

# FIGHT

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5¢

## AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM



Drawings by Franklin Sims

### Pioneers, Builders—Slaves?

**T**HE PIONEERS of America crossed the plains and mountains of a continent traversing thousands of miles of barren country. They opened a new world.

The men and women of America built the railroads, mined the coal and iron, built the factories and the skyscrapers, plowed the fields.

These men and women—the people of America—battled for their liberties, for better working conditions, for shorter hours, better pay, for free speech, a free press and the right to organize.

In 1864 Abraham Lincoln said: “. . . corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavour to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the republic is destroyed. I feel, at this moment, more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war.”

These “corporations,” industrialists, bankers—the rulers of America—in order to “prolong” their “reign” are attempting to rush through Congress bills to suppress the rights and liberties fought for by the people of America. Various sedition and alien bills—H.R. 4313, 5845, 5839, 3989, Res. 3, 57, 2897, 3056, 2866, 3036—are bills to suppress whatever rights are now ours.

After years of building, sweating, struggling, is it now to be terror, prison, closed union halls, deportation, gag laws?

The people of America have faced difficult problems before. And now, if the industrialists and bankers force this issue upon the workers and farmers, it will be dealt with concretely and sharply “in this crisis in the history of mankind.”

*Fight in defense of our civil rights! Fight against gag laws! Fight in defense of our unions and all working class organizations! Fight in defense of free speech, a free press and the right to organize! Stop Fascism!*



# DEFENSIVE WARS

By LeROY E. BOWMAN

*Child Development Institute, Teacher's College, Columbia University*

IN NO recent instance has the futility of mere liberalization of point of view as against a thoroughgoing analysis of social causes been so clearly demonstrated as in the student poll on War conducted by the *Literary Digest*. As announced in that periodical, 65,000 students voted on their attitudes toward War as follows: 68% believed the United States could stay out of war, 82% would not invade the borders of another country, 63% did not believe in a navy and air force second to none as a way of keeping out of another War, 90% wanted government control of munitions, 82% favored universal conscription of all resources of capital and labor in time of War. All this show of liberalized thinking caused army, navy and various Fascist groups too much concern. They should have underscored one other question the students voted on, and found that 84% said they would fight if this country were invaded.

## All Wars Are "Defensive"

If those who fatten prestige or profit by War would do the difficult thing the students in large measure had failed to do, that is to think for a moment, they would know that for 84% of these 65,000 students all the demoralization of society and the butchering of men that accompanies War is still a matter merely of pushing a few propagandist buttons and of lighting a few flares of War in a controlled press.

54,000 students voted their willingness to fight if this country is invaded. In other answers they had proved themselves socially minded and liberal. (After all they ought to get some satisfaction out of a regimented way of replying to a stereotyped statement of a huge social problem put in the inadequate words that beg the whole question of the

## Editorial Announcement

Pressure of other work in the field against War and Fascism forces me, regretfully, to leave the magazine at this time. The year and a half of editorship has definitely established in my mind the courage, determination and sacrifice of thousands of people in the struggle toward a world without War and Fascism; and the necessity of building a press and propaganda machine for this struggle.

The National Bureau of the *League* has placed the editorship of the magazine (beginning with the next number) in the experienced hands of Mr. Liston Oak who, I am confident, will receive the cooperation and support of all our friends, and will in these trying days develop FIGHT into a publication of great power and influence.

I wish to thank the many readers and friends, the writers and artists, the various *League* secretaries and literature agents for their assistance, patience and unfailing response to the call of building the magazine.

JOSEPH PASS

causes of War). So, on the most significant question, 54,000 students, who are supposed to be learning to think, gave vent to all their old effete loyalties and their traditional passions, and covered them over with a nice layer of academic progressiveness.

If any of them ever thought about history while they were "studying" it, they would have known that all Wars are "defensive." "Our rights," "our sacred territory," all the excited ballyhoo and beating of tomtoms to arouse War passions—all this always goes back to this primitive, tribal, defensive attitude. The students of fine literature might have gone to the flowing cadences and exalted ethics voiced by Woodrow Wilson, when he called on this country to defend a lot of sacred things against a bunch of nations all worn out with their own struggle across wide seas.

Does honor actually, or wages, or affection for fellow students, or social justice—does anything like that stand in the slightest danger of invasion from another nation? Why then the red herring dragged across the trail by those who are supposed to dislike anything red? The horrid thought obtrudes itself that even this *Literary Digest* poll was a good way to consolidate a War feeling, whether or not the editors meant to do so. For to arouse a "defensive" attitude is all that is necessary to put us all in a frame of mind ready to be set off on a War scare by the slightest rumor of an invasion of our prerogatives.

## Who Places Chips on Your Shoulder?

It is appalling to think how impotent 125,000,000 people would be to tell what had happened, or if anything had happened, in some island in the Pacific that belongs to the United States if rumor "cried havoc and let loose the dogs of war." Rumor in these modern days can be started very easily by an interested faction that has access to the daily press. The new psychologists explain the old idea of a person with a chip on his shoulder, by saying he is "defensive." The defensive minded students who let themselves be led by their noses as they bent them over the questionnaire, have chips on their shoulders. Any navy leader or munitions maker can knock off the chips without any danger to himself. The students would find themselves killing fellows of other lands whose shoulders also carried chips.

## Who Is Invading?

Instead of letting the *Literary Digest* put meaningless chips on their shoulders by means of the outworn phraseology of a bygone social situation, the students might have asked themselves two simple questions: What, that is valuable to us now or in the immediate future, is being invaded? And who is invading it? Perhaps some of the 11,000 who voted against "defensive" Wars thought about these questions, and could have told the questionnaire

goose-steppers that there are few jobs for the 65,000 students when they finish college. Perhaps they would have said that the most sacred possessions of any thinking young American (his chance to live a decent living and take his place in controlling his own economic and political destiny) has already been invaded and plundered.

So if the students mean business when they vote against invasion, it is high time they begin to fight right now. And if they are aroused by the awful vision of an aggressor, it might be exciting to take some infra-red photographs of the American scene and spot a few individuals of that breed. They are easy to discover, for many of them sit in high places.

## A Real Fight

There is this difference between fight against the imaginary invasion of the nation's territory by foreigners and fight against invasion of everything worth while by American (100% "American") plunderers. In the first instance one waits to defend not his country but the *status quo* in that country, not his fellows, but the forces that have already conquered his country. In the second instance one goes intelligently, in organized fashion, to destroy exploitation that not only brings on us in time of peace all the deprivations of War, but through operation of economic forces on nationalistic controls, brings War itself. To agree to fight if the United States is invaded is to perpetuate War and to ignore the causes that underlie all Wars.

Peace is not a negative state to be reached by refusal to fight at all. It is an end to be achieved; (1) by refusal to be regimented under the forces that make for nationalistic Wars, and (2) by active, aggressive, militant fight against the forces that cause Wars. To quote Harold Lasswell of the University of Chicago, the problem of peace action depends on "arousing the embattled demand of the millions for justice."



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Mussolini dispatches Fascist army to War against Abyssinia



Native of Abyssinia—the only Negro Republic in the world

# WHEAT, HOGS and FERTILIZER

By JOHN STRACHEY

Author of "The Nature of the Capitalist Crisis," "The Coming Struggle for Power," "The Menace of Fascism," etc., etc.

As we go to press, the author of this article, a leading British anti-Fascist, has been arrested for deportation by our immigration authorities. Mr. Strachey has been to the forefront in the British movement against War and Fascism and was on a three month lecture tour in the U. S. A. when the Hearst press initiated the campaign for his deportation. This article is part of a pamphlet which will be published shortly by the American League Against War and Fascism.—EDITOR

**W**HY IS it that the whole world today, the whole capitalist world I should say, is heading towards War? It is not until we can understand this question that we can really get any grasp of the intensified jingoism that accompanies Fascism. We believe that capitalism, in the fine phrase of that old French working class leader, Jean Jaures, brings War as naturally as the clouds bring rain, because it produces a situation in which the ruling elements in capitalist state after capitalist state see absolutely no other way out of their difficulties than a resort to War.

## World Capitalism Today

I can't possibly in the brief space allotted me here, give any adequate analysis of the economic situation of the capitalist world today. But I would like if I could just to epitomize it in a little story which some of you may know, but some may not know. I think this story sums up both the comic and the tragic aspects of the situation of world capitalism today:

Over in Europe there is, as you know, an arm of the sea running into the country of Holland; it is called the Zuyder Zee. It is very shallow, and for a very long time the Dutch have looked on it as a possible field for reclamation. Very wonderful reclamation projects have been undertaken in Holland century after century, and the Dutch

thought to crown them by reclaiming the Zuyder Zee itself. A few years ago this great project actually got started. The Dutch, a highly capable people, with first-rate engineers, set themselves to this huge task. They undertook it with great skill and perseverance. And their efforts soon began to be crowned with success. In a surprisingly short time a considerable area of the sea had been reclaimed.

Now the Dutch agricultural experts had always said that as soon as the Zuyder Zee was reclaimed, and the land made available for cultivation, it would prove most fertile land for growing wheat. Again the calculations of the Dutch technicians proved perfectly correct. The land, as hoped, proved wonderful land for growing wheat. The Dutch farmers moved onto it and soon grew an admirable crop of wheat. Everything went exactly as the technicians had promised; it seemed that the whole enterprise was a triumphant success.

## Too Much Wheat

But now the first difficulty arose. What was to be done with the wheat? There was already a surplus of wheat, a glut of wheat, on the Dutch market. It was almost impossible, in fact it proved quite impossible, to dispose of this extra crop. The price of wheat began to slump catastrophically.

Well, it wasn't long before the Dutch government had to step in to save its farmers. It had to buy up the wheat in order to keep it off the market. Then the Dutch government was itself faced with the problem of what to do with the wheat. After long and difficult negotiations the Dutch government managed to get into touch with the Danish government. And they were able to dispose of their wheat, though at ruinously low prices, to the Danish government. Now the purpose of the Danish government in buying the wheat was to use it, not for human consumption, but for feeding to the hogs which are the chief products of

Danish agriculture. Now, as you can imagine, this big influx of foodstuffs for the Danish hog-raising industry soon increased the supply of Danish pork and bacon.

Up to this point everything had gone just as the Danish government had hoped. But now the second difficulty arose. What was to be done with the Danish pork and bacon?

The Danes looked around everywhere. The British market, which is the chief one for Danish hog products, had been recently cut down by a policy of import duties and restrictions of every sort. The price of Danish hog products began to slump disastrously. Well, in the end the Danish government was forced to buy the bacon and pork from the Danish farmers just as the Dutch government had had to buy up the wheat. And now the Danish government was faced with the problem. It was clear that the hog products could not be used for human consumption. And so in despair the Danish government decided to process them and thus to make them into manure. And this was actually done. The manure factories of Denmark were put into operation, and very soon they had turned out a very largely increased supply of splendid fertilizer for the land.

## More Difficulties

But now the third difficulty arose. What was to be done with the fertilizer? There were no farmers in Europe who wanted to intensify their cultivation or extend their acreage. It didn't seem possible to find any market for the fertilizer at all. The Danish government was in a terrible quandary. So at last, and in desperation, they reopened negotiations with the Dutch government. And the Dutch government finally bought back the fertilizer, though of course, at a ruinously low price, and put it back on to the soil which had been reclaimed from the Zuyder Zee. And so you see the

(Continued on page ten)

# WHO BENEFITED?

EIGHTEEN years ago this month the U. S. A. entered the World War. Do you remember what was told to us? Do you remember how we entered the War to "make the world safe for democracy?"—so we were told.

Today, eighteen years later, we have facts and figures. Now we can look into these facts and figures (see chart below) and understand what it was all about.

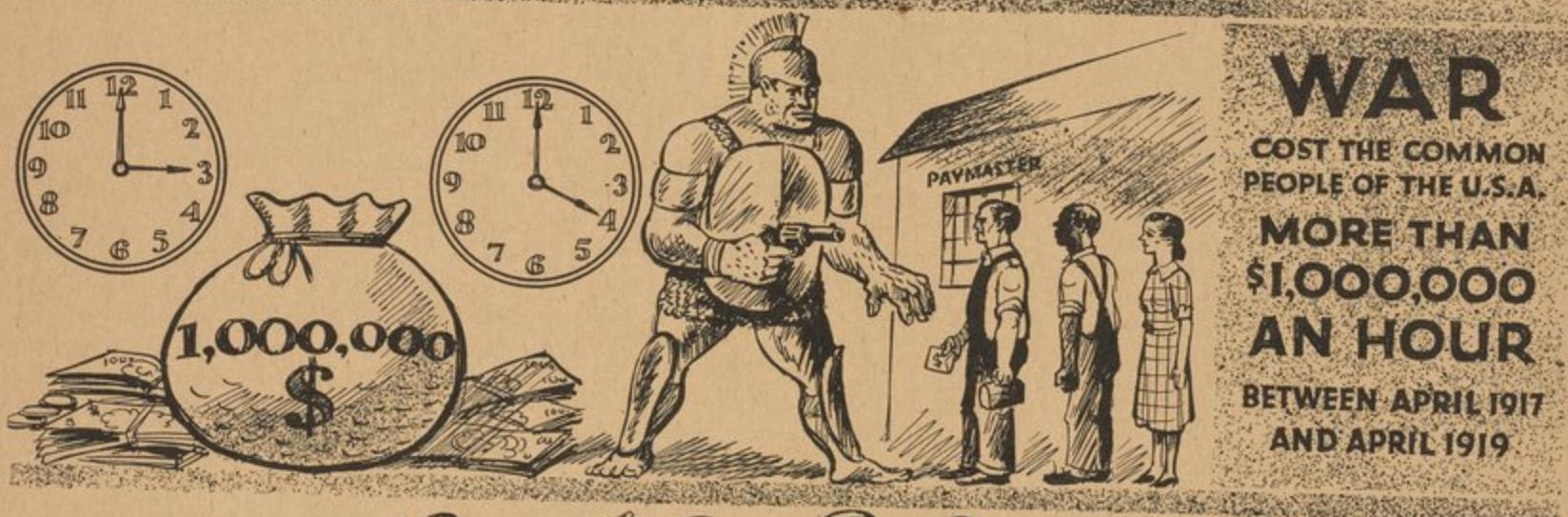
126,000 Americans died, believing that their death would make their country a better place to live in. 234,000 more Americans were wounded—thousands are crippled to this day—so that the 48 states should be free states, with jobs, homes and schools for all. Workers and farmers were made to give their pennies and dollars, so that more guns and battleships could be built. The common people paid for the War in the belief that the War was a War to end all Wars—as we were told.

While we believed in what we were told and while we died on the battlefields for that belief, the industrialists and bankers

were cashing in. The War did not "make the world safe for democracy". We know that today. It was not a War to "end all Wars." We know that today, too. It did not give us better jobs, better homes and better schools. Then why did we enter the War? U. S. Ambassador Walter Hines Page cabled from London to President Wilson (a secret cable) on March 5, 1917: "It is not improbable that the only way of maintaining our present preeminent trade position and averting a panic is by declaring war on Germany."

Read the figures below and learn the cost of "maintaining our present preeminent trade position." WHO PAID FOR IT? WHO BENEFITED BY IT? WAS THIS THEN OUR WAR?

Now we are approaching a new crisis. The U. S. A. is again arming, spending more and more money for War purposes since the armistice. WHY? WHY? Today, on the eighteenth anniversary of our entrance into the World War, we must ask ourselves this question. We must think. We must organize our forces and fight against another slaughter of the common people.



DIBNER

Drawing by Charles Dibner



Young college students watching the criminal syndicalist trials at Sacramento, Cal.  
During recess these students met the fifteen defendants

# HEADLINES in CALIFORNIA

By ELEANORE ESTES

"THOUSANDS BEING MURDERED IN IMPERIALIST WARS NOW RAGING" "WORKERS! DEMAND THE RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELVES" "It is our belief that a starving and demoralized working class cannot build a new society." . . . What is this? A communist meeting in Union Square? Why, no. The witness-stand in the Criminal Syndicalism trials in Sacramento.

Every five minutes the bull-necked or neckless prosecutors—given to a humor that would make Charley Chase seem cultured and dignified—try to stop the testimony on the ground that it is irrelevant, immaterial. "Objection sustained," says the judge. "Stick to the question, Mr. Darcy,—the *methods* by which you advocate the overthrow of the government by force and violence . . ."

"Object! Object! Object!"

"But we don't, your Honor, and if you will let me finish my explanation of how we try to win over the masses . . ."

Prosecution necks turn purple. McAllister holds out a long arm in an unconscious Hitler salute—"I object, your Honor . . . irrelevant, immaterial, hearsay, not the best evidence. . ."

They argue one hour, two hours, as to whether the witness may continue to give his Party's program, the scientific analysis of society which led Marx and his followers to formulate their teachings . . . or whether they don't know themselves what. Anything to keep out the startling truths of American

society today, those truths that are the breeding-ground of "agitators." They can't send history to San Quentin!

"But . . . but . . . but . . ." Prosecution and judges are nonplussed. They have charged seventeen men and women with conspiring to overthrow the government by force and violence, and they want defense testimony to tell only where the dynamite is bought and where the bombs are placed. And the defense obstinately refuses to mention bombs, dynamite, sidearms, rifles or even machine guns. What is William Randolph Hearst to do, embarked as he is on a campaign to make gangsters and militant labor synonymous? The prosecution is doing its best, but, —Damn it all, you come and try, Willie. These fellows are slippery customers. Keep talking about "surplus value" and "terrific starvation" and "preparations for imperialist Wars" and "no unemployment in the Soviet Union" (we've objected every time that came up, and usually got it stricken from the record, but the jury must have heard it by now), and the violence used by the exploiting class to maintain its power at all costs—something they call Fascism. . . . You come and try to stop them, Mr. Hearst!

The Press Comes to the Rescue

Well, they couldn't do it by court procedure and legal methods, the prosecution; they couldn't make the workers and their leaders come clean and confess strikes were nothing but attempts to ruin California industries, and the red flag nothing but a symbol of bloodshed and anarchy; so the

Press came to the rescue. Every day its captions, its highly colored words, and its choice of what to omit leads to a falsier and more vicious picture.

Captions in the newspapers in the course of the trial have become a dull joke. Reds are charged with rape, with murder, kidnaping, threats, intimidation and gangster violence. A smirking college boy representing the Sacramento *Bee* runs around with McAllister and reports that gentleman's ignorant prejudices more than the trial. (He doubtless hopes to win the praise of his venal bosses for it.) Capitalist reporters have dragged the craft of journalism into the mud. The reading of a page from Olgin's pamphlet "Why Communism?" became for the *Bee* a "PLOT TO KIDNAP PRESIDENT"—a plot hatched in Sacramento today! The reports on propaganda among the CCC became "ORDERS TO CCC WORKERS TO MURDER THEIR OFFICERS," while, possibly to lay the basis for further provocation and as a smoke screen for vigilante action, the issue of Feb. 26th comes out: "PARTY DEMANDS RED REVENGE ON WITNESSES HERE." The news story states that Communist party members in Sacramento had received orders from national headquarters in New York to "concentrate on revenging themselves against witnesses who gave damaging testimony. For this report Leo Gallagher asked to have the Editor of the BEE cited, but Judge Lemmon countered with letters by the thousands he had received from many sources. In the San Francisco *Examiner* the thousands of letters and telegrams which indignant workers and liberals, professors and students, were sending in every day became an eight column banner headline:

"GOVERNOR MERRIAM GETS RED THREATS" and "TRIAL JUDGE ALSO SENT WARNING."

The news story referred to an "ominous overtone of violence," and "revenge plots," and "disclosed" that the State stool-pigeons had been placed under the armed protection of the District-Attorney's office.

Victory—Blow at Fascism

The trial in Sacramento, though appearing so ludicrous to any disinterested observer, is nevertheless of very grave importance. If the frame-up succeeds and these militant workers are railroaded to San Quentin, a heavy blow will have been struck by the subversive and illegal Fascist forces in America at all union labor, at the right to strike, picket and organize, at every freedom fondly cherished by American liberals and middle class people, at culture, learning and knowledge. The Criminal Syndicalism Act is a Hitler measure aimed at union labor, at every civil liberty, at the right to read and learn. All those who care about humanity and the traditions of liberty should write or wire immediate protests to Judge Dal T. Lemmon, Governor Merriam, Prosecutor Neil McAllister. There is definite proof that pressure is having its effect on this trial, prosecution and judge having querulously complained of the "thousands of letters and telegrams" they are receiving. A fine, strong liberal and radical, worker and professional united front is being built in California; support it by adding your voice NOW. Your postcard may be the one that breaks the back of the Criminal Syndicalism frame-up in California.

# CLASH in FAR EAST

By VICTOR A. YAKHONTOFF

Author of "Chinese Soviets," "Russia and the Soviet Union in the Far East."

Recent developments in the Far East once again intensify the War danger. FIGHT invited General Yakhontoff, an outstanding authority on the Far East, to write on this subject. General Yakhontoff was Assistant Secretary of War under Kerensky and has edited a weekly dealing with the Far East. He is the author of a number of monographs and articles on Japan, China and Asiatic Russia. For a number of years, General Yakhontoff has been a resident in the U. S. A. and since 1926 has been active in the work of the Institute of Politics at Williamstown, Mass. In 1929 he conducted a Round Table at the Institute of International Relations, University of Southern California, on "Russia in the Far East," and since 1928 has lectured at many American universities and colleges.—EDITOR

**R**ECENT EVENTS have unexpectedly shifted to our shores the centre of interest of those who, for various reasons, are fearful of the possibility of War in the Far East. These all sense the necessity of watching the moves of Washington rather than those of Tokyo, Moscow or Nanking. Some fomenters of War think the time has arrived when they can work for War by exploiting the new anti-Russian feeling created in Washington by the unfortunate failure of her negotiations with the USSR about the claims and counter-claims.

The hopes of the War-mongers were strengthened very materially when it became known that the State Department had recalled the naval attaché and the air attaché from the American Embassy at Moscow. The natural implication was that by so doing Washington wanted Tokyo to be reassured that no military clause existed in the Soviet-American understanding reached in November, 1933. This was most probably true. But certain people went so far as to assert that there was a demonstration which, being timed with the renewed advance of Japan in Mongolia, was tantamount to an encouragement for Japan to strike on the USSR. We do not accept such an interpretation: it is too ugly to be true. But no one can deny that all this occurred at a time when such unscrupulous factors as William Randolph Hearst and his ilk were busily engaged in a new anti-Russian campaign more vicious than any which we had experienced before.

Considering conditions under which all this is taking place one may well be alarmed, although believing that these exaggerated hopes of the unbalanced minds, irritated by fear and hatred, and advocating War, have little chance to materialize just now.

The danger lies not in what Washington will do or will refrain from doing vis-a-vis USSR, but in how this unhealthy movement



Japan in Arms! Members of the "Japan National Defense Women's League" with machine guns and gas masks

can influence Tokyo, or rather the "ultra-patriots" of Japan who are even less reasonable and less normal than such American "patriots" as the ridiculous King of Yellow Journalism and his cohorts.

Official Washington undoubtedly knows how desirable it is for the United States not to neglect Russia in the Far Eastern plans. Official Washington can hardly sympathize with those who believe in solving the Pacific problems at the expense of Russia. They know



Two children in Tokio in military uniform

that such a scheme is not practicable. It would, moreover, be a piece of folly, for it would be one of the steps leading surely to an American War with Japan. Most probably Washington is annoyed by the too-liberal interpretation of its recent moves by those who are anxious to see a War between Soviet Russia and Japan.

The danger lies in the reaction within Japan.

## A Keg of Dynamite

Knowing that at the present moment the economic situation of the country of the Rising Sun is quite precarious, and that her internal situation is full of dynamite, one can easily concur with the opinion that her militarists

in despair may embark on any new adventure. If this be so, any encouragement to them may impair the rather weak control which the civilian Government of Japan still holds; and then anything may happen!

If and when the Fascistically-inclined military elements of Japan would get the power in their hands, there would arise a situation in the Far East the consequences of which would be hard to forecast! Once loosed, those forces of destruction may start their work of death without delay. Where would be the end of such a new slaughter? No man can pretend to know!

The recent occupation of a part of Chahar by the Japanese troops may mean a beginning of the occupation of this entire province. Chahar is primarily attractive because of its iron ore deposits (almost 30% of the total known deposits of China, outside of Manchuria). Secondly, Chahar may be important for the Japanese because it lies between Outer Mongolia and China proper. By occupying this province Japan may cut off Siberia from the direct route to Peiping via Kalgan. To say just now whether Japan is contemplating such a move is difficult; but under certain circumstances she would most probably take this step. In the so-called Tanaka Memorial, the occupation of Mongolia was considered as a matter of course. Moreover the same Memorial recommended the occupation of many other lands, and even dreamed of eventually establishing Japanese control over the entire world. There is probably no danger of that, but the danger of further expansion on the part of Japan is a very real one, especially if she continues to get encouragement from the other powers.

That is why the new developments in the United States may have grave consequences if they are not checked at the proper time.

## A War Means World War

Let the War-mongers realize that in our days no major War can be localized. A War in the Far East, irrespective of who starts it, will inevitably develop into a world-wide conflagration. That is why those who are anxious to see peace preserved are worried by the events at Washington. Not necessarily designed as such, the recent American moves may be interpreted by Japan as an encouragement to her aggressive plans.

# Cracking Down on Labor

By **LOUIS COLMAN**  
Author of "Lumber"

The writer of this article, whose novel "Lumber" was based on his experiences in the lumber camps of the Northwest, has lived in many western states and seen various repressive measures in operation. He is at present Publicity Director for the International Labor Defense.—EDITOR

**R**IGHT AFTER the War, when the soldiers had been demobilized and were beginning to demand some compensation for the time they had wasted under the delusion they were "fighting for democracy," and when labor was restlessly asking what it was going to get out of the rosy War promises which had been made to it, the answer was a wave of terror under the federal direction of Attorney General Mitchell Palmer, accompanied by a wave of repressive state legislation.

Criminal sedition, criminal anarchy, criminal syndicalism laws were crowded into the statute books to defeat the demands of the demobilized soldiers, of labor, and to safeguard the swollen money-bags for the War profiteers. (Under these laws remaining to this day on the statute books of thirty-six states and two territories, hundreds of militant labor leaders and workers in general were prosecuted. Jail and prison sentences totaling hundreds of years were meted out. Right now, in eleven states under these and related laws, prosecutions are going on and cases are pending.)

Something is now going on that is to a certain extent parallel, but this time preparatory to huge War-profits and in order to safeguard profits already made or still in the making.

## Before State Legislatures

Congress has before it a score of bills designed to "crack down" on labor through the courts and the police—as described in FIGHT last month by Roger Baldwin. A wave of new repressive measures is at the same time sweeping through the state legislatures.

I have before me a pad a quarter of an inch thick of official printed matter of anti-labor legislation which is being considered in California alone. There are twenty-four new laws in this batch, and there may be more which I have overlooked.

First in importance in the California bills are the new syndicalism measures, each providing a page or two of additional counts for prosecuting labor leaders and sentencing them to jail for periods from one to fourteen years on each count.

There are bills denying the vote to anyone convicted under such laws. There are bills denying a place on the state ballot to any political party the members of which have been convicted for belonging to it. There are bills denying to those convicted the use of state educational facilities, the right to teach, to hold public office.

There are bills for the registration of every person in the state, and requiring that every person

carry a registration card for identification; bills to regulate immigration into the state; and, finally, bills giving the police the power of arrest without warrants, and the creation of a special political police and the assignment of political activity to existing police agencies for the enforcement of all these laws when they are adopted.

Under these laws labor in California would literally not have the right to breathe.

These bills as well as the federal bills are backed by the Hearst papers, the top leaders of the American Legion, the Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Associations, the Elks, and, in the South especially, by the Klu Klux Klan, the Red Klan, the Men of Justice, the Order of the Green Dragon, the White Legion, and the vari-colored "Shirts."

\* This coordination makes the drive more or less uniform all over the country, although each state has its own special trimmings.

## In Other States

In Oregon, for example, a whipping law has been introduced.

In Arizona, besides the regular run of repressive bills, special legislation would forbid any person not a citizen to hold a job or to own property within the state boundaries.

In Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and by this time perhaps in one or two other Southern states, sedition laws have been introduced that parallel the "Dangerous Thoughts" Law of Japan, in that they aim to punish "sedition" without making an overt act necessary. In Georgia, where the text for

these bills originated, the purpose is to strengthen the old slave-time "insurrection" law under which Angelo Herndon was sentenced to from 18 to 20 years on the chain-gang.

Alabama and Arkansas have in addition drawn up independent sedition bills with a view of meeting the special conditions of economic struggle in each state. Each of these bills incorporates the strongest and most drastic features of all other similar state laws standing or pending.

Even the Alabama State Federation of Labor, not noted for progressiveness, has been unable to swallow the "Street Bill," as it is termed, and has officially recorded its opposition to it. The Flomaton Post of the American Legion wired the legislature that the endorsement of the bill by the state commander did not "reflect the sentiment of the rank and file." The Birmingham Post, a national pillar of reaction, is afraid of the effect of such a drastic bill, and, anxious though it is to crush all militant labor, American Federation of Labor or otherwise, has published editorials favoring the defeat of this bill.

Fourteen states have introduced bills designed to take or to keep off the ballot the Communist Party and other smaller or militant political parties: Tennessee, New York, California, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Arkansas, Delaware, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, West Virginia.

While some of these bills (the Washington State Ott Bill is typical), are based on criminal syndicalism statutes and definitions, others, of which the bill introduced in New York by Saul S. Streit is an example, follow the simple,

(Continued on page twelve)



Drawing by Schreiber

NEWS ITEM: "The Nazi executioner wears a black tailcoat, top hat and white gloves"

# CCC NOTES...

By JOSEPH MILLER

Illustrations by Phil Bard

**A**N ALL-NIGHT train trip in dusty day coaches; a hurried breakfast; an identification tag; a three-minute shower in the chilly outdoors of early April; a physical examination by Army medics in an unheated room; an issue of Army clothes and equipment; taking an oath that sounded meaningless as the Army officer reeled it off; assigned to a company—and the enrollee had become a full-fledged member of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

An Army Captain entered the company mess hall. A blast on his whistle—silence. "Remain in the company area until further orders. There will be a meeting of the company at one o'clock."

When the scheduled hour arrived a shrill whistle sounded. The members of the company turned out *en masse*. Quiet established, the Captain spoke. "You are not in the Army... the Army is here because it is the only organization capable of handling the situation... Every man must obey his officers." Then other military men were introduced. Following them the squad and section leaders were pointed out. A call for clerks, typists, and cooks, and the session was over.

A letter appeared in headquarters. It bore the signature of the General in command of the Corps Area. Along with some routine information, the officers in charge of companies were advised that the records of the men were of vital importance to the Army.

Daily reports reached the Personnel Office. One company reported 25 A. W. O. L. (Absent without leave). The following day the same company listed another section as missing. Ranking Army officers began an investigation. All of the men were brought back for questioning. The complaints were unanimous. "The food is lousy." The officers promised better food.

A representative of the War Department was coming through for an inspection. The military regiment stationed at the post were ordered to put on a review. The CCC members were informed that all those not on

special duty would have to attend the parade. The visitor was late. The CCC group stood around in mud waiting for his arrival. When he finally made his appearance the regiment went through its paces and put on a sham battle.

Shortly thereafter air and land forces united for military maneuvers. A good portion of the show took place over the CCC camp. Quite a few of the boys stayed up late to watch the planes endeavoring to escape from the searchlight beams.

After the two performances several of the boys commented, "Think I'll join the Army."

The officers were pleased with the results.

May First. The American Legion sent down a delegation. A quartet sang songs. The leader attempted to develop a community sing, but failed. The boys didn't know the songs. With the music over, a Legionaire stepped forward. "May First is a Russian innovation... The Pittsburgh Russians came to this state and took away the civil rights of the people... the Reds are destroying American institutions..." On and on he spoke. The longer his flow of words continued the smaller the audience became.

The first orders for companies to entrain for the forests reached the camp. At the last minute one company had its orders countermanded. It was a Negro company. They were to be broken up and distributed among the remaining groups. The reason given was, "The Governors don't want a solid Negro company in their states." Rebellion broke out. The officers acted with a snap. Several score of the men were discharged.

As the movement of the companies increased, the office forces added to their daily stint. The schedules generally were double the NRA maximum. A Reserve officer called the headquarters staff lazy. The chief clerk retorted, "Why don't you try working?" Nothing happened to the clerk. *Happy Days*, the official publication of the CCC, carried an article of praise about the camps. It claimed that the men were being mobilized several times faster than during the World War.

A Reserve Lieutenant entered headquarters. He asked for experienced clerks for his and a neighboring company. The staff clerks obtained transfers. They received special permits as there was a ban on transfers. To them it meant shorter hours and some leisure time. The new companies lacked complete records of their personnel. The experienced clerks took charge and rushed the records to completion. Both companies were to leave for the West.

A company had received their second typhoid shots that afternoon. The clerk was catching up on his work in the early evening. A sentry entered. "One of the boys is sick."

"What's wrong with him?"

"Don't know. Just keeps shaking his head and talking goofy like."

"Keep an eye on him. I'll be over in a few minutes."

The stricken lad was lying on his cot. His head rolled from side to side. He kept mumbling, "Get off my head... quit hitting me... leave me alone."

A few seconds in the tent, and the clerk strode over to the officers' quarters. The place was empty. "Must be out on a drunk," the scribe mused. Completing a call to the hospital, he returned to the side of the sick boy. An ambulance took the delirious chap to the hospital.

Several hours later one of the officers dropped in. "Anything doing?"

"One of the boys was taken to the hospital in a delirious condition."

"Who gave the order for his removal?"

"I did."

"Next time don't go around giving orders as if you were someone. If any others get in that condition let them sleep it off."

Three days later the boy returned to the company against the doctor's orders. The medic wanted him to remain another day at the hospital.

The company medical officer was transferred. He took along his supplies. One of the boys swung an ax and missed the object he tried for. Instead he cut a gash across his



"Some time later the same officer remarked: 'I'll shoot any pacifist that I catch in this camp'"





"One company reported 25 A. W. O. L. (Absent without leave). The following day the same company listed another section as missing"

foot. Luckily, the forestry foreman had a first-aid kit. He gave temporary treatment. The section doctor was stationed in a camp twenty miles away. When he called the cut was sewn up so that it could heal properly.

A Lieutenant speaking to the company clerk stated, "I am in this for the money." Some time later the same officer remarked, "I'll

shoot any pacifist that I catch in this camp."

July Fourth. The clerk visited some friends outside of camp. The next day he was called into the officers' tent. A newspaper had a front-page story on the picnic stating that it was a Communist meeting under Young People's Socialist League auspices. A brief grilling. The clerk was shipped out without trans-

portation home. What papers the clerk had were stolen by the officers.

Back home, the discharge papers mailed to him read:

"Acknowledged agitator. Criticized the government. Planned to foment trouble."

A letter to the CCC director regarding his treatment brought the response, "The officers were justified."

# MOVIES to ARMS

By CARL DREHER

**O**F LATE the movies have exhibited a startling increase in their output of militaristic pictures, *Warners-First National* leading the way with a trilogy of service films, *Here Comes the Navy*, followed by *Flirtation Walk*, and, currently released, *Devil Dogs of the Air*. These pictures differ in setting, but the formula is the same.

For *Here Comes the Navy* the government obligingly donated the Pacific fleet, various navy yards and training schools, the Sunnyvale airport, and the dirigible *Macon*, since descended to a watery grave. This picture introduced the team of James Cagney and Pat O'Brien. In the picture Cagney joins the Navy to satisfy a grudge against O'Brien, who is a CPO, and woos O'Brien's sister (Gloria Stuart). Life in the Navy is portrayed with fair verisimilitude, including deck-swabbing and brass-polishing. After Cagney is court-martialed for being AWOL he doesn't like the service, and is not backward in saying so to all and sundry. His shipmates ostracize him, but he is taken back into favor when he behaves heroically in a gun turret fire. The whole ship's company is assembled on deck in dress uniform to see Cagney get a medal, which he promptly tosses away, to the distress of the Admiral who had put on his cocked hat for the ceremony. Cagney is a sad "Bolshevik" at this stage, and lectures by Gloria Stuart and O'Brien on the traditions of the service do little good. Finally he is regenerated by a transfer to Sunnyvale, which enables him to save O'Brien's life when the latter is dragged aloft by the *Macon* in an attempted landing. (Such an accident actually occurred at San Diego some years ago with fatal results, but in the picture Cagney climbs down a rope and

does a double parachute jump with O'Brien—a feat which is not difficult on the projection process stage at Burbank, but which in the air would require close cooperation between the Brothers Warner and God). The picture ends with Cagney receiving a boatswain's commission and marrying the lovely Gloria.

## Correcting Dangerous Ideas

In *Flirtation Walk* Dick Powell, the manicurists' delight, is the juvenile, instead of Cagney; Pat O'Brien gets another hard-boiled role as a sergeant. The romance is between Powell and Ruby Keeler, Al Jolson's mammy in private life. The scene flits from the West Coast to Hawaii, thence to West Point, where Powell becomes a cadet. The larval soldiers are shown marching and counter-marching, mildly hazing one another, singing in chorus, and saluting interminably with their hats off. In a moment of rancor O'Brien delivers himself of the dangerous doctrine that the Army isn't the officers, but the privates and non-coms; he speedily corrects himself, however, to the effect that really the Army needs officers, who have the brains to give orders and lead the dumb clucks in the ranks. The picture ends on a note of romance, without any fighting or unpleasantness like men's intestines hanging on barbed wire.

*Devil Dogs of the Air* is a repeat on *Here Comes the Navy*, with Cagney and O'Brien cast as flying marines instead of sailors. It contains the same conflict over a girl, the same homilies on the traditions of the service, the same artillery display, drilling, and saluting, the same fast-tempo action, and the same sez-you brand of dialogue. This picture starts with some of the craziest flying ever seen, contributed, I regret to say, not by Messieurs the

Marines, but by a Hollywood stunt flyer named Clark. Among other antics he twice jumps a plane over an ambulance by pancaking with great force in front of the obstacle, bouncing over it with a few feet of clearance to another impact landing on the other side, which takes him into the air again. The Marines, in their formation flying, show much more regard for their own necks and the taxpayers' money.

These pictures have been successful at the box office, and more of them are in work or scheduled for production. Warners are planning an Annapolis picture to parallel *Flirtation Walk*, a Coast Guard picture, and perhaps one written around the naval medical service. *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer* has previewed *West Point of the Air*, an Army flying picture with Wallace Beery. The latter is also in *Metro's Born to Fight*. Beery's third uniform picture in this year's releases will be *Professional Soldier*, for which he is being lent to Darryl Zanuck. Shirley Temple is not yet carrying a gun, but she is an honorary colonel in five states.

## Approved, Edited by Washington

All service pictures are made from scripts censored by the appropriate arm, carry a technical advisor assigned by the same, and must be approved in edited form by the general staff in Washington before the picture can be even previewed. The services welcome such films because the publicity is valuable in promoting appropriations, and they tend to focus public attention on what General Carr calls "the pleasant features of war." At the *Devil Dogs* opening in New York two Rear Admirals lent their presence, besides numerous cap-



Utilizing the movies for military propaganda. (ABOVE) Iris Adrian, movie actress, posing on anti-aircraft gun

tains and lesser officers, together with a detachment of marines and a naval militia band.

Another type of military or, specifically, imperialist film, is Paramount's *Lives of a Bengal Lancer*, a two-hour glorification of the British raj in India, recently released after almost five years of preparation and shooting, with the final version bearing little relation to the original except the title. It is a monument to the military virtues, with its climax in a battle between the Lancers and a cruel Mohammedan khan who captures and tortures some British officers. The British win, of course, and while Gary Cooper is killed in action, he is rewarded by a posthumous decoration. The assumption throughout is that the British are in India out of sheer courage and idealism—not a word is said about taxation, commercial greed, and racial arrogance. Franchot Tone recites Henley's *England, My England* very movingly:

*Life is good, and joy runs high  
Between English earth and sky.*

We are left to infer that such incidents as the Amritsar massacre are England's way of making joy run high between Indian earth and sky.

#### Profit and Military Propaganda

Not having hidden myself, recently, under the big table at meetings of the *Producers Association*, I am not privy to the designs and motives of the motion picture magnates, but from a considerable experience in the industry I feel safe in denying that there is any conspiracy on their part to promote militarism. They are simply trying to make money, and with the Hays Office frowning on sex and

crime, armies and navies here and abroad offer tempting subjects. Another consideration is that every time a producer makes a domestic service picture he gets a few hundred million dollars' worth of props free.

The real significance of these pictures lies elsewhere. Previously some of the movie companies manifested pacifist tendencies, exemplified in *All Quiet on the Western Front*; *Journey's End*; parts of *Cavalcade* and *A Farewell to Arms*, and the like. These pictures made some effort to show the end result of military preparations, while the current crop of military films portray the valor, the smartness, the abnegation of self, the irresponsibility—all the seductions of the career of arms, and blandly omit the bestiality, disease, starvation, and ruin which follow as the night the day. In other words, the hang-over of 1914-1918 has run its course.

#### Organized Protest

I see no effective remedy as long as the

## FASCIST COURT

From the court proceedings of Matthias Rakosi, the Hungarian working class leader, who was tried recently at Budapest.

Next, a protocol from Colonel Feher was read.

Rakosi: I know nothing about this protocol. I have heard of it for the first time here at this trial. And Feher and his adherents, as also the Lieutenant-Colonel Herczeg, heard here as witness, were counter-revolutionists.

Presiding Judge (sharply): Answer my question. Were or were not proceedings taken against Szamuely on account of these cruelties?

Rakosi: I did not know that this protocol existed.

Judge: In the course of these proceedings you have stated that Szamuely received his authority from the commanders-in-chief of the army, and not from the Government Council. Here is the protocol.

public is willing to pay for the pictures. The movie administrators are timid, and if any formidable groups started after them they would change their policy in respect to military films just as they cleaned up the screen at the behest of the Catholic hierarchy. If the bishops who froth at Miss Harlow's lascivious glances, Joan Crawford living in cinematic sin, or the high-wiggings of the Hollywood chorines, would become half as indignant over organized slaughter, something might be done. But in general they are the kind of moral leaders who raised an uproar over the falsely reported nationalization of women in Russia, while the nationalization of men in the United States, for the purpose of killing and being killed, left them unmoved. There are exceptions, but as a class they are today just the same as then. In any case, the causes of War lie much deeper than the movies; we are dealing here only with symptoms. Even if the symptoms were suppressed, the next War would follow in due course, perhaps a few months later.

Rakosi: I did not say that.

Judge: Don't argue with me. I call you to order.

Rakosi: It can be ascertained from the protocol who is right.

Judge: I call you to order again, and punish you with three days' imprisonment in a dark cell.

Rakosi: Then I shall make no further statements.

Judge: For that piece of insolence I impose eight more days dark cell arrest.

Rakosi: Six days is the maximum permitted.

Judge: Don't argue with me.

Rakosi: Then I shall take no more part in the proceedings.

Rakosi was sentenced to life imprisonment.

## STRACHEY

(Continued from page three)

fertilizer went back just exactly where it came from.

#### The Road to War

That story, with its irrationality, its absurdity, with above all, its tragedy of incredible and colossal waste of human skill and enterprise; its utter inability to distribute the foodstuff which had proved so easy to produce, appears to me to be the epitome of modern capitalism. Moreover, it is, I suggest, this remorseless economic pressure which Capitalism is putting on the world which is driving the world to the solution, if you can call it a solution, of War. And it is because Fascism has absolutely no remedy for the problems of capitalism, that it is driven to travel along the same road that Capitalism as a whole is traveling along, namely, the road to War.

## FLASH

NEWS DISPATCH . . . Hitler proclaims universal military service for every able bodied man in Nazi Germany. 500,000 will be conscripted immediately. Within twenty-four hours of the proclamation of conscription Germans were shown examples of the monstrous army that is being forced upon them. Full War equipped troops paraded down the *Unter den Linden*, in Berlin.

WIRELESS TO A NEW YORK NEWSPAPER . . . Hundreds, perhaps thousands of Protestant pastors were held prisoners in their homes today (March 17) by Adolph Hitler's secret political police. . . . Some 5,000 pastors are affected by orders to the secret police to suppress the Protestant protest (against Nazi suppression of the church) . . . it can be said with certainty that at least 700 were arrested in Berlin.

# MR. PRESIDENT!

By M. B. SCHNAPPER

*"There is no ground for apprehension that our relations with any nation will be otherwise than peaceful."—President Roosevelt.*

**T**HEN HOW, Mr. President, do you justify your new army and navy budget of a billion dollars?

Then why, Mr. President, are you plunging the United States into the largest peace-time expenditures for military purposes in our entire history, expenditures which will probably exceed by at least \$400,000,000 the military appropriations of any other country?

Then why, Mr. President, are you increasing the size of the American army by fifty per cent, as provided for in the administration's War Department bill?

And how, Mr. President, do you explain the fact that your representatives in Congress are pushing through your billion dollar budget, by expressing very grave apprehension about our relations with other countries?

## Eager for Bloodshed

Surely, Mr. President, you would admit that Senators Robinson, Lewis, Copeland, et al, are among your white-haired boys in Congress. Surely they wouldn't say anything contrary to your wishes or contrary to the wishes of the interests which you and they represent. (It may interest you to know, incidentally, that even Senator Long has defended your War appropriations.) Now, these administration gentlemen, among others, have repeatedly waxed panicky over the absolute inadequacy of your War machine considering the strong probability of War in the very near future. They would have the United States arm to the teeth; they would have the United States push forward vigorously to its imperial destiny in the world.

They mince no words about the probability of War with Japan and with Soviet Russia. Indeed they seem eager for bloodshed with both these countries, because the defeat of Japan will make it possible for the United States to capitalize its tremendous stake in the Orient; and the defeat of Soviet Russia will not only remove an obstacle from the path leading toward America's imperialist goal, but will remove a threat to the very existence of capitalism in the United States.

Senator Lewis, for example, has evolved an interesting thesis about the necessity of War with Japan and Russia. The essence of this is that Russia will join Japan in fighting the United States.

## Demagogy and Lies

"Japan," declares Senator Lewis, "will not only move in order to defend her course and to justify her anticipated position, but, as surely as my honorable colleagues sit in this



Drawing by Mackey

## APRIL FOOL!

*Coughlin, Hearst and Long, backed by the industrialists and bankers, at the old game*

chamber today, giving me the patient attention of their consideration, Japan will soon make her gesture to Russia on the theory that the United States is now in doubt as to the wisdom of having received Russia into the family of nations. . . . The proposition will be made squarely to Russia: 'You furnish the army! we, Japan, can furnish the navy.' With the Army of Russia and the Navy of Japan confronting us, where stand we?"

Presented with such a thesis, Congress is losing no time in approving appropriations for War bases in Alaska and in Hawaii. A statement by a Japanese naval officer asserting that plans for an American air base in Hawaii "may produce undesirable effects" has only encouraged Congressional action on these plans.

## Trouble at Home?

But perhaps President Roosevelt's apprehensions were domestic when he urged an increase by more than fifty per cent in the size of the army?

For the War Department is peculiarly adapted for taking care of such domestic difficulties as militant workers and farmers, strikes and protest demonstrations.

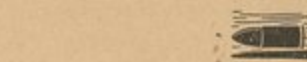
"We are seeking," President Roosevelt told the executive council of the A. F. of L. on February 11, 1935, "to promote peace, cooperation and understanding in all industries of the United States between labor and management."

What instrument better than the army is there to promote such "peace, cooperation and understanding"?

Is it any coincidence that the National Guard's force and weapons will be greatly increased and improved under the new War Department appropriations at a time when the workers are rising throughout the country? While the increase in the strength of the regular army will be spread out over a five year period, the National Guard will, under the new War Department plans, be strengthened almost immediately by 25,000 additional men and \$6,400,000.

## How About Workers and Farmers?

Mr. President, if you are for peace, then how do you justify using this, the largest peace-time appropriation, for military purposes, instead of using the billion dollars for the relief of the unemployed, of the distressed farmers and of those deprived of education and the social services?



The leader of the Spanish clerical Fascists, Gil Robles, recently came to Asturias, for an address to the local reactionaries. Great precautions were taken to safeguard the much disliked Fascist leader, as his appearance in Asturias aroused great excitement among the workers. Guarded by the police, civil guard and the militia his entire address was an incitement to the government to proceed even more brutally against the workers of Asturias

# AN ARMY MAN'S STORY

By WILLIAM H. O'DONNELL

WAS ONE of ten children of a working class family. After school days in the public schools of my native Massachusetts, I enlisted in the United States Army. This was in 1909, and I was then twenty years of age. I was first assigned to Fort Meade, in the Black Hills of South Dakota; and in 1911 was sent to the Mexican border. There I was part of the Border Patrol while Mexico was passing from one revolution to another. In 1915, during the so-called "Bandit Raids" in the Rio Grande valley, I was a Sergeant of cavalry. In February, 1916, I was sent to Corozal, in the Canal Zone; and just before War was declared against Germany, I was transferred to the Canal Zone Police Department. In February, 1919, I was transferred back to Fort Brown, Texas; and remained on the Border Patrol until I was finally discharged in 1922.

## I Become a Police Officer

Then I came to Vineland, New Jersey, where, after a rigid examination, I enlisted in the New Jersey State Police. After three months' intensive training I went on the road as a non-commissioned officer. I served with the State Police for four years, during which time I found that an honest officer is not a permanent fixture in any police department. I had sustained a certain injury while serving in the Police Department; and was discharged in 1926 for "disability." I never received any compensation for injuries and was forced to civil life, and thence to unemployment. This occurred after twenty years of service.

During the summer of 1934 the unemployed of New Jersey decided to organize; and we then staged the only one hundred percent strike of the unemployed in the State.

Six miles from Vineland, at the *Seabrook Farms*, the workers were striking against miserable pay and working conditions. Terror and Vigilante bands opposed them. The *Unemployed Council*, which I helped organize, was in sympathy with the *Seabrook* workers; and every day we went in a body to strengthen the picket lines at the Farms. We had both to assist the strikers in their fight, and to defend them if they were arrested. Many arrests were made by officers in the employ of the *Seabrook Farms* and daily terror was the strikers' lot. On the ninth of July we were forced to use against Mr. Seabrook and his strike-breaking army some of his own tactics, and several times during that day had the scab army on the run. A significant event was that, during the most important and severest crisis of the strike, I was asked by the County Prosecutor to become a Deputy Sheriff. As this would have compelled me to fight against the very working class I had sworn to defend, I naturally turned his offer down. Cans of dynamite were then planted in the garage of the Union Organizers, in order to frame them with its possession. A few days

later, after I had made an open-air speech exposing that same County Prosecutor for having offered me the Sheriff's job, I was framed and arrested.

## Agricultural Workers Fight

We made things so hot for the authorities that they had to give me a hearing. For the first time in South Jersey not only was the City Hall packed but the roads were so congested that traffic was virtually stopped. The



O'Donnell as a soldier in the U. S. Army

hearing lasted four and a half hours. So strong was public opinion that the judge before whom I was tried dared not sentence me until two days later, when I was given six months in Bridgeton County jail. I immediately went on a hunger strike, and remained on it until the workers were so aroused that they had the bosses and those whom they represented scared to death so that they had to have bodyguards. The same County Prosecutor who had caused all the trouble to the agricultural workers and to myself visited me in the jail in order to obtain my co-operation for my own early release. I served a six months' sentence in exactly twenty-three days.

## We Mean Business

My advice to all workers' organizations or individuals interested in the welfare of this country is: Take an active part in the program against War and Fascism. By protest, demonstrations, by organized action, stop the arms manufacturers, the Hearst press and those others

who have bloody programs of War. Serve notice on those sent to Washington to represent you that there be no more Wars. Let us for all time instill in their minds that we mean business.



The Nazi Secret State Police recently banned the Catholic paper edited by Father Wuest, in Eltlingen (Hessen) for a period of three months, because the paper had on January 20 published a letter from a Brazilian convent, containing the following passage: "Here blacks and whites, yellow men and red men all get on well together; certainly we shall in time send coloured missionaries from Brazil to Germany to convert you modern heathens."

## CRACKING DOWN

(Continued from page seven)

arbitrary procedure of changing the election laws. They raise the number of votes necessary for certain offices in a previous election to put the political party on the ballot in the next election without petitions. The number would be raised to just above that polled by the Communist Party in the last election.

## They Can Be Defeated!

A notable victory by labor in the fight against the new wave of repressive measures can already be recorded. In New Mexico a criminal sedition bill was defeated in the senate. The fight against these measures is meanwhile going on fiercely in nearly half the states of the Union. It is quite obvious that only a really determined effort on the part of all the forces in the land sincerely and militantly opposed to these measures can and will defeat them. Organize mass protest meetings! Go to trade unions, granges, clubs, religious bodies—unite with them in this struggle! Write and wire your congressman, senator, governor and your state legislature. These gag and sedition bills can and must be defeated!

Five to six thousand refugees from the Saar (most of them had originally escaped from Nazi concentration camps in Germany) are being kept virtual "prisoners of War" in the French prison at Strassburg. Their life in the Barracks of the Lycee Nord is under military control. Food is almost inedible, and whoever refuses to eat and incites rebellion against military regime is threatened with immediate return to Germany. With only one doctor for the whole camp, sickness is prevalent and thus far no ordinary sanitary hygiene measures have been taken.—*Facts and Figures*



Two Fascist forces in Greece are fighting for domination of the country. (ABOVE) Greek soldiers

# BATTLESHIPS or SCHOOLS?

By JOSEPH COHEN

National Secretary, National Student League

**E**VEN THE opponents of the student movement against War were ready to grant the significance of the strike of 25,000 students in April, 1934. The efficacy of the strike was seen in the scare that was thrown into the ranks of the ROTC conference which met in Washington after that strike. We offer the slogans of the strike which is to take place this year at 11 a. m., on April 12th:

**STRIKE AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR!  
FASCISM BREEDS WAR—FIGHT  
AGAINST FASCISM!  
SCHOOLS, NOT BATTLESHIPS!  
ABOLISH THE ROTC!**

Initiated last year by the Youth Section of the *American League Against War and Fascism*, the *National Student League* and the *Student League for Industrial Democracy*, the united front has been broadened so that this year, side by side with the numerous student conferences which have affiliated with the *American League Against War and Fascism*, the strike is being sponsored by the *National Council of Methodist Youth*, the *Middle Atlantic Division of the Inter-Seminary Movement*, the *Student LID*, the *NSL*, the *American Youth Congress* and the *Youth Section, American League Against War and Fascism*.

## Militarizing the Student Body

Ominously reminiscent of the War-time period are the bills which are being introduced in the various states of the Union to force on students and teachers a "yellow dog" oath of allegiance. The proposed Nunan bill in the New York State Legislature is supported by Hearst and is calculated to eliminate the most active student fighters against War for "violating" a pledge to support the American Constitution. Hearst and the proponents of

these bills will receive a fitting answer in the student strike.

In 1916 the National Defense Act was passed which provided: "Systematic military training at civil educational institutions for the purpose of qualifying selected students of such institutions for appointment as reserve officers in the military forces of the United States." One year later the teachers of New York State were told by Dr. J. H. Finley that they "must do with . . . brain and daily speech what the soldier does with his body and his daily training for fighting."

Now, eighteen years after the entrance of the United States into the World War, the students of America, joined by their brothers in Cuba, Mexico and other countries of Latin America, will show, by the greatest demonstration of student unity and the largest strike in American educational history, their determination to struggle against impending War. Taking their cue from the *World Student Congress* which met in Brussels at the end of 1934, the students in this country will strengthen the united front which is being

cemented in the strikes in high schools and colleges this April 12th. Those committees which have been set up in the schools at conferences and strike meetings will continue their existence and activity as long as the need exists for uncompromising struggle against ROTC and War preparations.

## "Our Lives Are at Stake"

The strike on April 12th will assume real meaning and maximum effectiveness only if it becomes the basis for the organization of a unified national student movement against War and Fascism, in alliance with the world committee set up at the Brussels Congress. This national movement, whose roots will be established in the united committees and conferences in the schools, will have as a major task the organization of the Pan-American student congress against War and American imperialism, which was decided upon by the Brussels Congress, for September of this year.

We must, on the eve of the April 12th strike, repeat the call which has been issued by the national strike committee:

"If we are not willing to accept this responsibility, how grotesque it will seem to the survivors of another world conflagration, standing amid the shambles. Our lives are at stake. We have no alternative. Strike against War!"

## CUBA

As we go to press Cuba is under a military dictatorship. President Mendieta seeks to break the general strike which has crippled the island. For a number of months it has been clear that, with the help of U. S. Ambassador Caffrey, the Cuban government was moving into the frame vacated by Machado. The rights of Trade Unions had been curbed. Students' self-government bodies were stripped of their power. Colonel Batista of the Cuban army was given a free hand in suppressing every civil right of the people. The general strike of 350,000 students was followed by that of the teachers, and the labor unions joining in made it complete. One of the demands made is the ousting of the American ambassador who, in spite of Roosevelt's "good neighbor" policy, has followed imperialistic precedent in his Cuban efforts. Hundreds are reported to have been killed. All unions have been outlawed.



A protest demonstration in Athens, Greece, where the Fascist forces, backed by British and French imperialism, are fighting for control

# VETS BETRAYED

By WALTER WILSON

Author of "Forced Labor in the United States"

**S**O STRONG was the hatred of militarism and War among ex-soldiers in the immediate post-World War period that a convention of the *American Legion*, despite the wishes of Legion officials, went on record against compulsory military training. One of the chief reasons the veterans hated the War was the fact that they were drafted to serve in the army at the front and at home at \$1 a day while the government helped the business men at home to literally coin gold. Soon after the World War demands grew to "Draft the Dollar" and to "Equalize the Burdens" in the next War.

As early as 1922 *American Legion* officials connived with the War Department to put these demands to good use.

## Forced Labor

Having found the direct route to preparedness closed by the veterans and public opinion, they tried to reach the same goal through a different approach. Accordingly the Legion's Royal Family worked out its famous Universal Draft plan. Ostensibly it was a "peace measure" to discourage Wars by taking "profits out of War" by drafting industry and man power alike. Actually it was a move to get a draft law through in peace time and to enable the government to draft labor and fix wages for its forced labor.

In 1931 the Legion was able to secure a joint Cabinet-Congressional commission (later called the *War Policies Commission*) which was to investigate plans to equalize the burdens of War. The majority report of the Commission recommended a whole batch of War preparedness legislation to Congress. Thus far their recommendations have not been made laws. But the War Department has taken it for granted that Congress will pass them in any emergency. Its War plans are based largely on the recommended legislation. And now President Roosevelt has asked the present Congress to pass the recommendations of the old War Policies Commission which, he says, will "take the profits out of War."

The men Roosevelt selected to push the proposed measures through are, however, on record as being opposed to drafting property in time of War. Bernard M. Baruch goes on record with the statement that "money must be given a wage or else it won't work"; he believes that financiers and industrialists should get only a "reasonable" not an "excess" War-time profit. Nearly all of the President's committee have declared it unconstitutional to draft property even in War time.

## Legion Officials—What They Say

What have Legion officials to say about their Universal Draft or "profits out of war" plan? Frank N. Belgrano, jr., national commander of the Legion, was the first big public figure to endorse the President's plan (he got his statement into print just before Lamot du Pont, big munitions maker and World War profiteer, announced his wholehearted approval).

Perhaps the best statement of what the Universal Draft means to the Legion appeared in the *Iowa Legionnaire* on January 11, 1935. Hanford McNider, former National commander, is on the editorial board of this paper. In explanation of an essay contest sponsored by the Legion on the subject of War profits and world peace, the editors said:

*This subject lines up very closely with the Universal Draft plan being promoted by the American Legion. This draft plan, as you know, proposes to draft all workers and all manufacturing plants into Government service, the same as it does the men in the army, which would mean that there would be no profit made by any one on munitions or other commodities used by the army, nor would there be any high wages paid to the man who stays at home. This, as you will see, does eliminate the profit motive from war, and will, therefore, contribute to world peace.*

Legion leaders are unanimous about drafting labor and giving the worker a soldier's wage. But just what do you mean when they talk about "drafting the dollar?" Ralph T. O'Neil, then National Commander, when he testified before the *War Policies Commission*, recommended a **GUARANTEED RETURN OF 7 PER CENT TO INDUSTRY IN WAR-TIME** as a "fair return." He knows, or should know, that there are a hundred and one ways of jumping this 7 per cent (huge returns in itself) up to 100 per cent. O'Neil admitted that the name "Universal Draft" was misleading but that it was used because it carried popular appeal. Mr. Thomas Kirby, National Chairman of the *Disabled American Veterans* advises giving capital "a reasonable return upon investment." Paul V. McNutt,

now Governor of Indiana and former Commander of the Legion, thinks that the plan will prevent only "undue profit."

As a matter of fact the Legion's officials are not even in favor of curbing the activities and profits of the War-mongering munitions makers. William B. Shearer, who was employed by the munitions people to help wreck the Geneva disarmament conference of several years ago, said at the Naval Affairs Committee investigation of his activities, that he had always worked hand in glove with Legion leaders, even to the extent of furnishing National Commander McNutt with material for his speeches on National defense. Past Commander Spafford recommended Shearer to the Legion's legislative representative, John Thomas Taylor (publicity man for the poison gas makers and also financially interested in the chemical industry) as the "best posted man in the United States on National Defense."

## Betrayed by Leaders

In 1932 international veteran organizations representing over 8,000,000 ex-soldiers, including the American Legion, met in Geneva to "plead for peace" and to "block war they see approaching." According to the *New York Times* the veterans of every country except America and Italy were for curbing the munitions makers in time of peace. "The Legion," continues the *Times* story on March 20, 1932, refused to accept the majority resolution only because of the clause demanding the suppression of private profit in the arms business."

Obviously the rank and file of the Legion who are sincerely against militarism and War profiteering have been betrayed by their leaders. The legislation proposed by the Legion officialdom, the War Department and President Roosevelt does not even remotely aim at "taking profits out of war" or preventing war. The Universal Draft means drafting labor and guaranteeing profits for big business.

"BOYS, WE DID  
OUR BIT IN 1917.  
ARE WE READY  
AGAIN?"



Drawing by Adolf Dehn



# BUILDING the LEAGUE



By **IDA DAILES**  
Administration Secretary

**T**ACOMA, Wash., held its first conference with 47 delegates, including five A. F. of L. unions, a post of the *Veterans of Foreign Wars*, the Auxiliary of another post of the *Veterans of Foreign Wars*, two Granges, the Socialist Party, six unemployed groups, two church youth groups, the Young Communist League, etc. A continuations committee of seventeen was elected for the conference, and is working to get representation from many organizations to the Northwest Congress Against War and Fascism to be held in April.

An anti-Hearst meeting held by the *League* chapter in *Bayonne, N. J.*, is reported by the Secretary to have been highly successful, with many new faces in the audience and good publicity in the local press. Discussing the speaker of the evening, Waldo McNutt, the secretary said: "Not only was his talk good, but, more important, his handling of the discussion period was excellent. . . . For our meeting next month we expect to concentrate on drawing Negroes into the *League*. Our plans include visiting churches, organizations and individuals during the month, and holding a symposium late in March."

*Milwaukee, Wis.*, chapter was responsible for a splendid rally for academic freedom held there recently. Although the *League* did not hold this rally in its own name, it was initiated and organized by the *League*. Among the supporters were Mrs. Catherine Duncan, president of the local *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*, Dr. Maxter, Socialist Mayor of West Allis, Mrs. Victor Berger, widow of the Socialist Congressman, Andrew Biemiller, educational director of the Socialist Party, Miss Carrie Edmundson of the *State Teachers College*, Miss Ethel Gardner, president of the *Teachers Union*, Henry Ohl, jr., President of the *Wisconsin State Federation of Labor*, and many other leaders prominent in various walks of life.

A very successful meeting was held by our young *Stamford, Conn.*, chapter. It was addressed by Dr. Harry F. Ward, and attended by several hundred people from *Stamford* and *Greenwich*. It resulted in establishing connections with new people who will help build this chapter into a strong, representative organization.

The Northwest Congress Against War and Fascism which will take place April 6th and 7th in *Seattle, Wash.*, was called by the *Portland, Tacoma* and *Seattle* chapters of the *League*. It has the support of prominent trade unionists, farm leaders, socialists and a socialist local, leaders of the *Commonwealth Builders*, ministers, *Seattle Metal Trades Council (A. F. of L.)*, etc. Reverend Akerman is making a tour of about twenty towns in *Washington, Oregon* and *Idaho*.

The *Los Angeles* Chapter of the *League* is responsible for establishing chapters in *Santa Monica, Glendale, Whittier* and *Pasadena, California*. Seema Matlin, Secretary of *Los Angeles*, was arrested for distributing leaflets explaining the meaning of "Defense Week" at a parade held during that week.

*Cleveland* Chapter is engaged in an intensive campaign against local criminal syndicalism bills and a group known as the "Secret Seven," which is sponsoring repressive activities.

A successful city conference held by the *Newark* Chapter had representation from the Socialist Party, the *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*, the *Haddassah*, the *Essex Trades Council* and ten local A. F. of L. unions. Dr. Ward was the chief speaker at the conference.

*Baltimore* chapter reports distribution of 4,000 anti-Hearst stickers, sale of 300 postcards against the alien and sedition bills, and good distribution of the petitions. Through the *League's* efforts there, organizations not yet affiliated are passing and sending in resolutions against the alien and sedition bills. This chapter is carrying on research on chemical industries in *Baltimore*, and a chemist who is a member of their Speakers' Bureau is giving talks on the situation to a number of organizations. An active campaign is being carried on against a bill now before the *Maryland* legislature which would bar from the ballot candidates who advocate any change in the form of government or who belong to an organization which does.

A mass protest meeting against War and Fascism held in *Hamtramck, Mich.*, an industrial suburb of *Detroit*, was attended by 500 people. It took the form of an anti-Hearst meeting, and speakers addressed the audience in Polish, Ukrainian, Russian and English. A conference will be held by this live chapter on March 31st.

*Pittsburgh* is organizing an extensive anti-Hearst campaign. They report tremendous anti-Hearst sentiment in the labor unions. They plan to hold a series of anti-Hearst meetings, get out a leaflet on Hearst, arrange speakers' outlines, send resolutions to trade unions and other organizations, send delegations to the local Hearst paper and picket the paper. All these activities are to culminate in a large mass meeting against Hearst about the middle of April.

*New York* Chapter is centering most of its immediate activity on the *Madison Square Garden* meeting against the alien and sedition bills. In addition, picketing and a delegation to the *Italian consulate* in connection with the *Abyssinian* situation are being planned, together with a conference of organizations on this question around the middle of April.

A very good meeting with Reverend Compere of *Milwaukee* was held in the farming community around *Askov, Minn.* Several members were obtained, and the people from neighboring communities who attended the meeting were deeply interested.

The student strike over, all participating students should be kept united for future actions. The first big national action to follow is the May 30 demonstration in which young workers will join as well as students.

## YOUTH SPARKS

**T**HE BIGGEST War budget in peace time history is not the only way by which the people of this country are being prepared for War. Beside army and navy preparedness, it is necessary to prepare the minds and emotions of the civil population. This is what Hearst is doing now. Recognizing that the fight against War includes fighting against War propagandists, the *League* has started anti-Hearst agitation. In *New York* one of our affiliated groups carried through a neighborhood anti-Hearst conference. In another part of *New York* a youth branch held an effective anti-Hearst demonstration on the busiest street in the neighborhood. This included a picket line with members carrying anti-Hearst slogans. Passers-by were impressed, and some pledged themselves to stop reading Hearst. A similar demonstration was held in *Chicago* a month ago.

An Inter-denominational youth conference at *St. Louis* endorsed the student strike, the May 30 demonstration against War which the *Youth Section* will sponsor, as well as other proposals of the local *Youth Committee*. The *American League* was endorsed. The *Peace Commission* of the Inter-denominational youth conference in *New York* followed *St. Louis* in adopting the resolutions sponsored by the *Youth Section* including the student strike, condemnation of Hearst and attempts to militarize CCC Camps.

Some of the notes in this column reflect the developing support of our program among church groups. Endorsement of the entire program or of specific points should be followed by the sale of literature and drawing members of these groups into our activities, otherwise endorsement will lose its value. For example: All affiliated seminaries are receiving sample copies of *FIGHT*, copies of petitions, and student strike calls. Every seminary is being urged to set up a special group which will be a link between the student body and the national organization. We have yet to hear of *St. Louis* doing this. How about it?

A group of young people from different clubs are planning a conference in *Toledo, Ohio*, on April 14. *Los Angeles, Calif.*, reports the beginning of a *Youth Section*. . . . *Iowa City, Iowa*, writes of the formation of a *Youth Section*. . . . *Ohio State University* students have begun work to build a *Youth Section*, and *Syracuse, New York*, reports that following the student strike there a youth conference will be held.

As this is being written the student strike looms as the biggest student action ever seen in this country. Besides the six national organizations which have signed the call, the student *YWCA-YMCA* of the *Middle Atlantic* area as well as numerous church conferences have endorsed the strike. We are daily receiving inquiries about the strike from remote corners of the country. The administrations, frightened by the proportions the strike will take, have begun to propose "substitutes which are just as good." In some places they propose peace assemblies instead of the strike; in other places we hear of efforts to change the hour set by the national strike committee. The committee says: "No Substitutes For Strike." The effectiveness will be lost if administrations break the national front. —J. L.

# In Defense of Our Civil Rights

*A Public Protest Meeting*

*Against Seditious and Alien Legislation*

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## UP! UP! UP!

The Press Run of FIGHT is now almost double what it was a year ago. (April issue, 1934.) Many more subscribers. Larger bundle orders. The New York City Chapter of the *American League Against War and Fascism* sells alone over 8,000 copies of FIGHT every month (about 1,900 more are sold in the city on newsstands and to subscribers). Mr. Harold Patch, Literature Agent of the New York Chapter, reports that the Mapleton Branch of the League takes 1,200 copies of FIGHT where two months ago this same branch sold only 57 copies. This is a concrete example of what can be accomplished in any city if the work is properly organized and given systematic attention.

WHAT IS YOUR CITY DOING IN THE  
STRUGGLE AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

## FIGHT

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