fakir is rumored to be very close to Stalin.

Suppose now that the British invade the Soviet Union through this area, as is very likely, but do NOT land troops in Finland. Shachtman and Stamm who are "for the defense of the Soviet Union", but for its defeat in Finland, will be, if they are logical, for the victory of the Red Army on the Indian border, but for its defeat in Finland. To be merciful to our good friends we leave the problem right here.

The fact is that the war in Finland is and has been only a part — not yet fully integrated — of the FULL pattern of the World War. Allied dollars and allied supplies — if not allied soldiers — fought to smash the Soviet Union on the Finnish front. If now British and French soldiers are to be added to this venture, and a new attack is planned in another sector of the world, it is only part of the same process — the struggle by world imperialism (Germany and the U. S. use non-military methods, so far) against the Workers State.

The victory of the Soviet Union, DESPITE and AGAINST Stalinism, on both the Finnish borders and whatever new borders the struggle will spread to in the near future, is an important prerequisite for the rapid development of the proletarian revolution.

REED, BATTUELLO AND MINERS UNITY

On March 5th the fate of two militant miners, leading members of the Progressive Miners of America in the state of Illinois, will be settled by a referendum vote. John Battuello, young, fighting Board Member and Dave Reed, President of the PMA were expelled by the Ozanic machine. The referendum on March 5 will decide whether to uphold the reactionary leadership in their expulsion.

Reed and Battuello are being thrown out for cooperating with the United Mine Workers in working for the release of the framed DuQuoin miners, and working for better conditions for the miners in the state of Illinois. Behind the campaign for their expulsion are the mine-owners.

Whatever happens in the referendum a split in the PMA is inevitable. Battuello and Reed, it seems likely, will bring thousands of miners back into the United Mine Workers. The unity of all miners for a struggle against the chiseling and wage-cutting mine-owners is a progressive step, but it can be effective now only if Reed and Battuello in rejoining the UMWA maintain their present left-wing group, gain full autonomy for the locals that join

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THE BENEVOLENT WPA

A St. Louis worker applied for WPA. He stated that he was making two dollars a week and that his sister (with two small children) was making the same. The application was rejected by Nellie Morris, regional director, on the grounds that there was sufficient income in the family without WPA employment!
Can Hitler tie that!

ST. LOUIS ANTI-SMOKE LAW IS SMOKESCREEN FOR GRAFT

St. Louis — Barney Dyckman, Mayor and voice of the Real Estate Exchange in the City Hall has procured "anti-smoke" legislation for this city which compels you to:

1 — Burn expensive "non-volatile" (smokeless) coal or other smokeless fuels such as oil, coke, etc., or

2 — Install a mechanical stoker which theoretically is supposed to consume the smoke.

This measure strikes viciously at the living standards of the masses of the people. Such coal and equipment can be purchased only at the expense of less food and other necessities.

Reliefers will find it increasingly more difficult to obtain coal — or else, they'll have to cut their food budgets. As a result they'll have to steal or "chisel" to augment their meager allowances. And the City can then begin a brand new campaign — for bigger and better jails.

HITS UNEMPLOYED

Manufacturers and dealers of the new required heating devices will reap a golden harvest of profits out of the hard-earned pennies of the workers. The large coal dealers will grow richer and the smaller ones will be forced out because they can't compete.

But while the city "fathers" are thus interested in cleaning up St. Louis to make the old prostitute look like a respectable virgin, to the delectation of Babbitts and Rotarians, what about the "picture of life's other side".

Thousands of mothers of dependent children can not get relief or WPA because they are "eligible" to the "Aid for Dependent Children" — a fake bureau with an office of a handful of cynical "social" workers and little or no funds. And the mothers and their babes can't eat "eligibility".

"Employable" workers cannot get relief under any circumstances. If you are able to stand up without the aid of a crutch or a lamppost you are counted among the "employables".

Other thousands of workers are "living" at standards which must delight the heart of a Hitler or a Mussolini — or a Roosevelt.

There is considerable more graft and "eye wash" for the corrupt capitalist politicians in the anti-smoke ordinance, than there is in feeding, clothing, or housing the workers. That is why the boss politicians are for it. It is up to the workers to protest vigorously against this bill to rob the bellies of the poor in order to fill fuller the coffers of the rich.

A LETTER

FROM LOS ANGELES

Dear Comrade:

Please send me the cross marked pamphlets, for which I am enclosing 25 cents in stamps. The Fighting Worker as well as the International News serve the working class as the best enlightenment and inspiration in these needy days.

Comradely,
M. K.

PHILLY EVENTS

RWL Lecture
Friday March 15
431 Pine St.,

RWL Party
Saturday, March 16
For further details get in touch with local comrades.

JUST OFF THE PRESS

**New Pamphlet
TRADE UNIONISM
TODAY**

5 cents

with them, and continue the fight against burocracy and class collaboration — especially against that king of labor-fakers, John L. Lewis.

Swapping an Ozanic for a Lewis on any other basis is a poor proposition!

TROTSKYISM AND PARLIAMENTARISM

The Trotskyites are making national distribution of a leaflet which ought to gain for them several thousand new members, if not, indeed, a few million. The whole leaflet has not ONE WORD about the need for independent action by the working class, or about the need for a Workers Society to solve the problems in the last analysis. It is just a program for Congress, in Congress, and through Congress. Almost every bourgeois liberal could sign this leaflet; let alone the reformists.

"We have got to have a program of our own to oppose Roosevelt.", the leaflet states. "We have got to demand that Congress enact our program and not Roosevelt's". This should just about bring in everybody who still believes that the Wall Street Congress can be converted into an instrument to serve the worker's interests.

"Our program has got to have for its goal: A job and a decent living for every worker", the leaflet states. It calls for \$30 weekly minimum wages for all and \$30 weekly for the old aged and disabled.

This surely ought to clean out the Townsendites (unless they are stubborn — drat em — and hang out for the 200 bucks a month or nothing) and it is pretty sure to rake in the several different species of Ham and Eggers.

And then there is the Trotsky grand finale: "Jobs, not guns"! This should harvest the pacifists and bring them to the fold.

That just about takes in everybody and there is no one left now except the Marxists who of course shall continue to tell the workers the truth:

That capitalism is an outmoded system of society in an advanced stage of decay and hence cannot grant concessions of \$30 a MONTH to all workers, let alone a WEEK; that this decadent anti-social system must be DESTROYED by the workers might; that the capitalist Congress never has and never will willingly grant any concessions to the workers; that the only way immediate gains can be made is by class struggle action in the factories and on the streets; that the workers must set up THEIR OWN STATE, the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, to "enact our program".

MAIN DRIVING FORCE FOR WAR

(continued from page 2)

doomed to failure, will be squelched by the victorious proletarian revolution that is bound to develop during this World War.

THE DRIVING FORCE FOR WAR

Meanwhile Uncle Sam continues his Imperialist Policy to reorganize the whole world to his needs. He keeps up the fight for the open door all over the world, for the closed door in Latin America, for the continued penetration of the Dollar, for the weakening of all other powers, and prepares to enter the war at the decisive moment and take full control of the situation.

Those who are looking for the MAIN driving force for the Imperialist War; must look not to "aggressor" Germany, or Britain. Every section of the working class must fight its "own" bourgeoisie. But a correct fight is impossible without understanding that the main enemy of world peace, of world revolution, the main factor in redividing the earth for the third time, the MAIN DRIVING FORCE FOR WAR, is American Imperialism, appropriately garbed in the hypocritical cloak of "peace".

100,000 Families Starving in World's Biggest Industrial City

LOSE RIGHT TO STRIKE AND STEWARD SYSTEM IN BITTNER «VICTORY» AT ARMOUR

According to Henry Johnson the recently signed memorandum agreement by the Packinghouse Workers with Armour, covering the Chicago plant, is a "pretty good start".

It certainly is — a pretty good start towards smashing the union. As suspected, the agreement provides that "there should be no strike, stoppage, slow-down, or suspension of work" under any circumstances.

The grievance procedure provides that two committees of 9 bargain with the plant management where the individual is unable to settle his dispute with the foreman. No provision is made for shop stewards or department stewards. The whole shop steward system is really abolished by this plan.

The committee that bargains with the management must have "at least 3 years service with the company" and must be "citizens of the United States" — open discrimination against the thousands of foreign born workers in Armour's plants.

NO PAY FOR COMMITTEE

Furthermore the grievance committee "will be afforded necessary time off" to discuss grievances, but "WITHOUT PAY". That's an old, old trick. Even grievance committee men don't like to lose pay arguing for the rights of other workers. And with only two small committees functioning it would take at least full time to even begin to settle all grievances that crop up.

Some of the minor demands are partially adjusted in the agreement, such as a dispute on the 60 day break and seniority, vacations, and a few other points. But the wage rates will at least for the time being remain the same; nothing is said of speed-up and other conditions.

By giving up the right to strike and the Steward System, Van Bittner and the other bureaucrats

REMEMBER THE COMMUNE!

Sixty nine years ago on March 18, 1871 the workers of Paris established the famous Paris Commune, the first Dictatorship of the working class. For 70 days the heroic workers held power, but finally the French capitalists, with the aid of Germany and Bismarck, smashed the "Commune".

Karl Marx in writing of the Commune dealt with a number of errors made by the workers; failure to take the offensive, to take over the national bank, etc.

By 1905 and 1917, however, the workers of Russia, under Bolshevik leadership, assimilated these lessons and gained power.

In the present days, after the defeats of the Spanish, German, Austrian and other revolutions of the last few years, it is especially appropriate to pay homage to the heroes of 1871 and — REMEMBER THE COMMUNE!

ERROR

The last two issues of the FIGHTING WORKER were numbered Volume 6 instead of Volume 5.

have really beheaded the union struggle. From now on it has no weapon against Armour's, who will break the agreement on hundreds of occasions and will be just as oblivious of grievances as it has been in the past. Hundreds of grievances will never be settled, dozens of them won't even be taken up.

RANK AND FILE CONTROL

Van Bittner and John L. Lewis never built the Packinghouse union. They came in after dozens of militants had gotten the thing started all over the country — Austin, K. C., Fargo, etc., and they proceeded to take away all autonomy and to squelch every strike. They have given up every important demand of the men, including the demand for a national contract.

Chicago Jails Are Particular - Only Petty Crooks Allowed

WHY THEY GO TO JAIL

1800 prisoners in the Cook County jail, and they are still pouring in. Most of the prisoners are young, and according to one of the inmates, the overwhelming majority committed their individual crime because of economic or social necessity. Having started out life in the richest country in the world, they have been continually "behind the eight ball" and in their desperation to get out from under the depressing struggle for existence they have landed behind the bars. The Joliet prison is so crowded that the men

are being confined three to a cell intended for one.

Well, Economy is still the slogan of the rich, the ruling class, the state; and 403's are being liberally passed out on WPA, and relief is at the lowest possible minimum! so the jails are glutted to a maximum, and the misery of the working class is kept off the streets!

Here's how it works — J. Doris, and R. Pruitt of Chicago both 21, both married, both out of work one with two infant children, the other expecting one very soon, broke into a grocery store, and were caught stealing food. They didn't take any money.

When arrested they told of their desperate attempts to find work, and subsequent failure. They lived together for economy, but the only food left at home was a can of milk. The judge according to the bourgeois press was "sympathetic"; he sentenced Doris to only 6 months in the House of Correction and put Pruitt on probation for one year! Now efforts are being made to get them on relief, which had previously been denied them!

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE

That's what they call themselves after they're in office. Here's how they get into office in Chicago (and everywhere else.)

Five election officials are up for contempt of court. It seems that people who voted once, had their names forged and were listed as voting twice. For the right candidate of course. The special prosecutor has evidence proving that the same person marked more than 40 ballots. All this in just one precinct, the 38th of the 25th ward in the 1939 mayoral elections in Chicago. Now if all the precincts were checked what would the special prosecutor discover! Up and down the line, the Voice of the People is gagged very effectively by the big boys; the profiteers and their hatchet men, the politicians.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

6 months jail for a loaf of bread, 22 years for Tom Mooney,

The Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee isn't even an International union. Bittner has consistently refused to permit the men to elect their own officers and administer their own affairs.

The packinghouse workers won't get a break until they've gotten rid of this pie-card artist, and his crew. Give the union back to the rank and file! Build progressive groups to press the fight for a national contract, for higher wages, for better working conditions, against the speed-up, for the Steward System, and for a democratically-controlled union!

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Reduced Budget, 60 Hours Forced Labor Is Lot Of Chicago's Jobless

Over one hundred thousand families in the "great" city of Chicago are slowly starving on the mere pittance called by the name of "relief".

In 1939 there was \$43,863,000 spent on relief in Chicago. Though this appears on the surface to be a gigantic sum of money, it meant that the unemployed workers and their families existed on an average of \$133.39 per person for the year, or \$11.12 per month. The results of this in terms of human suffering, hunger, illness and death are impossible even to imagine. And of this measly total about 5% goes back to the government in the form of sales tax, or about \$6 or \$7.

One of the more cynical aspects of the problem is how they take the money to keep these workers on the brink of starvation out of the sweat-earned pennies of those who are still employed. The majority of the funds for relief (sic) comes from the infamous sales tax, a consumers tax which hits hardest on the lower income groups. Oddly enough only one-third of the revenue from the sales tax — which was originally supposed to go completely for relief — is used for this purpose today.

TAX THE POOR

On the other side of the ledger — there is in Chicago more than 146 million dollars in uncollected real estate taxes, most of which is levied against the large office buildings and estates.

The administration in Chicago has a "minimum budget" which was cleverly calculated to be just enough to keep people from keeling over from starvation, (about \$40 or \$42 for a man and wife). This 100% allowance, however, was 30% lower than the minimum set up by private charity agencies and the federal government as being necessary to keep a person alive.

But after allowing this meagre amount for the unemployed "lack of funds" made it necessary for the administration to allot relief in Chicago for four months at 65% of their own "minimum" budget, and an average during the year of about 75% of the "minimum".

WAIT AND STARVE

In many cases workers are forced to wait as much as 3 months before they can even get this measly pittance, however. And to add to all the indignities, once the worker does get on relief, if he is able-bodied (not half-dead in other words) he must work 60 hours each month at

on a frame up charge 30 days for vagrancy (being broke), 3 months and up for a striker asking for the right to live decently. What horrible punishment awaits A. L. Bowen, state director of Manteno, on trial for negligence which caused the death of 60 patients at the Manteno State hospital? The jury after a record deliberation of 96 hours was dismissed without reaching a verdict. Meanwhile the State's Attorney (for the people) Shapiro agreed with the defense attorney to defer the new trial two more weeks, as the Defense Attorney has "other business to conduct." If convicted Bowen faces a MAXIMUM fine of \$10,000 dollars or removal from office or both. 60 lives for 10,000 dollars!

But no jail. That's just reserved for workers who go astray!

FORCED LABOR, for which he gets nothing additional. He gets the nominal pay of 25 cents an hour (5 cents an hour below the minimum wage law) but this is deducted from his relief check.

The prospect for 1940 shows a still blacker picture. Leo M. Lyons relief commissioner in presenting his proposed budget for the year of 1940 only estimated that \$39,080,556 would be needed to take care of the needy, a figure \$4,788,444 less than that of 1939. This proposed cut takes place with the prospect of WPA rolls being slashed early this spring and tossing thousands of more families onto relief.

In the richest country in the world, in the biggest industrial city in the world, almost half a million people are starving to death AMIDST PLENTY!

3 YEAR LAW HITS NEGROES HARDEST

The City Council of Chicago recently passed a resolution asking the State Legislature to place a residence requirement of 5 years on those who apply for relief. The present requirement, passed only about a year ago, provides for a 3 year residence minimum to be eligible for relief.

The 3 year law has especially hurt Negro workers in the Chicago black belt, at least 35% or 40% of whom are on relief.

A few weeks ago a young Negro mother was finally accepted in the county hospital in a starving condition after pressure was brought to bear on the Chicago relief officials. The mother had been denied relief over a month by the central intake bureau under the 3 year residence law, in spite of the fact that her former employer testified that she began working for him in 1935.

«CREATING A SCENE»

On one of the many occasions, in applying for relief and driven to desperation by hunger, she was arrested in the relief bureau and charged with disorderly conduct for "creating a scene". One worker who argued her case was arrested three times. Her child had to be placed in a juvenile home.

Scores of Negro workers, some of whom were born in Chicago and others who have lived here for 15 or 20 years can't get relief because they left the city for three weeks or two months between 1937 and 1940. These workers have been condemned to starvation by the chiseling relief administration.

You see, you can be a citizen, you can be "guaranteed" "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness", but the good relief administration will find some way to chisel pennies from you and condemn you to starvation.

NAZIS MURDER RED FRONT LEADER

The secretary of the Red Front trade union organization was murdered by the Nazi butchers three days after confinement in an Oranienburg concentration camp. The Nazis list the murder as "suicide".

The Red Front is a German sister organization of the R.W.L., both of which are affiliated to the International Contact Commission.