

FIGHT

VOL. 1

No. 7

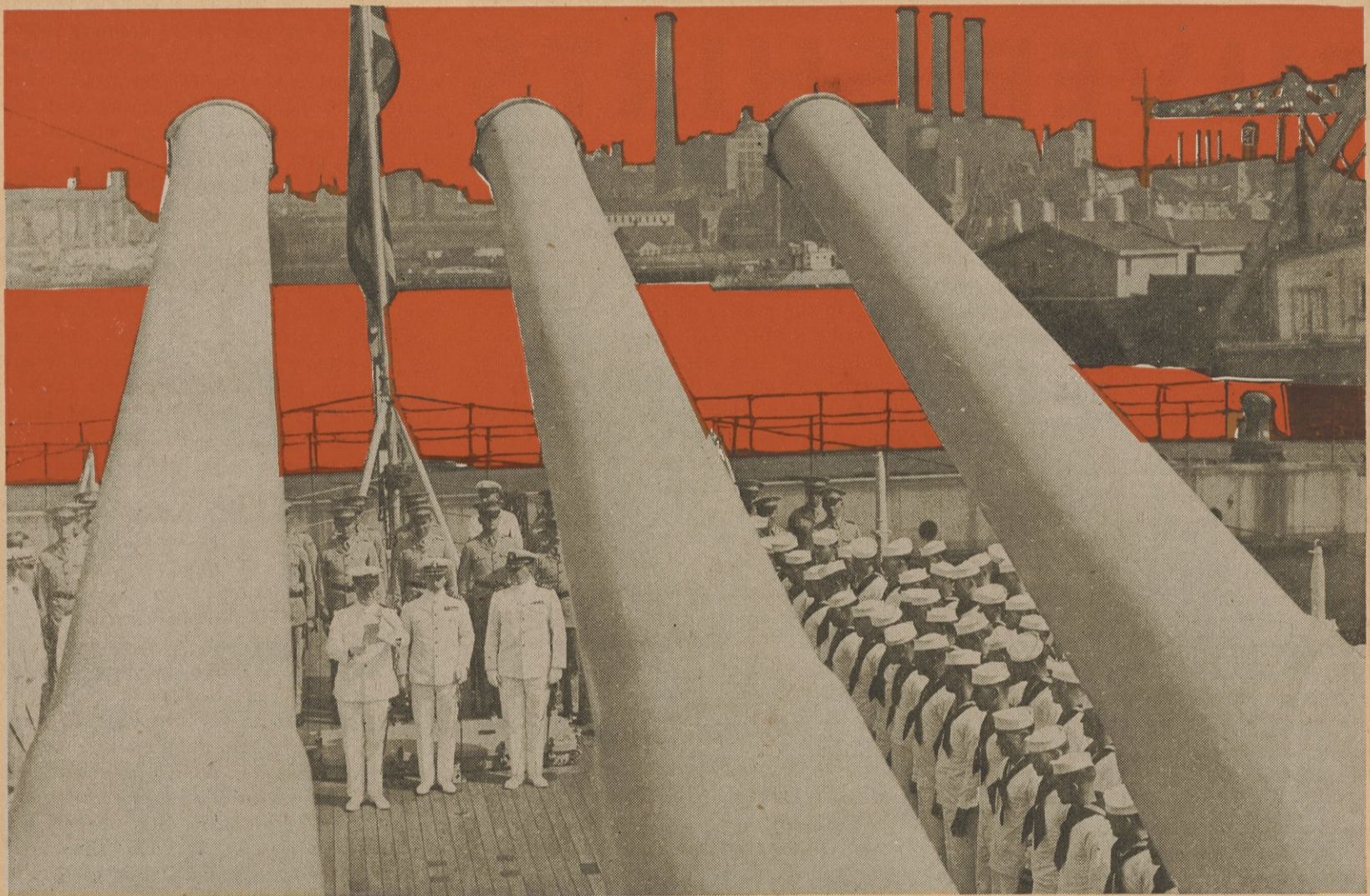
MAY

1934

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AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

GUNS ARE READY



The guns are ready. Thousands more are being forged. We, the workers and farmers, are the targets. Arms factories are working overtime; already the dividends on mass murder are being paid to a few stockholders while millions of workers and their families lack food, clothing, fuel and shelter for the crazy capitalist reason that there is too much food, clothing, fuel and shelter to go round.

Capitalism, trying to profiteer on artificial scarcity in a new world of plenty, looks forward to imperialist War, with the helpless, fearful, fascinated anticipation of a homicidal maniac. War creates scarcity; scarcity raises prices; high prices mean big profits. (*Big profits for the big men and high prices for the little men.*) Moreover, War may open up new markets, throw rival imperialist powers

out of certain areas, kill off other competitors altogether.

Meanwhile, world capitalism turns to War of another kind—Fascism. Fascism is War at home against the workers and farmers, with the police, courts and government guaranteeing the profits of the bankers, manufacturers and big business men. (See NRA codes, price-jumping, labor “settlements.”)

Also in the meantime, workers, farmers, white collar technicians and the trained young men and women who have never had a job, wake up to the facts of life under capitalism. Their stomachs, their hearts, their brains revolt against the program of misery and mass murder that is laid out for them. All over the world mass resistance to War for profits is growing.

It must grow faster. Capitalist governments drive to War and Fascism at headlong speed. Only the workers can stop War and Fascism before they start.

Workers, to the streets, to the public squares of every town and city in America; farmers, to your meeting houses, your schools, your auction sales, your picnic grounds! Talk, organize, demonstrate, protest, fight against War and Fascism. On May First and all through the summer, carry on the fight. It is a fight for a decent life for yourself and your families, for sanity instead of murderous insanity, for a workers' peace in a workers' world.

The streets and all public places are yours, workers and farmers. Use them in your struggles for the whole round earth—for an earth without War and Fascism.



FIGHT

AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

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SILVER SHIRTS

By MIRIAM ALLEN DEFORD

Most of us can remember the great days of the Ku Klux Klan—the days when fiery crosses burned and white nightgowns paraded, and helpless men and women, black and white, who had offended the prejudices of the Knights of the Nightie were tarred and feathered and beaten and in some cases shot to death; when whole states were under the power of the K.K.K., and public officials hastened to do their bidding.

It will not be pleasant news to those who recall those days to know that this country is now witnessing the rapid rise of an organization beside which the Klan looks as harmless as a kindergarten. This organization, known as the Silver Shirts of America and the creation of one William Dudley Pelley, is spreading like wildfire from its original home at Asheville, North Carolina, and already has representatives in almost every state of the union.

A lot of us met the early excesses of the K.K.K. with derision, and most of the commentators on the Silver Shirts today are finding in it merely a subject for ridicule. They underestimate the appeal of such an association to the suggestible and bigoted. Chester Rowell, one of the ablest editorial writers in America today, makes no such mistake as to take the Silver Shirt menace lightly. He says:

When the Ku Klux Klan was at its height, its bigotry was at least American bigotry; its prejudices and illusions at least grew out of an American background. But now we have the beginnings of organized intolerance of the same sort, emanating from the same localities and the same sort of people, but definitely inspired from abroad.

Inspiration by Hitler

The great inspiration of the Silver Shirts is Hitler and Hitlerism. Hitler, says Mr. Pelley in his official organ, *Liberation*, is "the only man in Europe who correctly understands the tie-up between Communism and the predatory element among the Hebrews." Communism

and the Hebrews are the two Big Bad Wolves of the Silver Shirts—with the Hebrews a little bigger and worse a wolf than the Communists. Anti-Semitism is the keystone of Mr. Pelley's arch. In one number of *Liberation*, he ran an article by a "Dr." Anna Sloan which "proved scientifically" that our Jewish brethren are not even members of the white race—they are closely related, among other peoples, to the Turks, the Chinese, and the Eskimos!

There is a very simple criterion by which one may discover whether any given person is a Communist or a Jew: Beware of anyone who believes in any liberal movement or opposes War. That is the sure "mark of the beast." Please bear in mind that in this article I am quoting directly from the official literature of the Silver Shirts, no matter how extravagant, wild, or absurd those quotations may sound. For example, according to the Silver Shirts, both Eugene O'Neill (whose father was one of the founders of the Catholic Actors Guild) and George Arliss are really Jews and part of the vast international Jewish conspiracy in which Jacob Schiff was one of Lenin's "right-hand men"! "About forty percent of the Brain Trust appointees" have "records for Communism." General Hugh Johnson and President Roosevelt himself are really Communists in disguise, or at the very least the dupes of Jewish Communists.

Roosevelt the "Red"

In fact, it was the Jews and the Communists together—really the same thing, says Mr. Pelley—who caused the depression in the first place, for the specific purpose of manufacturing a condition where the president would have to seek a remedy, which they themselves then suggested, and which is known to us as the NRA! "We are against President Roosevelt because he is a tool of the Jew capitalist, and opposed to the NRA because it is the communistic product of Jewish thought," said a spokesman for the Silver Shirts at a recent meeting in San Francisco. At this same meet-

ing the "chaplain," Frank T. Collins, brandished a huge rope whip, explaining that it was for use on "spies and newspapermen" who got by "the vigilantes at the door."

When you have bought one of the new three-cent postage stamps, did you suspect that it carried insidious Communist propaganda? Ah, that shows how gullible you are, and how badly you need the enlightenment offered by the Silver Shirts! Look closely at that stamp—you will find "a Russian-type peasant woman, a starving Armenian business man, a Slavic farmer, and a *Daily Worker* mechanic"; worst of all, you will find "*the business man as the only one out of step and [with] only one leg to stand on!*" The exclamation point and the italics are Mr. Pelley's.

This, of course, is only funny; but it is not so funny when he accuses the kidnapers of Mr. Urschel "out at the Western Headquarters City of the Silver Shirts," of being Jews. The names which first occur to the ordinary person in thinking of that kidnaping are Kelly, Shannon, and Bailey; but the ordinary person would not therefore jump to the conclusion that kidnaping is an expression of an international plot on the part of the Irish!

Neither is it funny when the Silver Shirts inform us that "secret control of many of our great canning industries, particularly in the Far West, has been planned by alien enemy agents of America, so that 'at the proper time' fatal disease germs can be introduced into America's canned foods and whole States of our population wiped out." The cannery owners have, I think, grounds for suit on the basis of this libelous statement, which could cause enormous injury to their business.

Pelley's imagination knows no bounds; he has conjured up another fearful spectre of "a plague germ worse than bubonic plague . . . which is said to paralyze and destroy every vestige of human and animal life with 100 percent fatality within four hours after exposure and infection." This terrible disease, unknown to science, he asks us to "suppose" (note his clever avoidance of direct statement) to have been "perfected" and intensified in virulence by "Soviet specialists under GPU auspices" (apparently unaware that the GPU is concerned entirely with internal affairs in Russia), by means of "protracted experiments on helpless kulaks," while all Communists at home and abroad have been "systematically immunized"! Then he goes on to hint that the outbreak of hoof and mouth disease in the Southwest a few years ago; the mysterious gas cloud which floated over northern France, Belgium, and England in 1931 (which was found to be due to accidental escape from industrial plants); and the sudden death of Dwight Morrow "after attending a Jewish banquet in the Commodore Hotel, New York City," were all due to the machinations of those dreadful Jews and Communists combined!

Portrait of a Fascist Leader

The guiding spirit of the Ku Klux Klan was an ex-dentist. The moving force of the Silver Shirts is a former writer of lurid fiction for the "pulp magazines." William Dudley Pelley was born in Massachusetts in 1885, the son of a Methodist minister, and spent most of his

(Continued on page seven)

The Campus Is Moving

By CHARLES B. STRAUSS, '34

Editor, "Dartmouth's Steeplejack."

American undergraduates are not prepared to meet the threat of War. Unless they undergo a root change, they are certain to be bowled over and sucked in. And yet they are everywhere asserting their opposition to War. The truth is that they are dangerously confused.

The prime factor in their confusion is unwillingness to repudiate the system which is bound to produce War. Aware that at least half of them will be flung among the unemployed, they inconsistently and wistfully continue to identify themselves with the very class which is robbing them of their security and which alone stands to profit by War.

The Present Set-Up

The colleges themselves perpetuate this confusion. Not only their misrepresentation of the facts about the present set-up but also their traditions of tolerance, leisure, and skepticism act as screens to prevent hard scrutiny of reality. In effect the professors say, "Culture means eternal suspension of judgment. Please, let us not have any clear-cut opinions." The result is a strange and false self-sufficiency in college life, a pernicious preoccupation with the spirit of the school and its traditions and peculiarities. At the state universities there are additional deterrents: the R.O.T.C., the work of the American Legion, and the fierce, stand-pat pressure of the more homogeneous state community.

If the student is going to save his neck, he must get beyond the school and the state. He must see his economic relation, for on graduating he will be consigned by capitalism to one or another of its categories.

A few will be enabled to enter the big industrial-finance class. They will stand to gain by War and they will have the best chance of staying out of the dull, suffering masses at

the front. The threat to them is cultural rather than financial or physical. They have already suffered disillusion with sick modern culture at its top and, consequently, the appeal to them must be an intellectual appeal to ally themselves with the one and only class whose collective aspiration promises a psychologically powerful and healthful order of life.

What Is Facing Us

A far greater number will graduate into the decreasing middle-class whose members are now being cut off from the traditional expectations of cashing in on a college education. Many of them will remain unemployed and many will have to fall into the working class. A dangerous situation faces them, for they are universally the material of Fascism. Cheated and bewildered by the trend of capitalism, pitifully striving to avoid being pushed into the proletariat and then as pitifully striving not to admit that they have been so pushed, they are the group who will succumb despairingly to false appeals to their heritage, their American heritage, their (vicarious) class heritage. Capitalism will muster them for War and for opposition to the rise of the working-class, whose interests are actually their own. This has happened already in Germany and Italy and it is now beginning in the United States.

For these reasons all undergraduates, in resistance to the obscuring tactics of their professors, must recognize the showdown between the Fascism which will victimize them and the revolutionary workingclass movement which alone offers them positive and true salvation. For there is only one way the student can victoriously combat War and that is by getting to its capitalist cause and fighting it. Mere educational campaigns against "the War ten-

dency in human nature" will not succeed, for only by changing the external world can man change his own nature.

At Dartmouth a fraction of us have tried to make these truths clear by publishing a popular journal of controversy, *Steeplejack*, which has spoken to the campus in campus language, complementing its campaign with sprightly comment on school interests, and which has kept out of the red. In addition, *The Junto* has welcomed lecturers like John Strachey and has sent a delegation to the Connecticut Valley Conference Against War which fought hard for support of the American League Against War and Fascism. In one year of activity, most of the undergraduates of course have not been won over, but there is no doubt that a stronger awareness of what the issue really is has been precipitated. The first necessity is clarification. Then comes action. A chapter of the National Student League will soon be organized.

CALL TO WOMEN

"Women will play a greater part in future wars. . . . Woman power will in some cases supplant and in other cases supplement man power in the next war."—Major General Hanson E. Ely, U. S. Army.

A call for an International Women's Congress Against War and Fascism to be held in Paris, July 28, 29, and 30 has been received by the American League Against War and Fascism. Some of the signers to the call were: Madeleine Rolland, Claire Charles-Geniaux, Mmes. Signac, Wallon, Andree Violis (France); Elin Wagner (Sweden); Haden-Guest (Great Britain), and Comtesse Karoly.

The American section of the Congress organized by the American League elected a National Executive Committee of which the following are officers: Chairman, Margaret Forsyth, Teacher's College, Columbia University; Vice-Chairmen: Eleanor Copenhaver, Margaret Lamont and Ella Reeve Bloor.

"The American League Against War and Fascism calls on all women," reads the call in part, "of every walk of life, of every point of view, to help send a strong delegation of working, farm and professional women, to unite with the women of all countries in this struggle. Build anti-War and anti-Fascist committees in the factories and mills, on the farms, in the schools, in the hospitals, in the neighborhoods, wherever you live and work.

"Regional conferences and mass meetings will be held during the next two months to elect delegates. Build and support the regional conference in your community. Help by reaching your friends and sisters with the program against War and Fascism."



The Italian Fascist State prepares Young Children for War. The Balilla organization alone has 3,500,000 members, Boys and Girls, trained in the fundamentals of Military technique

FARMERS in the STRUGGLE

By **ROB F. HALL**

Associate Editor, "Farmers Weekly"

One morning last fall, when we were publishing the *Farmers Weekly* in Washington, a white-haired old gent, Major Something-or-other, from the R.O.T.C., came into the office to "find out about the farmers." I knew him for a jingo.

"I can't see what you want with the farmers," I told him. "The farmers hate War like poison."

"That is precisely the reason," replied the Major. "We must enlist the farmers in the cause of National Defense. With their naturally conservative instincts, the farmers can be a real bulwark against radicalism, and against the other isms which threaten our institutions."

This is an idea which one comes across pretty frequently, even in these days of farmers' mass action against foreclosures and of militant picket-line battles between state troopers and striking farmers.

The truth of the matter is that only ten per cent of the farm population—the rich farmers

and large landowners—can be predetermined as the Major's "bulwark" against the "isms."

The Major wants recruits for a bloody imperialist War, and for a Fascist storm troop against the workers. Well, the great majority of the farm population are farm workers, small farmers and middle farmers who can be won—and many are being won—to an alliance with the industrial workers. From this section of the farm population are coming some of the best fighters against War and Fascism.

For the farmers, the fight against Fascism is not just a matter of resolutions of protest. Where the movement against foreclosures and evictions, led by militant organizations, has been most successful, there the farmers have had to fight the Fascist methods of the local ruling class on their own ground.

Fascist Tactics

In Kosciusko County, Indiana, last January, Alfred Tiala, national secretary of the United Farmers League, led several thousand farmers in a fight against a threatened Federal Land Bank foreclosure. Tiala, his wife and Jesse Hann, a young farmer, were thrown into jail and machine-guns were mounted to prevent the farmers, releasing them. Since then, Tiala and Hann have been sentenced to prison terms.

In February, the United Farmers League of Roberts County, South Dakota, followed up a long series of successful actions against the implement dealers, the loan sharks and the banks by replacing Henry Neilson, a pioneer, on the farm from which the Northwestern Insurance Company evicted him. Two

weeks later, 17 militant farmers, including Julius Walstad, state secretary of the U.F.L., were thrown into jail. Circuit Judge Howard Babcock then issued a temporary injunction naming the United Farmers League, the Unemployed Council, and 90 workers and farmers, forbidding meetings, demonstrations, sale of literature or any other organized action.

The Farmers Fight

But the farmers did not give in. On March 27 when a hearing was called to determine whether the temporary injunction should be made permanent, 1,000 farmers came to town. They crowded the courtroom, and overflowed into the corridors and the court yard. The judge hastily agreed that he was too prejudiced to pass judgment on such a serious matter and disappeared. And then the farmers held a meeting in the courtroom while Julius Walstad outlined a fight for feed and hay for their starving live stock. "The *Farmers Weekly*, the magazine *Fight* and other militant publications were sold in all the public places, including the courtroom," a farmer correspondent wrote us.

But Fascist tendencies are not confined to local governments. The Bankhead bill for compulsory cotton acreage reduction, originated by the Southern planters, is purely Fascist, directed against the Negro croppers and the small farmers. Now Secretary of Agriculture Wallace seeks equal powers in regard to all major crops. Significant, isn't it, to find the "liberal" Wallace learning at the feet of the Southern landlords, the most reactionary class in the United States?

Federal Government Threatens

Mr. Wallace has shown Fascist tendencies upon other occasions. On January 31, he stated to dairy farmers: "Any group which looks with favor on (farm) strikes as a means of intimidation must realize that the Department of Justice will scrutinize most carefully all strikes which involve inter-state commerce and the movement of the United States mail." To this Fascist threat, the farmers replied: "We intend to fight the AAA's milk program with organization and mass action."

The Fascists want the farmers, all right. The "Silver Shirts" are working overtime in Iowa. But whether they win more than the ten percent who are rich farmers depends upon a lot of things. As the farmers struggle against attacks on their living standards, and as the workers support these struggles, then will the farmers be drawn into close alliance with the industrial workers. It is precisely this alliance which spells the doom of the hopes of the Major and the other Fascists. Broadened and strengthened, it is this alliance which will mean that the great masses of rural toilers will turn a deaf ear to Fascist demagogy and War ballyhoo and mobilize against War and Fascism.



THE NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL BANK

AFFILIATED WITH NORTHWEST BANCORPORATION



MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

March 3, 1934

Mr. Midel C. Koen,
Sisseton,
South Dakota.

Dear Mr. Koen: -

In Re: Helvig - O. B.

On January 8th we replied to your letter of December 28th last advising that we would be glad to lease the farm on which Mr. Gronau is located, providing we could have him removed by March 1st.

We have been informed by Turner and McKenna, Attorneys, that some recent developments have come about whereby the local farmers league has been stopped from active operations, and we believe that Mr. Gronau will be removed from the farm in the very near future.

We are wondering if you still desire to operate the farm and if you are in a position where you can do so efficiently. If you happen to be in Sisseton you might get in touch with Mr. McKenna in the near future and find out if Mr. Gronau has been removed from the property.

Kindly let us know by return mail whether or not you can handle this farm.

Yours very truly,

H. L. Litch
H. L. Litch,
Special Discount Department.

HCL/mc

The Government co-operates with bankers in evicting Farmers.

(ABOVE) State Troopers clubbing a striking Farmer. (BELOW) A bank notifying its attorneys that the Farmers' League has "been stopped from active operations," making eviction possible

DIED IN VAIN

By RABBI JACOB WEINSTEIN

The address which we print here in part was to have been delivered at a student demonstration at the Eternal Light in New York City on April 6, the 17th anniversary of the U. S. entrance into the World War. Unforeseen circumstances prevented the delivery of this address.

We are here to dedicate the 17th anniversary of America's entry into the World War. It were fitting that we come in sack-cloth and ashes for we are here to remember that these dead died in vain. Yes, in vain, as far as they or we are concerned. They might have thought that they died for a noble cause, for the protection of their homes, for democracy, for world peace. . . .

If this eternal light were a beacon light and could cast its ray a few blocks up this very avenue into a certain brownstone house on 36th Street and Madison Avenue—we might better know why these dead have died. They died for Morgan's millions and for the munition makers—for the knighted hypocrite, the international purveyor of fear and traveling salesman par excellence—Sir Basil Zaharoff. They died for Vicker-Armstrong, for Schneider-Creusot, for Krupp, for Skoda and for Dupont. For these and their allied firms, for the interlocking directorates and their host of legal and executive flunkies—these young dead gave the years they might have lived.

They gave their lives for a system so shameless that it would uncover their graves, capitalize their bones and grind them into fertilizer for the seeds of the next War. See for instance how Hearst is using the gruesome chronicle of the horrors of the last War to scare the country into a panic of wild preparedness. Even the genial fisherman Roosevelt . . . confirmed the largest military budget in our history—while our poor shiver for lack of shelter and our children crowd each other in fire-traps for the dole of sapience our system permits them to have. We need another vision of the dry-dead bones. We need a vision that will cause these bones to rise and cry havoc against the dogs of War—that will turn them into swords and spears against the system that leeches upon their flesh.

Turn to Germany and see how the present regime uses the bones of its dead—to fan the flames for the next destruction. They, too, are taking cognizance of this anniversary. The lesson they learned from the last War is that Germany must be so well prepared in the next that she will have annihilated her continental enemies before the transcontinental ones can arrive. If you would read their military text books such as Ewald Banse's *Germany Prepares for War*, you would see how seriously Fascist Germany takes the certainty of the next War. And what a War it will be. Poison-gas—poisoned wells—poisoned air currents—perhaps death rays—fatal disease germs planted in foods and bandages; plague-infested rats sent into enemy countries. In the plains of Kansas, a wheat harvester will spread caviar on a biscuit (Morgan will let

you have a little caviar for morale) and it will be his last caviar—a German agent has gotten into a Russian factory and sprinkled a few germs on the caviar. There will be no fine distinctions between combatants and non-combatants—between neutral and non-neutral. . . .

The German High Command will be right. We have been making false distinctions between peace and War. There is no such distinction in Capitalism. A careful study of vital statistics will not show too startling a spurt in the death graph for 1914-1918. The years before and after make high enough plateaus to dampen the haughtiness of any peak. The fact is that War merely emphasizes and dramatizes tendencies that are at work every day in capitalism. War is the chambermaid of the system. She is employed to clear away the human dung heap of our machine order. . . .

These demonstrations and anniversaries will not be in vain if we can make this clear to the masses. The system breeds War as a bitch breeds pups. To smash War we must smash the system. There is no other way. Many who once were pleased to be called liberal thought that they could isolate the phenomenon of War and deal with it on its own terms. They said it was due to human nature, the pugnacious instinct, the libido in search of itself with a capital I—and then they said it is a mob mania, a periodic madness, a cosmic tremor in the herd. They thought they could fight War by changing the child training, by emphasizing the mutual aid factors, by teaching women that their mission is peace. The inveterate idealists in religion still thought that all would be hearts and flowers if only man would follow the Prince of Peace. In more recent years, we have had war-resisters who go in for a special kind of martyrdom—noble but futile. We have had a Women's organization that is breaking gaily colored spears of fortune on the munition makers. But—to use a proverb from the language of Goethe—"Es wird sie gar nichts helfen"—These devices are of little avail. War is an inevitable part of capitalism. It will go only when capitalism goes and is replaced by an economic order that does not respect the myths called national boundaries nor the still more pernicious fictions called classes.

Those of us who have tried to find a way out of War within the framework of capitalism could well paraphrase a verse from Francis Thompson's *Hound of Heaven*:—The "Him"—is the god of capitalism—the Hound of Heaven and of Earth:

We fled him down the nights and down the days:

*We fled Him down the arches of the years
We fled Him down the labyrinthine ways of
our minds;—*

From those strong Feet that followed, followed after

But with unhurrying chase

And unperturbed pace

Deliberate speed, Majestic instancy,

They—bent—And a voice beat

More instant than the Feet

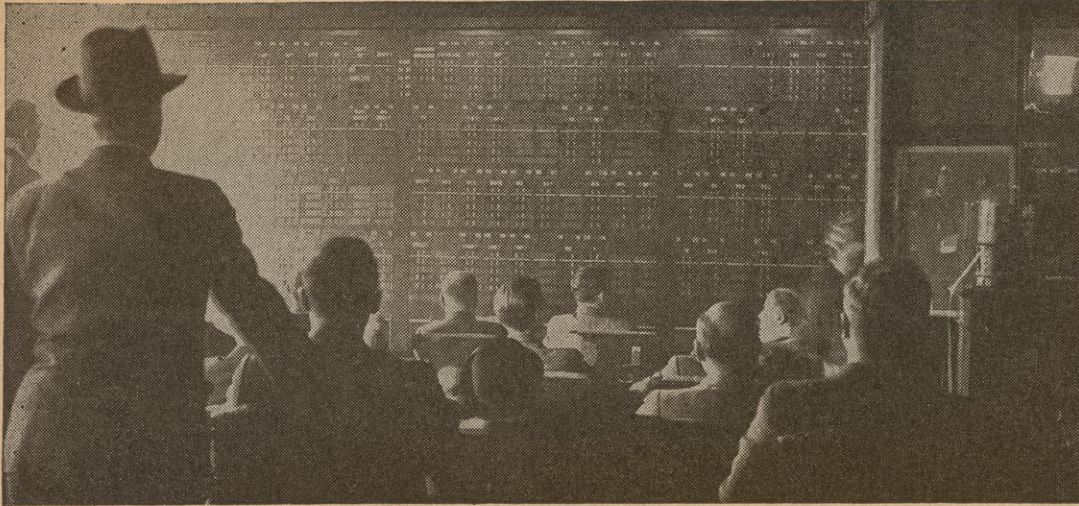
All things betray thee, who servest me.

ROAD of FASCISM

By WILLIAM GROPPER



Gropper



While Wall Street makes millions through War—Workers die in the Trenches

WALL STREET'S BOOM

By HARRY ROSS

Wall Street, which discounts the present and anticipates the future in the buying and selling of stocks and bonds, has begun to form the base of a War market.

Munitions, chemicals, oils, metals and steels, the backbone of a booming War stock market, are being taken in hand by the bulk of investment houses and speculators. Visions of *U. S. Steel* at \$500 and *Bethlehem Steel* at \$400 a share are again whetting the appetites of the speculators in the money marts.

"Buy, Buy"—War Is in Sight

A quiet boom has spread over the Stock Exchange. Roger W. Babson, from his Massachusetts college of gambling, has passed the word around to those taking his advisory service to buy War stocks for the long pull.

In the issue of March 13, 1934, Mr. Carlton A. Shively, financial editor of the *New York Evening Sun*, wrote as follows: "Strength in powder stocks attracted attention. Advances of four to five points were made by *Hercules* and *Atlas*. . . . The increased mining operations due to the higher prices for gold and silver are helping the powder manufacturing companies. In addition to that, Wall Street is *mildly sensitive* to the War talk going on in several parts of the globe. The market for a few other War materials is strong. Glycerine, for example, is said to be in good demand."

Atlas Powder Co. and *Hercules Powder*, two of the country's largest manufacturers of heavy explosives, have reported a scarcity of skilled workers for their plants and are forced to work overtime. *Atlas Powder* from a low of 9 in 1933 made a recent high of \$53 a share in March of this year; this despite the fact that it only paid a fifty cent dividend yielding a rate of less than one per cent. *Hercules Powder* has advanced from a low of 15 in 1933 to a high of 71½ this year.

Poison Gas for Workers and Farmers

The biggest gains have been made in the chemical field. *Dupont*, *Columbia Carbon*,

United Carbon, *Air Reduction*, *Allied Chemical*, *Monsanto Chemical*, *Union Carbide*, *Freeport Texas* and *Texas Gulf Sulphur*, stocks vitally interested in the coming imperialistic War, are at the top of the stock market heap. These chemicals, producers of such essentials as carbon blacks, nitrocellulose, sulphur, oxides, naval stores, alkalis and some of the heavy chemical gases and acids, are from 50 to 300 per cent above last year's lows.

Although the July reaction of last year upset the Roosevelt boom, the chemical industry has recovered its losses and since then has been steadily raising its prices to a peak unexcelled since 1929. *Dupont* and *Industrial Rayon & Celanese Corporation*, two companies that can convert within 24 hours their rayon manufacturing process into War materials, favored their stockholders with a bonus, while the rest raised their dividend rates.

One of the leaders in this field, *Allied Chemical and Dye* earned \$5.50 a share in 1933, compared to earnings of \$3.62 in the previous year, despite, according to its president, "the dumping of certain foreign competitive commodities into the domestic market which continued throughout the year in large volume."

The metal stocks also have responded to the War boom and have been whirled up in unprecedented fashion. *U. S. Smelting*, from a low of 13½ in 1933 has advanced to more than 135 in 1934. Such old time "War favorites" as *Bethlehem*, *U. S. Steel*, *National* and *Ludlum Steel* have made huge gains in expectation of swollen War profits.

British controlled *International Nickel*, which controls the nickel output of the world, reached a high of 28½ in April, although it pays a dividend of only ten cents a year—the first in several years.

The oils, a major commodity in a War period, have for the past several months hit highs that do not warrant their price if based on yield. War time speculators are buying oils again, remembering their high prices during the past War. Although only paying a divi-

dend of \$1 a year, and barely earning it, *Standard Oil of New Jersey* has sold past the \$50 mark this year.

Copper stocks also have advanced with the rest of the list. Last year copper sold as low as five cents a pound. This year it has reached nine cents, although there is an outstanding surplus supply of red metal above the ground. *Howe Sound Co.*, a leading copper firm, has risen from a low of 5½ to a high this year of \$52. The company also advanced its dividend rate from \$1 to \$3 per annum.

In the market reactions this year, public utilities and railroads (these stocks have fixed charges), have suffered setbacks, but, as a whole, the munition stocks have become the outstanding leaders in the gambling mart. *Lehman Bros.*, one of the leading investment corporations, has dumped stocks with fixed charges, it is said, and has selected for its portfolio, stocks mentioned above. The same is true of holdings in *J. P. Morgan and Co.*, *Kuhn, Loeb and Co.*, etc.

But This Time . . .

The Stock Exchange has had lean pickings since 1929, but the boys are whooping it up once more with a pre-War boom. War talk is on the lips of every gambler who has his eyes glued on the ticker tape. The spring boom in business has not materialized, and the only reason these stocks are at such high levels is due to the anticipation of War.

The big boys are greedy once more for huge War profits. They are eagerly looking forward to the time when *Allied* hits \$600 and *Dupont* \$500 a share. They reason, why not? it hit that figure in 1917!

This time, though, they will be fooled. The workers of the world are not going into the next imperialistic War to "save the world for democracy" and create huge profits for Wall Street speculators; they are going into the next War to destroy the Wall Streets of the world which provoke imperialistic Wars for their own greed.

SILVER SHIRTS

(Continued from page two)

young manhood as editor and publisher of country newspapers in small towns in that state and Vermont. He was with the Y.M.C.A. in President Wilson's unauthorized expedition to Siberia in 1917 and 1918. In 1929, to use his own words, he "cast aside his former occupation, that netted him \$25,000 a year." If Pelley made \$25,000 a year by means of adventure stories and a few unnoted novels, he was a great deal luckier than most popular fiction writers, even during the boom era.

His next move was a curious one, and throws a strange sidelight on the whole Silver Shirt movement. He organized the **League for the Liberation**, whose "surface purpose was metaphysical research." Pelley has always been interested in the metaphysical and the occult; he was editing the so-called *Philosopher Magazine* when he was only fifteen. The early numbers of *Liberation* are full of incoherent rhapsodies marked "psychically received." They are less frequent now as the organization grows more prosperous and more aggressive; but there still appears a page of dithyrambs beginning "My Beloved," and ending, cryptically, "PEACE," which is accompanied by the following remarkable words:

Out of the vastness of Cosmos, the Psychic Antennae tunes [sic] in a Voice. If the Word was made flesh and spake once to men, how much stronger may be its pronouncements when the handicaps of the flesh are perished? If we cannot believe this, to Whom or What shall we look for authority of commitments like the following?

The answer probably is, to William Dudley Pelley, and the implication, of course, is that the "message" comes straight from heaven. In a little booklet he got out in the early days of the Silver Shirts, he stated unblushingly that "the cold, stark, irrefutable fact remains that true clairvoyants have looked into the imminent future and seen it actually in effect" ("it" being his "Christ Democracy," his first name for the glorious state in which we shall find ourselves when the Silver Shirts have triumphed). In other words, his "Christian Protestantism" is strongly tinged with spiritism.

This will antagonize some persons otherwise drawn to him; but let it not be thought that the Silver Shirts are to triumph by persuasion alone. No, this "strictly Protestant Christian Movement for the protection of the Christ people in this nation" believes very firmly in force and violence. Nordic Protestants over eighteen years of age and in good health, who are "not afraid to risk life and limb for their country," are invited to join at a cost of five dollars a year for *Liberation*, ten dollars for the "complete outfit" of uniform, and whatever else they can spare to outfit less prosperous aspirants to membership. The chief feature

of the uniform is the Silver Shirt, "with the great scarlet 'L' emblazoned over your heart, standing for Love, Loyalty, and Liberation."

Silver-Shirted Cossacks

Just how much love, loyalty, and liberation are involved may be seen by the added information that "the Quartermasters Corps in Oklahoma City is primarily interested in outfitting the National Rangers [a subsidiary of the Silver Shirts for special appeal to the Southwest] for active service against the communistic adversary." Anyone with a horse is especially invited to join the Rangers, and this invitation gives a grisly emphasis to the threat to "those who oppose us, who view us as un-American," that "before we are finished we shall ride you down."

"We leaders," says Pelley, "are risking our lives to write a new page in American history. . . . Within this coming year you are going to see the Silver Shirts loom large in the affairs of these United States. You will see their parades in the News Weeklies. You will hear about their activities at the National Capitol." [Perhaps the first fulfilment of the prophecy is the diatribe against the "Brain Trust" by Dr. Wirt, of Gary, Indiana.]

Anti-Labor "Socialism"

For a while Pelley seemed to have snared at least one Congressman, in the person of Representative Louis McFadden of Pennsylvania, who appeared openly in *Liberation*. Whether McFadden contributed financially to the sudden rapid growth of the movement is a matter which only he and Pelley know. But certainly he gave the appearance of close affiliation with them; and I know of several instances in which admirers of McFadden's policies joined the Silver Shirts on the strength of his articles. There is, of course, nothing unusual in this; in its heyday the Klan numbered many members of both houses and other high government officials among its supporters.

It is, in sober fact, a complete replica of the Nazi system, including even the semi-socialistic promises of Hitler's pre-election speeches. It protests that it is not military, yet its literature abounds with such phrases as "the thunder of thousands of Silver Shirt horses," "the open challenge of an organization of the New Vigilantes." It speaks touchingly of its revival of "the great Christian forces of gentlemanliness and knighthood," while it repeats every vicious lie of anti-Semitism even to adducing the forged "Protocol of the Elders of Zion," for whose espousal Henry Ford once had to apologize publicly. It is aggressively militant, not only anti-radical but also anti-labor; it says truly, "here is a gesture that is already commanding the support of a growing company of *affluent citizens*." (Italics mine.)

Though the Silver Shirts specialize in anti-Semitism and anti-Communism they neglect no one of the objects of hatred of the Ku Klux Klan. They fulminate about "morality" and "the destruction of the family"; they write in an incendiary strain about the Negroes; and they are intolerant to any group that is not "pure Nordic Protestant." One Robert C. Summerville, writing in *Liberation*, informs us that "the Jewish system of high finance" "has created the 'pink' Socialistic Party and the 'red' Communistic Party. It 'put over' the NRA and its system of bureaucracies." All this is shown by "the Unwritten History of the World," which, since it is unwritten, it is not surprising that "the general public has not been permitted to study."

Imagine the effect of this sort of balderdash, uttered in a tone of assured knowledge, on some harassed worker or farmer without political understanding who for four years has heard his children cry for food and who is looking, unconsciously, for some scapegoat on whom to load his burden of bitterness and despair, some outlet for his desperate need to do something and do it quickly!

Join The Silver Legion of America

Become one of the Great Christian Militia that Proposes to Uphold Our Constitution, Deport All Predatory Aliens, and Save America for Americans! ! !

CITIZENS OF AMERICA! Wake up! Come out from under your anaesthesia! Know the truth about this looting, duping, hoodwinking, debauchery and betrayal of your Christ and your government—not from the standpoint of the alarmist fanatic, but from trained, cool-brained investigators whose lives are at stake for spreading what they have discovered.

The time is at hand to write a new page in American history and prove whether or not the Spirit of Paul Revere, Ethan Allen, Patrick Henry, and William Lloyd Garrison is dead in this land!

There is coming out from under cover in these hectic days a great, aggressive, challenging organization made up of Protestant-Christian freemen!

It is time that you heard of the Silver Legion of America, and joined their ranks for splendid action against these traducers of America's honor and her Christian institutions!

The Silver Legion is under way in 46 of our gutted and bedaubed American States, organized to defend and perpetuate our sacrosanct Constitution, to aid our American President in freeing himself from the international plunder-bund, to preserve the integrity of our religious institutions, and to hurl the wreckers and defamers of American culture out of America—to stay out permanently.

These men are Christian patriots who have awakened to the Menace and are ready for action!

They and their leaders, their organization and their principles, are being vilified, buffooned, disparaged, and maligned—to the end and aim that the American people may pay no attention to them and continue under their manufactured anaesthesia that all is well.

Meanwhile the alien looters and betrayers hurry their work in secret, overwhelming our ignorant masses with their wicked sympathies, permeate our sacred institutions, and keep an airtight censorship on America's agencies of publicity.

WORKERS OF AMERICA! Do you know there is a way out of this lechery and distress, that is neither Socialism, Communism, or the docile submission to this foreign cabal backed by millions of alien money?

Do you know there is an entirely new system of Government that does not abolish one single fundamental of our republican form of officialdom, entirely worked out in the most minute practical detail, whose tenets are unassailable, and that for want of a better term to describe it has been called

THE CHRIST DEMOCRACY!

Do you know that with, and by, a few simple measures, without bloodshed, without undoing the slightest item of good work accomplished by the forefathers, there is a way for the aroused American people to forever tie the hands of this predatory foreign money-bund, stop the Crime Wave, and return America to her honest, hard working, Christian citizenry?

Why not face the terrible facts, and be quick to investigate this drastic and effective alternative to atheistic Communism before our beloved country is carried over the precipice?

If you fought for the life of your country in war, will you not fight for her in time of peace?

Will you not embrace this invitation to join with thousands of your fellow Protestants, become one of these Silver Knights, and present a mighty and terrifying front to these arrogant overlords of religious and economic debauchery who are laughing in their sleeves at Christian gullibility?

The facts are known—they are yours if you are qualified to receive them—you can get the most hidden and secret details of the alien conspiracy in all its grimness, and grisly satanism.

There is no fanaticism in this, no racial prejudice, no religious bigotry, however much the enemies of America may stigmatize this phalanx of Christian Defenders to the contrary.

There is nothing wrong with America but the Aliens who are debauching her!

Silver Shirt leaflet
spreading
Fascist Propaganda

THE RAVENS

By MA R

(Translated by David Zablodowsky)

It is evening again—after a day that was like a long nightmare. Here in this obscure little island of Tura, where the greatest events hitherto have been the birth of a child or an old man's death, the air today has been smoldering with the most fearful rumors. We have already anticipated all the terrors of a World War, even before the War has actually broken out. The rumors burst forth upon us like a shower of meteors—erupting now from one overheated brain, now from another—and they have made the day as hot as a day in hell.

But now it is evening—a real evening of deep darkness, for the white nights are past. And night spreads her black protecting wings over the many tiny straits and islands here on the southern coast of Funen.

The healing darkness brings a calm to our spirits, relaxing them after their long excitement. People speak and move about in a hush, as if they were in a room where someone lay dying; and yonder on the road Katner's Anne is passing out of sight, weeping inconsolably. Her husband has been called to the colors, and now, she has been left behind with a horde of hungry children. She has been sobbing out her story the livelong day—and no one has heard her. Her little grief, too, the evening gathers up; now it has swallowed everything.

Out there among the straits lights suddenly appear and disappear again. Are they perhaps signal lights from foreign torpedo boats? Or only the usual coming and vanishing of eel lights and ships' lanterns? Maybe some man with a lantern is walking along the beach of one of the low islets? Or a boat is on its way to fetch the midwife?

Far out on the horizon there is a glimmer like a winking eye—at intervals a gleam of light soars up over the edge, to be hastily extinguished again by the darkness; now and then a hollow rumble comes over the water. Is it only the lightning—or a distant thunder? Or is a battle going on out there?

I am sitting on the slope under a century-old oak that leans heavily over the water; at my feet the waves are murmuring like a soft penetrating voice. And my heart beats in dull choking thumps—tonight I hear accusations in everything.

From the road above Anne's weeping still carries down to me. She already looks upon herself as a widow—and has she any reason to think otherwise? Millions of women are as inconsolable as she this night. It is humiliating to be a human being in this day of blood.

This then is the result of our great men's labors, of mankind's collective striving after culture, of our heaven-storming ideas and our all-embracing sympathy with the whole world: Meat! Humanity preparing to grind itself into chopped meat—to feed the beasts!

Hark, what strange chatter is that under heaven's black circling of cloud, like the flight of birds in autumn? Can it be angels—on

their way to afflicted mankind, bringing peace on earth?

No, it is only the ravens flying south. It is early this year for them to be darkening the nights thus. Quiet! Are they not singing?

*We are the ravens,
Man's guardian spirits,
Rulers of battlefields.
Fly! Fly!
Still caked are our feathers
On head and on throat
From the last feast of blood,
And already the call comes
From the Great-Gong' gong
To another flesh banquet.*

*Wide spread your pinions,
Wide be your wing-beats—
The journey is far!
Sing ye the praises
Of man, the godlike,
Who murders his brother,
His mother, his child,
And lays waste the whole world
To heap food for the ravens.*

*Thank him—and fly onward!
Strike out with broad strokes!
Hasten, oh, hasten!
Man's at his murder—
He cries out to Heaven!
We come, we are flying,
With the shadow of slaughter
Black in our wings.
Blacker our wings
Than black Night herself.*

A raven glides down and alights in the oak tree over my head. I hear his wings beat heavily as he gains his balance. Then his hoarse cry pierces the air. From the forest preserves beyond the little bay a young voice answers:

"What is it, War Raven?"

The old raven slowly flaps his night-heavy wings, "This way, this way!"

"Why should we fly south so soon?" the voice comes back. "It is still summer, and there is food enough here—what an abundant year this has been! The chicks are just beginning to taste good!"

"Come, I tell you! You shall have something better than chickens. You shall eat hearts—and livers and lungs—all from an animal worth more than its weight in gold. Come!"

"And what is this animal called?"

"Human!"

"Ha, ha, War Raven! You think you can fool me because I'm young. Don't I know very well that man prizes his flesh very highly, and that there is a death penalty for touching him? Man himself says it, and it must be so, for his body is destined for heaven where it will be resurrected in glory and splendor. His flesh is food for the gods, he says."

"Man says a great many things, my son. And when he has had enough of spouting



"When the mighty rulers of the earth drink of the altar and make their own cause that of heaven"

sublime words, he gathers all his fine young men together in one great field and has them slaughter each other. First they shoot each other down, and, when the field is quite covered with corpses, they drive back and forth over it with horses' hooves and cannon wheels, until the whole field becomes a smoking mush. At Solferino I saw a valley between two cliffs that was like an enormous pot full of goulash, all cooked together with the blood and bones."

"And then did the gods come down and eat?"

"No, the gods had to stay in heaven to arrange quarters for all the human souls. Fifty thousand of them arrived together, wanting to get in. So they sent us ravens instead. When men offer up their great battle sacrifice to heaven, the gods always send the ravens to represent them. And that, my child, is why man is called the raven's prey and not the food of the gods. So, let us go!"

"But why go now? There's no War going on."

"Don't you hear the rushing in the air and the War-cry of our brothers? All the ravens of Scandinavia are on their way southward—to the great field of battle."

"Has the fighting begun already?"

"No, but it is imminent! So stop asking silly questions, and get started."

"And how do you know all this, Father War Raven?"

"When the mighty rulers of the earth drink

MARTIN ANDERSEN NEXO

AUTHOR OF
"PELLE THE CONQUEROR,"
"DITTE," ETC., ETC.



Drawing by M. Pass

drink brotherhood with the Lord in the holy sacrament
that of heaven—then the slaughter is impending."

brotherhood with the Lord in the holy sacrament of the altar and make their own cause that of heaven—then the slaughter is impending. Thus it was before Solferino and Gravelotte, before Mukden and the Balkan wars, and thus it will come this time. Listen, and you will hear the potentates singing mass. Before two days have gone by, Europe's rivers will be flowing with human blood."

"I'm coming, I'm coming! Shouldn't I call the other birds in the forest too?"

"You are naïve, child! Only the raven can stomach the flesh of the human animal. It would poison any other creature. Come . . . ! That's right, now. Alight on this branch for a moment first and preen your wings. We have a long journey before us. Smooth your tail feathers well and let your bones be absolutely hollow. You must trim your collar to rights a little. Before tomorrow's over you may perhaps be burying it in the steaming entrails of a man."

"And if I should be shot down?"

"When once these men get going, they kill only each other. Their lead is too valuable for the likes of you. If they have any left over, they would rather use it on the old men, women, and children in the villages they pass through."

"Are they devils then, Father War Raven?"

"Yes, but only at the bottom of their souls. On the surface they are the most exalted beings in all creation. And if they murder

women and children, why then it is in the name of Peace—just so that a new War brood might not spring from them. In fact, everything that men undertake is always done in the name of Peace. That's why all the emperors in the world call themselves princes of peace.—Do you know anything about powder and blood?"

"I've smelled powder. A boy once shot at me in the forest."

"It's a grand intoxicating mixture. In its fumes I have seen a soldier on the battlefield give his wounded comrade the death thrust and rob him of watch and gold instead of carrying him on his shoulders to an ambulance. And I have seen old, experienced ravens staggering drunkenly over the battlefield and fall straight into the mouths of cannons. So take care that you don't get drunk!"

"Oh, I can stand a little all right. Let's go, Father War Raven!"

"Very well, most of the flock is past now, and there is room for your untried wings. One word more. I reserve the human eyes for myself. But I'll let you have the hearts—in fact everything that men themselves consider their more noble parts. But be cautious! At Solferino I was nearly choked to death by a soldier who had been hit in the heart by a bullet. When I finally got my head free, there

was a letter hanging around my neck. It was a letter from the soldier's wife and children, too! The bullet had gone right through the letter and had buried a couple of scraps of the paper in his heart. It took me a whole day to get over that.

"So let's soar up and away! Long strokes, put all your strength into it! And sing with me, my boy—it helps fill the lungs."

*We are the ravens,
Man's guardian spirits!
On spreading pinions
Southward we fly,
With the shadow of slaughter
Black in our wings!
Blacker our feathers
Than black Night herself.*

*Our cawing echoes
The terror of death—
Fear of that death
That is being contended
In some spot forsaken
Far from kind eyes
And from loving hands—
The death of steel in the heart!*

Fly! Fly!

WHEELS OF WAR

By CHARLES MORDANT

WHEN—the qualification "if" is no longer permissible, even at *Lloyd's* of London, and befits only a moron flicking his cigarette over a badly-covered keg of smokeless powder—when the next War gets under way it will come on wheels. Wings and Wheels. A colossal crimson Juggernaut, loaded with destruction, with the trident of Neptune to guide it on and beneath the waters, perfected wings of Icarus to ensure doom from the air—and wheel, wheels, wheels, whose very name symbolizes not only progress and power but also ruin—and Revolution.

Arming Imperialist Japan

Consider this: within the past months there have been shipped to Japan from the United States alone the following:

3,000 7½-ton trucks with 12 wheels (tractor models).

12,800 12-ton trucks with 12 wheels (tractor models).

60 electric locomotives.

3,000 Pratt & Whitney airplane engines.

35,000 flat cars, without sides, for artillery transport.

200 large tanks, each with 125 horsepower Diesel engine.
8,000 3½-ton transport wagons.

Well, you say, what of it? It's Japan's party, or funeral, not ours. Besides, it keeps the home blast furnaces burning—at so much an hour for the steel "hunkies." I'm only sorry (you'll be thinking) that I have no stock in *International Nickel*, *General Motors* or what have you. If it's stocks you have on your mind, call it "gun-stocks," and you can change your dream into a nightmare, with benefit of the flag.

Officially, the United States Army is modest enough in its demand for wheels—or so it says. However, here are a few more figures, closer to home than the "tinder-box of Asia."

General Douglas MacArthur, Chief of Staff, in his latest Annual Report to the Government, states that "the total needs of the Regular Army for general motorization purposes are 9,385 trucks and 279 tractors. For the National Guard, aggregate requirements are about 19,500." Remarking that the present units are woefully inadequate both in design and performance, the General pleads for

equipment which will be able to negotiate difficult terrain at a "mandatory" speed of from 18 to 20 or more miles per hour.

It is noted that, since 1920, our aggregate expenditures for army motorization have been about \$2,000,000: this as an argument for the proposed item of \$23,000,000 for mechanization this coming year. General motorization adds another \$39,000,000, while motorization of the field artillery is estimated to cost a further \$35,000,000.

According to *Army Ordnance* (official organ of the *Army Ordnance Association*, with headquarters in Washington and eleven Regional Posts throughout the country) motorization plans have reached the following stage of maturity:

Murder on Wheels

7,776 motor vehicles of approved type are being purchased for the Army, and provision has been made for the acquisition of some 2,000 traction devices to facilitate cross-country operations (what country?) for pneumatic-tired vehicles. The artillery's needs are being looked after by the purchase of 612 "adapters," which will permit the costly 75 mm gun-carriages to be carried at high-speed (the *Martin-Parry Corporation*, of York, Pa., is the owner of and exploiter of several patents for this device—the manufacture of which in large quantities it openly recommends as "providing work for thousands of workmen—the goal of the National Recovery Administration"). A further item is 34 shielding radios for special trucks.

Specifications for the Field Artillery make provision for the high-speed hauling of 75 mm gun-carriages in the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands as well as in continental United States; motors are also rapidly displacing horse-drawn vehicles in the Cavalry arm and Coast Artillery, while the very large number of units assigned to the Air-Corps (nearly seven times the number allocated to the Medical Department) is an indication of the importance of "air-control" in the technique of War.

A table showing the proposed distribution of the motorized units is given by way of conclusion. If, after scanning it, you can still remark, "Well, what of it?" the proper cure for you is *Lloyds of London*:

<i>Infantry: United States</i>	1,164 units
" <i>Philippines</i>	76 "
" <i>Hawaii</i>	244 "
<i>Field Artillery</i>	1,811 "
<i>Cavalry</i>	438 "
<i>Coast Artillery</i>	731 "
<i>Air Corps</i>	880 "
<i>Engineer Corps</i>	335 "
<i>Signal Corps</i>	147 "
<i>Chemical Warfare Service</i>	97 "
<i>Medical Department</i>	139 "
<i>Quartermaster Corps</i>	67 "
<i>Ordnance Department</i>	96 "
<i>Field Artillery, N. G.</i>	1,551 "



Thousands of Army Trucks were added this year to U. S. A. War equipment

POETS in WAR TIME

By ISIDOR SCHNEIDER

Author of "Dr. Transit" and "The Temptation of Anthony and Other Poems"

Babette Deutsch's article, *Poets and War*, in the last number of *FIGHT*, was very interesting and stimulating, but I think her portrait of the poet as a socially conscious individual was too flattering.

Poets have substantial reasons, along with other intellectuals, for opposing War. In times of peace, writers are listened to. Their work is discussed. They have a place in that sun in whose rays all ambitious men and women seek to bask: the attention of the public. In War time, however, writers are pushed aside unless they are willing to be useful in War propaganda. To some extent, literary opposition to War is due to terror over the fate of civilization with which literature is identified.

What Happened?

Did poets protest much against the World War? Miss Deutsch mentions Wilfrid Owen but passes over Rupert Brooke. She quotes some random lines by Ezra Pound and Robert Frost, but were these two poets and others who were influential then and immediately after the War very vocal in opposition to War? Hardly. The individualism that in economic matters led to anarchy, led to anarchy in the arts. Robinson and Frost and Eliot and Pound remained individualists; they virtually deserted the social organism of which they were a part; the first two lived and still live like hermits; the latter two left America to live abroad, on the contention that America was uncivilized. Their flight was a futile gesture; and they had to make a flight in time as well as in space. Eliot went back to the suavities of the seventeenth century, to aristocracy and religion. Pound went back to the

ancient Greeks and the thirteenth century. Now he is flirting with Mussolini. They are still there with their heads stuck in the sands of time.

In the so-called Poetry Renaissance, poets took a public-be-damned attitude toward literature. They tinkered with language as if it were not a social instrument, but a private possession. In this they, in their field, demonstrated the disintegration of capitalist society, and the almost total collapse of the sense of social responsibility.

The Return of the Poet

To make any realistic attack on imperialistic War poets must return to the masses. Their peculiar secession from the bourgeois social system, a revolution in vacuum, must be replaced by a return to the workers who can give them the only responsive audience, and the only growing audience they can hope or wish to find.

It is significant that the "new" magazines arising in our times, are no longer the old types of literary magazines, dedicated to obscure literary experimentation which were supposedly understandable only by the élite. It contributed to a snobbery of small circles and usually the magazine drew its support from a rich dilettante. Some good work was done in these magazines, but on the whole their effect was to promote a general intellectual decadence. The movement had such little vital reserves that it was one of the first casualties of the depression. Its death was an eloquent proof of the decay of bourgeois culture. The new magazines of today are workers' magazines. They are the organs of the working class whose dimes support them better than the subsidies of the rich. And in them revolutionary writers are reaching the rising power of the working class.

The Only Way Out

By its very nature, poetry must be a social expression, and the most powerful theme the poet can hope to find is the struggle of the masses. With their movement the poet can identify his, and it is only in their revolution that his own can be consummated. And it is only in the world movement of the workers and farmers which looks forward to a united humanity that mankind can hope to find the stop to world War.

I quote Miss Deutsch, "Poets cannot stop War. Only the workers who do the fighting and who make the munitions with which they kill each other can stop it." It is true, only the workers can stop War. The small but increasing body of revolutionized workers realize it, and through the strain and risk of strikes, through facing factory gunmen, deputy sheriffs, vigilantes, and sadists on the judges' bench, they are fighting War by fighting the system that breeds War. The poets can do nothing more effective in fighting War, than to join them as revolutionary poets, consciously and continuously, until they learn once again to speak to the masses, thrill them by writing poems relevant to their needs, their work, their hope.

NEGRO in the CIVIL WAR

By EUGENE GORDON

This article is the second in a series of four (the first appeared in the January FIGHT) on the Negro Soldier. The first article was devoted to the Revolutionary War. Future issues of FIGHT will continue this series with articles on the Negro in the World War as well as one on his present status in the armed forces of the U. S. A. The writer of these articles has contributed to various national publications, including "Annals American Academy Political and Social Science," "Scribner's Magazine," "Nation," "American Mercury," etc. etc.

A great deal has been written about the Negro's participation in the Civil War on the side of the North; little has been said about his fighting, also, in the Confederate armies. Why this eloquence on the one side and this silence on the other? The reason is clear. Negro recorders of Negro history, to date, have been those members of the colored middle class who stand for middle-class nationalism. That is, they are such Negro historians as feel, along with the leaders of the class to which

the Negro masses are pushed "too hard," they may become "discontented" (!); that they may even turn "red."

Bourgeois Nationalism

Reminding ourselves of these facts, we begin to understand why nothing much has been said by Negro historians about the part played by Negroes in the ranks of the Confederate army. We see that these "patriotic" gentlemen, trying to build up a Negro bourgeois nationalism, have dreaded to show that there were Negroes who fought to keep themselves enslaved through trying to check the advance of Northern capitalism into the South. Most Negro historians consider the Negro troops who fought in the Confederate ranks simply as "traitors to their race," without examining the causes and the consequences.

Slaves were impressed into service as laborers in the South from the very beginning of the War. These men were used to build and to repair fortifications, while the white troops fought to keep Negroes slaves. Numerous Negroes were killed between the lines during the course of this work, some of them while performing such acts as rescuing their masters

service; the reward of greater freedom was held out to the so-called free Negroes.

The situation of free Negroes in the South was a wretched one. Their movements were restricted. Their places of residence were limited to the worst sections of the towns. In most cases, no educational provisions were made for them. At one period they were forbidden to associate in any way with the slaves, even though a freedman's mother might still be a slave. In short, the "free" Negroes were not free at all, although their condition was comparatively better than that of the slaves.

The Confederate press played up the speeches of Southern politicians in praise of "free persons of color" who had joined the Confederate forces. These newspapers referred to colored volunteers in such respectful terms as no Southern newspaper would dare employ today. The *Charlestown Mercury* of January 3, 1861, spoke enthusiastically of the "150 able bodied free colored men" of that town who had "offered their services gratuitously to the Governor to hasten forward the important work of throwing up defenses along the coast." The same sheet was just as jubilant in reporting, three months later, that free colored men at Lynchburg and Petersburg, Virginia, had offered themselves in an organized body to the Governor of that State. Members of the ruling class spoke glibly of "our patriotic free men of color, of the City of Memphis," who had volunteered there to form a company for "our common defense." On November 23, 1861, 1,400 free colored men, among 28,000 white Confederate troops, paraded through the streets of New Orleans. A month or two later, following another such review, the *New Orleans Picayune* felt that it "must pay a deserved compliment to the companies of free colored men, all well drilled and comfortably uniformed."

Mulattoes who were made free by the treaty with France in 1803, were enlisted in 1862 in defense of New Orleans. Next year they were taken into the Confederate service as heavy artillerymen. Two years later the Confederate Congress authorized that all male free Negroes (with certain exceptions) between the ages of 15 and 50 be held liable to perform "such duties in the army or in connection with the military defenses of the country in the way of work upon the fortifications, or in government work, etc., as the Secretary of War might from time to time prescribe." This act provided also that the Secretary of War was to employ 20,000 male Negro slaves for similar work. However, when it came to the question of arming Negroes to fight for the "honor" of the South, there was invariably much debating.

For instance, in February, 1865, Judah P. Benjamin, the Confederacy's Secretary of State, introduced a bill into the Confederate House directing that each State immediately arm its slaves, if it wished. The bill was defeated. A resolution introduced into the Con-

(Continued on page twelve)



A Negro Regiment on the march—later to be Jim Crowed and Lynched

they belong, that the "salvation" of the masses of blacks in this country lies in preserving the *status quo*. There are reformers among them, it is true: men who would like to see the pressure applied to the Negro masses by the white ruling class somewhat relieved here and there, but who, on the whole, feel that the "democratic" government of the United States offers the Negro the best chance in the world for his "development." Among these historians are such advocates of Negro segregation as W. E. B. Du Bois and Carter Woodson, Du Bois being more outspoken than Woodson. The reason why these men prefer the present social order, with both its covert and its openly admitted policy of Negro discrimination, is that there is built up thereby a Negro middle class and a Negro upper class which may subsist upon the Negro working class without the necessity of depending upon the uncertain, occasional hand-outs from the white ruling class. The reason why the Negro reformers—Walter White, George S. Schuyler, Oscar De Priest and Robert Vann—occasionally warn the white ruling class to relieve pressure upon the black masses is that these colored gentlemen fear that if

from perilous positions, bearing messages, and (their masters having been killed or wounded) assuming their masters' places in the ranks.

False Promises and Hopes

The cause of the slaves' willingness thus to expose themselves to death was that they hoped, after the War, to be given their freedom. Their reason for slaving for their owners even under fire was similar to the reason why hundreds of free Negroes in the South begged to be allowed to enter the Confederate army. They hoped thereby to win freedom for all the Negroes. As a matter of fact, the ruling class of the South was as eager to have these free Negroes fight to preserve slavery as the Negroes were, apparently, eager to fight. There is this distinction between the points of view of the slave owners and of the Negroes: The slave owners hoped that, with the help of the Negroes, slavery would be preserved, while the Negroes hoped that, if slavery was preserved, they would get a "new deal" after the War. The reward of freedom was held out as the lure to attract slave Negroes into the

CONGRESS PREPARES for WAR

By HARVEY O'CONNOR

Author of "Mellon's Millions, Biography of a Fortune"

Happy days are here again for the War-makers. Gold-braided admirals and Sam Browne-belted generals are walking on air. Small wonder, because Roosevelt's "new deal" Congress is approving the biggest War program in peacetime history. It takes an adding machine to total the millions of dollars which are going into preparations for the next mass slaughter.

Roosevelt's budget authorizes \$310,180,300 for direct navy department expenditures for the fiscal year 1935 (which begins July 1, 1934). The army gets \$245,983,672. The total is \$556,163,972, more than twice the 1913 budget.

But hold on, that's not all! When Roosevelt pushed the National Recovery Act through Congress last summer, he thoughtfully provided two big grab bags for the munitions makers. One grab bag was marked "Army." Up to January 1, 1934, the army had pulled \$95,377,050 out of the bag in Public Works Administration allotments.

An even bigger bag was labelled "Navy." From it a total of \$274,765,924 had been allotted up to Jan. 1, for the navy department, of which \$238,000,000 was for 32 shiny new warships. Of this, it is estimated that \$144,669,400 will be spent in the fiscal year 1935, bringing the total navy appropriation up to \$454,849,700.

Vinson Murder Act

That's not all, either! Congress has passed and Roosevelt has just approved the Vinson Naval Construction Act, authorizing 102 more warships. "No one knows what the ultimate cost of this mysterious and uncertain measure will be," said Senator King. "In my opinion it is a blind commitment that will cost the government considerably more than a billion, perhaps a billion and a half; indeed, it may exceed that amount." The Vinson Act authorizes 1,184 War planes, in addition to 65 destroyers, 29 submarines, six cruisers and a plane carrier. It provides further for replacement of the huge battleships, costing \$50,000,000 apiece, as they become "over age" after the expiration of the London naval agreement.

That's not all, either. Vinson has announced he will ask \$25,000,000 before Congress adjourns to start work on this program. The enlisted navy force is to be jumped to 82,500 men, and 137,485 will be needed when the Vinson program is completed.

The Vinson Act marks the absolute high so far in the annals of Warmongering. It was made necessary by the London naval "limitation" treaty. This treaty, a prize product of the capitalist disarmament farce, so far from limiting navies, has been used as an argument for further construction, which, as Senator King says, may cost \$1,500,000,000. It was a triumph

indeed for Senator Reed of Pennsylvania, member of the U. S. delegation at the London naval "limitation" conference. Reed is the faithful office boy in the Senate for *Bethlehem Steel, Aluminum Co. of America, Koppers Gas & Coke, New York Shipbuilding* and all the other armaments and munitions firms which grace the Keystone State. His work at London was worth cool millions in dividends to them.

Not the Whole Picture

The army and navy budgets, the PWA appropriations and the Vinson Act do not give the whole picture. In the army budget, for example, is another \$248,000,000 for "non-military" purposes, such as rivers and harbors, flood control, etc., a good share of which is to aid warship navigation. Take the exhaustive surveys of the ocean floor near the coast line where commercial ships never go. These surveys chart meticulously the level of the ocean floor to a depth of more than 100 feet, information clearly of no use to surface ships. The survey patently is for submarine operations.

Then there is that \$350,000,000 given the Civilian Conservation Corps. Assistant Secretary of War Woodring praised CCC for having given the army the grandest workout on big scale mobilization since the World War. For those who say that the work of the 300,000 youth mobilized has no War bearing, it should be pointed out that they are getting a six months' toughening indispensable for every soldier, in addition to the military discipline of

army officers. These boys can be whipped into first class soldiers in a few months.

Even Cemeteries

Of the PWA army money, \$60,000,000 is for army housing and technical construction and \$10,000,000 for motorization. Air corps planes get \$7,500,000 and seacoast defences \$7,000,000. Ordnance gets \$8,309,491. Thoughtfully PWA looked ahead and gave \$592,161 for military cemeteries. In addition the War Department got \$226,399,808 from PWA for "non-military" functions, a substantial part of which inescapably aids in War preparations and the training of the army.

Of the PWA navy money, \$24,210,000 goes into the navy yards and docks and \$7,500,000 into planes. Civil Works Administration had \$25,000,000 for War work, such as modernizing Camp Lewis, the big military concentration point for the Pacific Coast. Tennessee Valley Authority gets \$50,000,000, a substantial part of which goes for explosives factories run by cheap electricity from Muscle Shoals and projected dams.

An effort to total these sums leads straight to the asylum for broken-down statisticians. Few know, outside the army and navy War colleges, exactly how much has been made available by Roosevelt and his Congress for preparations for the next War. One thing is certain. The \$556,000,000 ostensibly devoted to the army and navy departments is only part of a fund which undoubtedly exceeds \$1,000,000,000 for the fiscal year 1935.

(Continued from page eleven)

federate Senate instructed the Committee on Military Affairs immediately to report a bill "to take into the military service of the Confederate States, by volunteer enlistment and with the consent of the owners, or by conscription, not exceeding 200,000 Negro soldiers." Think what this body of armed, able-bodied Negro men would have meant for Negro liberation a few months later! Slave owners in the Confederate Congress evidently did think of it. The resolution was defeated.

Keeping the Negro "in His Place"

The Negro's part in the Civil War among the Northern troops is well enough known: that Negroes made up 161 regiments comprising 178,975 men, and that these troops included 141 regiments of infantry, seven of cavalry, twelve of heavy artillery, and one of light artillery; that these Negro soldiers came from both the South and the North—Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Virginia, and Louisiana being among the slave States from which Negro volunteers came to help destroy



War manoeuvres by Air and Sea. The Navy now participating in the largest theoretical Warfare in the history of the Country

slavery (or so they thought). Most of these Negroes fought upon the very plantations that had held them in bondage; fought as nobly as the oppressed have always fought for their liberation; fought and, all odds being against them, lost.

What were the odds that were against these fighting Negroes of the North and of the South? Simply the organized determination of the ruling class, both North and South, that once the blacks had been exhausted as tools to help bring victory, they would be shifted back into "their place." In the South the Negroes were disarmed, with the help of the North, and re-enslaved by their former masters. In the North, when allowed to work at all, they were forced into the most degraded of menial jobs. Thus from the earliest days of this republic: in times of ruling class terror of losing to the enemy, the Negro becomes a comrade and a brother in arms; as soon as the terror has subsided and conditions are again normal for the ruling class, the Negro is shoved brutally under foot and stepped upon, trod upon, to keep him "in his place."

And Now . . .

No portion of the Negro's history as a soldier is more important than that which records his part in the Confederate ranks. It is only when we possess these facts, along with the facts of the Negro soldier's betrayal in this country in general, that we can begin to understand how desperately he has struggled for generations for a way out of his misery and degradation. The Negro slave's rallying under the Confederate flag was simply his heroic effort to free himself. That the medium he employed was tragically the incorrect one he has learned long ago; but because it was tragically incorrect, the lesson it teaches us is all the more powerful. That lesson is that in the imperialist War now in the making, the Negro soldiers shall not be a pawn of the ruling class, later to be kicked contemptuously once more into "their place."

"But even if Hitler succeeds in getting his war, the huge stocks of armament and chemical poisons which he is now piling up will not guarantee victory. In order to insure victory in the coming struggle, Hitler requires a gigantic army of docile servants. This is at present still lacking in spite of appearances. To go to war now would mean placing arms in the hands of his political opponents—the millions of young Communists and Socialists." —Pierre van Paassen in the New York Evening Post.

A letter sent out to stockholders from the office of the General Motors Corp., reads: "As producers of military aircraft, we are in a position to profit by the vast sums being expended experimentally for the development and improvement of aircraft engines by our Government through the Army and Navy which, in turn, can be utilized advantageously by the air transport industry and be in sympathy with the automotive industry, and by the same token permit the research and engineering facilities of General Motors to create, develop, and serve."

THEATRE as a WEAPON

By CHARLES R. WALKER

Author of "Steel—The Diary of a Furnace Worker," "Our Gods Are Not Born."

"Peace on Earth," the anti-War play, produced by the "Theatre Union," has been running for five months in a large New York theatre, in spite of the adverse criticism of the capitalist press. "Stevedore," by Paul Peters and George Sklar, is the second play produced by this group. This article, written by the Treasurer of this group, tells of the experiences in building a theatre "based on the interests and hopes of the workers as a class."

The first professional workers' theatre in America was named the Theatre Union by its founders because they hoped to establish a close union between playwrights, actors, theatre technicians, and audience such as does not and cannot exist in the commercial theatre. In nearly two years of organizing for its first production, the Theatre Union formulated for itself and attempted to solve the following main problems, (1) finding plays that deal with social and economic questions from the point of view of the working class; (2) finding competent actors, directors, and technical advisers; (3) financing the theatre on a professional scale; (4) building a special audience.

To date the playreading committee has read 156 manuscripts of "social" plays. Out of this number only four or five are even remotely possible as Theatre Union plays. It is significant that our first two plays were written especially for the Theatre Union by members of our own group. This does not mean that we intend to produce only plays which we ourselves write. We believe that the existence of the Theatre Union will stimulate the writing of social plays that make no compromises for Broadway box office; that deal boldly and honestly with the problems of the working class; that are dynamic and militant in intent.

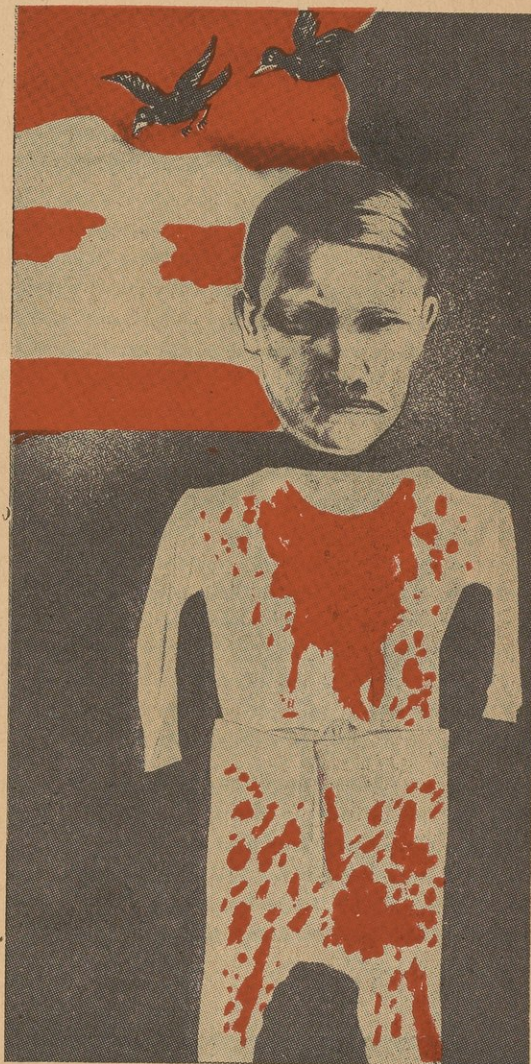
Theatre Workers Joining

On the production side of the theatre, our experience has shown that competent actors and actresses, technicians, and directors are anxious to work in our kind of organization. Theatre workers have learned much during the years of depression and unemployment; many are disgusted with the Broadway theatre, not only because of its uncertainties and frequent injustices, but also because they know their talents to be wasted on the puerile material of most Broadway shows. We hope to strengthen our acting group by forming a permanent company when this is possible. The Theatre Union Studio, in which professional actors carry on experimental work in acting, is a step in this direction.

Anti-War Play Success

The financing of the Theatre was one of the main problems, of course. In other attempts at building a social theatre in America, there has

always been an "angel" in the background. We had no single angel. The \$5,800 which we raised to put on *Peace on Earth* was contributed by more than 200 people and mostly in small amounts. Our aim is that plays shall be self-supporting. *Peace on Earth*—with its large cast and elaborate lighting—had a larger running cost than future plays will have. It did not pay back its production costs,



HEIL HITLER!

though it made a small profit over running expenses. The heavy losses of the first three weeks when the Theatre Union was still unknown to the workers, and the vicious attacks of the critics kept the bourgeois audience away, more than account for this.

Future plays probably will "catch on" much sooner; many organizations that supported *Peace on Earth* purchased blocks of seats for *Stevedore* as soon as it went into rehearsal. Of course we cannot expect that every play will be as popular as the first one. A permanent theatre must be prepared to finance an occasional "flop." We are raising a sustaining fund as a guarantee of a full season of plays next year.

The audience is the most important element

in any theatre, and not only because it comes to the box office and buys tickets. The audience determines the character of the play, and to a surprising extent—the quality of the acting. Anyone who saw "Peace on Earth" at its opening and again several weeks later must have noted the heightened warmth and vigor of the performance, as the actors responded to the enthusiasm of working class audiences.

Workers—Unemployed—Middle-Class

More than half—perhaps two-thirds—of the 125,000 people who saw the play were workers. Ten thousand of these were unemployed, who were given free tickets through their unions, clubs, or unemployed organizations. Groups taking blocks of seats included sections of the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the League for Independent Political Action, the League for Industrial Democracy, branches of the Friends of the Soviet Union and the International Labor Defense, the Marine Workers Industrial Union, the Shoeworkers, the Beauticians Unions, the Office Workers Union, the National Student League, high school classes, college classes, peace organizations, women's clubs and drama groups, etc. We have established the *Theatre Union* for a workers' audience, and as a class, workers are more aware of the War danger than the bourgeoisie. We also hope to attract, and did attract to *Peace on Earth* many thousands of liberals, intellectuals, theatre lovers and miscellaneous people who cannot be classed as the "converted." A Presbyterian minister, who recommended the play to his congregation, writes, "The play shows very plainly how quickly the cry of Communism can be raised when an issue in any way interferes with 'profits.' I was glad that I could have with me my seventeen-year-old son, for it gave him a new and entirely fresh presentation of a very timely subject."

Many problems remain to be solved before the *Theatre Union* is firmly established, but our experience with our first production proves that the time is right for this kind of a theatre, and justifies the basic principle—"a theatre based on the interests and hopes of the workers as a class."

MERCHANT SEAMEN

By JAMES GREEN

To Rear Admiral Yates Sterling, Jr., of the United States Navy, the coming War appears as a brutal conflict with mass destruction of the civilian population. He says (in the *New York Herald Tribune*, March 18):

"From the moment War is declared, each side will endeavor to destroy completely the economic resources of its enemy. Human life (and that includes women and children), being an economic resource, will be sacrificed as ruthlessly as material. General annihilation will be the objective in this fight to a finish."

And yet to this Admiral the War will not be without romance. He speaks of the "romantic" submarine. Yes, Admiral, there may be romance for you; standing in your gold-bedecked uniform on the bridge and giving orders, but what romance will there be for a sweating fireman in the hold of a freighter not knowing when a torpedo will send him to the bottom, caught there like a rat in a trap?

Romance?

No romance for the seamen of the merchant marine, that's certain. Let us recall the last War, during which the United States supplied 60 to 70% of the War materials needed for the legalized murder in France, until this country began sending her own men to fight, too. All this great quantity of material was shipped across the Atlantic in convoys of vessels sailing under the escort of a number of warships and with the added protection of a fleet of destroyers that would join with the convoy as it neared the zone of enemy submarine activity.

Picture a ship loaded to the gunwales with

munitions, explosives and troops, with no lights showing, creeping slowly through the danger zone, everything pitch black. Suddenly there is a terrific explosion as the ship strikes a floating mine. Of course there are not enough life-boats for all, nor time for every one to get away. The merchant seamen who went through such experiences will have them forever stamped upon their minds.

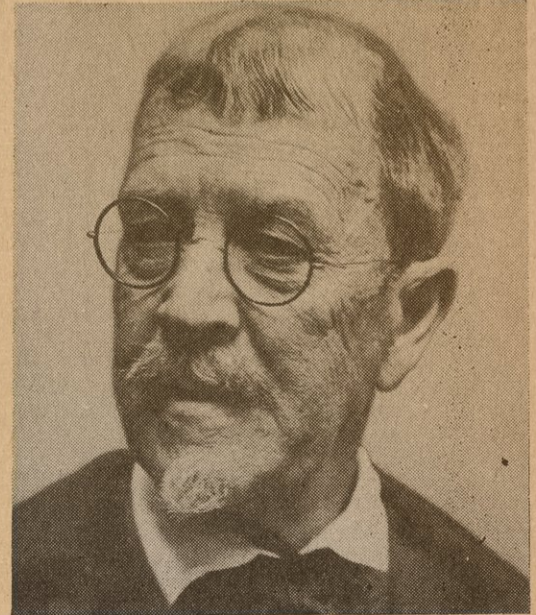
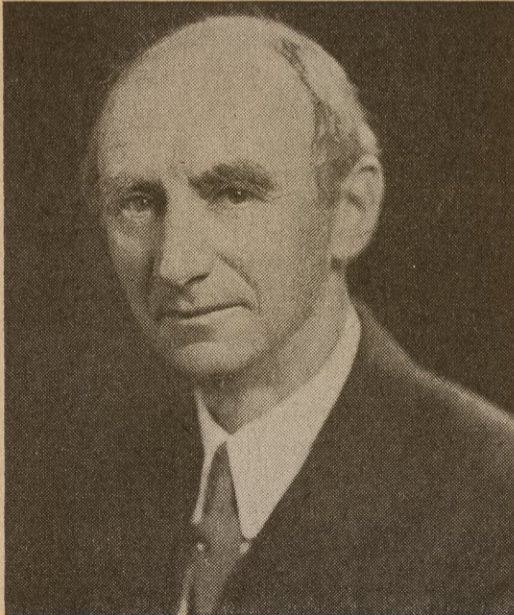
Never Again

And the War-makers know very well that we, merchant seamen, don't intend to go through such a hell's life again. That is why the United States Shipping Board has been quietly pursuing a policy of weeding out the seamen who had experience in the last War and in the strike struggles that followed it. These included many foreign-born workers who had brought from Europe a tradition of militant unionism. They have now been replaced by young native workers largely recruited from the rural sections of the country, so that while in 1921 the U. S. Shipping Board shipped 87% foreign-born seamen, a decade of discrimination has reversed the statistics so that today less than 13% of the seamen shipped are foreign-born.

In addition, the leaders of the old unions who betrayed the great strike of 1921, have been helping the shipowners prepare for War and its big profits by spreading lies about foreign-born seamen, by proposing a National Maritime Board that would outlaw strikes and by urging that all seamen be forced to serve a year in the navy. In addition they want all other unions illegalized, particularly, of course, the militant industrial unions.

Stop Munition Shipments

It is plain that in the maritime industry the cards are stacked all down the line for War, and there is only one force that can prevent them from being dealt and that force is the international class unity of the workers organizing and carrying out strikes against shipment of War materials and co-operating with all those who are seriously fighting against War.



Three of the newly elected officers of the American League Against War and Fascism. (LEFT) Robert Morss Lovett, Vice-Chairman. (CENTER) Harry F. Ward, Chairman. (RIGHT) Lincoln Steffens, Vice-Chairman



BUILDING the LEAGUE



By **IDA DAILES**
Assistant Secretary

The Baltimore Section of the League has begun concentration on very important waterfront points of that city. Here are located chemical plants, scrap iron, ordnance and ship-building depots. Leaflets were distributed to these workers announcing an anti-War outdoor meeting April 6th. When the speakers arrived more than five hundred workers were waiting for them and by the time the meeting was in full swing, 1500 Negro and white workers were in attendance from these basic War industries. The meeting was addressed by marine and steel workers, and the response was good. Another meeting will be held in the same place when committees and branches of the League will be set up. A similar meeting at another point on the waterfront was attended by six hundred seamen, steel workers and longshoremen, with equally good response from the audience. Committees of the League have been set up on five ships. A benefit performance of the motion picture, *Forgotten Men*, is being given by the Baltimore Section, with an anti-War part replacing the patriotic ending of the film.

M. Sapir, Secretary of the New Haven Section, reports that, after speaking before the Central Trades Council of the American Federation of Labor, he received authorization to appear before all local unions in New Haven to appeal for affiliation. At the present time thirty-three organizations are affiliated, including some A. F. of L. Unions, and more are expected in the next few weeks. Sale of FIGHT before munitions plants is continuing and workers now ask for the magazine when League supporters come to the plants to distribute leaflets. Competition between League supporters in selling FIGHT stimulates the growing circulation of the magazine. Y.M.C.A. clubs are supporting the New Haven Section, which now meets in the "Y". A successful meeting was held on the seventeenth anniversary of the U. S. entrance to the World War, with a large demonstration now being planned for the central green, on April 13th.

Inquiries have come in from Wilkes Barre, Pa., Sioux City, Iowa, Aberdeen, S. D., Pueblo, Colo., Menasha, Wis., Hatfield, Ark., and other points throughout the country requesting information on how to organize sections of the League. Information and material have been sent and we expect to hear of results from these places in the near future.

Over six thousand workers, students and professional people came to the first city-wide demonstration against War and Fascism on April 6th, organized by the recently formed New York City Central Committee. The high point of the demonstration came when Norman H. Tallentire, General Secretary of the City Committee, appealed for new members for the League and 2,000 people rose to their feet. Dr. Harry F. Ward, National Chairman of the League was the main speaker of the evening.

The New York City Committee reports: (a) branches and neighborhood committees are being organized; (b) preparations are under way for a city-wide demonstration and mass meeting on August 1st, the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the World War; (c) a class for speakers meets every Monday evening; (d) a research bureau has been organized to provide material for speakers and pamphlets.

A section has just been established in Bridgeport, Conn., another center of the munitions industry. A protest demonstration against a Nazi meeting was organized by this new section of the League. An open forum is scheduled for April 22nd.

The April 6th meeting of the Rochester Section aroused the super-patriots of that city. The meeting was denounced as an attack on the Mayor's Army Day proclamation. Every newspaper in town carried news items, statements, and editorials. The Rochester Committee received a tremendous impetus from this publicity and is proceeding in its work with increased vigor.

The members of the band and field corps at the Hebrew Orphan Asylum in New York were informed to prepare for the Army Day parade of April 7. Indignant at being forced to "participate in a militaristic demonstration" the boys got up a petition signed by 33 of the 75 involved and presented it to the administrator of the institution. Col. Simmonds threatened to attack one of the alumni who has been guiding the children and finally succeeded in bulldozing the signers of the petition into marching, against their will.

The Youth Section has sent a letter of congratulations to the children, pledging its support. A delegation to protest the repression of the anti-War sentiment of the boys and girls is being sent to see Simmonds.

YOUTH SPARKS

One of the largest Y.M.H.A.'s in the country, 92nd St. and Lexington Ave., N. Y., held an anti-War conference on April 8, at which affiliation with the Youth Section, American League Against War and Fascism, was voted. There were credentials of 394 delegates, each representing 5 people. A permanent committee has been set up. Other cities are invited to follow suit.

From Baltimore we get word that two anti-War committees have been organized on ships leaving that port. On one of these ships a pledge was signed by 29 of the seamen to strike against imperialist War on May 1. This is part of the activity being developed in Baltimore, leading up to the conference to be held there on April 29.

Another good sign is the setting up of an anti-War committee in a large New York metal shop. Two days after the group was organized, the committee was able to sell 20 copies of FIGHT.

A New York provisional meeting held during the month set up an executive committee. May 13 was selected as the date for a huge city-wide conference which will have as one of its chief purposes the development of a demonstration on National Youth Day, May 30.

Buttons for National Youth Day are ready. They are to be sold to City Committees at 2 cents a piece. We've got a staff waiting for orders, so let's go!

As we go to press, National Student Anti-War Week, April 6-13, received remarkable response throughout the country, and in a great number of places the call of the American League Against War and Fascism was received warmly and enthusiastically.

Connecticut State College for Women is to be shut down entirely on April 13 in accordance with the decision to have strikes on that day. U. of S. California, U. of California, Los Angeles Junior College, John Hopkins University, City College of New York, Columbia University, Brooklyn College all report intensive strike preparations. At Johns Hopkins a meeting of 1,500 was held on April 6.

The Social Problems Club of University of Missouri is holding a state-wide anti-War conference in April. The same time will also see a conference at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

—J. L.

MAY DAY

MAY DAY is here. And with the coming of May Day (*International Labor Day*) millions of workers throughout the world pledge their allegiance in the militant struggle for a world without poverty, for a world where capitalism will be only a page in the history of mankind.

IN THE year 1934, workers, farmers, housewives, teachers, unemployed, ex-servicemen, young people, writers, students, etc., are preoccupied with the War danger and the rise of Fascism. This spring and summer, as the struggle will intensify, what will be *your* share in this work?

PERHAPS you still have some doubt about the possibility of Fascism coming to the U. S. A.? Remember what the average German thought only three years ago. Remember that only five years ago they said in Germany that Hitler was a maniac (and he is) without any chance of his rise to power.

THE War danger and Fascism are a reality—as real as spring and summer and May Day itself. **FIGHT** is leading in the struggle against imperialist War and Fascism. **FIGHT** is already reaching thousands upon thousands of people in every state of the Union. *But this is not enough.*

TO BE effective in our struggle we must reach thousands of people in every city and town of this country. Will you help? We are asking *you* for one simple thing. *Secure two subscriptions to FIGHT.* As the price of the magazine is only 50 cents a year, this request, you will agree, is within reason.

WE ARE depending upon you, Readers of **FIGHT**. This is your magazine, owned, managed and edited by your organization, the American League Against War and Fascism. We have priced the magazine within your reach. Will you help build the circulation of **FIGHT**? Will you mail us two subscriptions within the next two weeks?

CLEVELAND, ARE YOU THERE?

OVER 100 cities and towns throughout the U. S. A. order monthly bundles of **FIGHT**. These 100 odd cities and towns are doing their bit in helping in the struggle against War and Fascism. **FIGHT** is their medium in building the American League Against War and Fascism.

CLEVELAND, the sixth largest city in the country is not on the job. (We are going to be frank on this point.) Where cities smaller than Cleveland sell from 500 to 1,000 copies a month, this large industrial center has been ordering 25 magazines a month.

WHERE are the trade unionists of Cleveland? Where are the students and professional groups? Where are the Socialists and Communists? Where are the militant workers? Is Cleveland with a population of one million satisfied with a sale of 25 copies of **FIGHT**? Is there no struggle against War and Fascism in Cleveland?

THE fight against War and Fascism is a serious matter. The business of organizing a City Committee of the American League Against War and Fascism is a serious undertaking, leading to militant struggle. Every city and town in the United States must build this real united front against War and Fascism.

WE CALL upon you, workers, farmers and middle class groups everywhere to ask of your organizations—trade unions, churches, farmers' associations, political parties, student bodies, youth leagues, fraternal orders, ex-servicemen's groups—to get on the job and form a section of the American League.

WE CALL upon you in Cleveland and elsewhere to order bundles of **FIGHT**. Go to your organizations and point out to them the path they are to take in fighting War and Fascism. The magazine sells in bundle orders of ten or more at 3c a copy. Place your order to-day. Organize the struggle against War and Fascism!

FIGHT Against War and Fascism, 112 East 19th Street, New York, N. Y.

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