

Krupp Owns Essential Part of One Company DILL SPEEDED FOR BIG ARMY NAVAL BUDGET TOO BIGGER NAVY BILLS PASSED BY HOUSE HUGE PROFITS HITLER BUILDING REICH FACING COLLAPSE MILITARY AIR LAUNCH IN ITALY TOTAL 1,527 and 13,000 Assistants 1,452-13,000 Are in the Ground Corp.

FIGHT

VOL. 2
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MAY 1935
5¢
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By The Associated Press. BERLIN, April 11.—Germany's tailors were called to the front today to avoid a serious delay in
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Germany protested but the League did nothing. Today the population of the entire territory is approximately half German and half Lithuanian, while the city of Memel, the centre of the

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GENEVA BARES PLOT TO KILL STATESMEN
Laval, Benes and Titulescu Target of Terrorists.

TERRORISM, NEW REVOLT GRIPS CUBA
DRUMS of revolution again boom in the Cuban hills, finding their echoes in the bomb blasts of terrorism. For the first time in history of the Island Republic civilians are being tried, judged and ordered executed by military courts—and leaders of all parties, fearing the worst, have fled from the country. Some of these leaders have gathered in New York, and here is given their answers to the questions: "What is wrong in Cuba now?"
By JAMES WHITTAKER.
The military prisons of Cuba are crowded with more secretly held political offenders than they hold during the

DEADLOCK KILLS U.S. Scheme for Arms Control
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Geneva Disagreement Ends Hope of Immediate Action
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From The Herald Tribune Bureau

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FRENCH FEAR RUSE IN NAZI Policy Shift
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Says Memel Issue Must Be Settled Before He Will Negotiate With Neighbor
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PLAN TO DOUBLE AUSTRIAN ARMY
French Persuade Little Entente to Allow Increase—League Steps Studied.
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HITLER THREATENS MEMEL WAR

THE EASTERN LOCARNO —

The Only Way to Check Hitler

TEN YEARS AGO Germany signed a treaty at Locarno giving up all claims to revision of her western frontier. But she refused to give up hope of revision of her eastern frontier. Poland, not Soviet Russia, was Germany's main enemy then.

Diplomats from Italy, France and Britain, have met at Stresa, across Lake Maggiore from Locarno. The "spirit of Locarno" was notably absent. There were no representatives of Germany or of the Soviet Union present. But it was precisely these two countries that dominated the conference, from completely opposite viewpoints—Germany for War, Soviet Russia for peace.

Sir John Simon reported that Hitler did not oppose non-aggression pacts providing there was no mutual assistance clause and if Lithuania were excluded. And Hitler still insists Germany will sign no pact with the Soviets.

Maxim Litvinoff, Soviet Foreign Commissar, has advocated an Eastern Locarno for years and has won France and the Little Entente to support of this idea. Soviet Russia and France are ready to sign a mutual assistance pact, and a pact with Czechoslovakia will follow. Soviet diplomacy has sought to isolate Nazi Germany just as Japan was isolated, so that Hitler could find no allies who would dare to openly support his imperialist plans for expansion eastward. Hence, Hitler's last-minute change of policy on the question of non-aggression pacts. It was an attempt to consolidate British support, to prevent a possible united front between Britain, France and Italy against the Nazis. Britain has been wavering ever since Hitler tore up the Versailles Treaty and boldly announced the building of a mighty Germany army based on conscription. The British ruling class is divided; a dominant section of jingoists favoring support of the Nazis as "the bulwark of civilization against Bolshevism." But the British people are overwhelmingly opposed to War, which will result from such a policy.

Germany's agreement to enter into an Eastern European pact—if all the "teeth" were first extracted from it—was an obviously clumsy maneuver in an effort to weaken the ring that is being formed around the Third Reich. Without mutual assistance provisions, non-aggression pacts are useless. Further, Hitler does not want to include Lithuania in any non-aggression pact. Any pact excluding Lithuania would be meaningless. Memel in Lithuania is one of the danger spots in Eastern Europe, since Germany is determined to regain possession of it.

The signing of a Franco-Soviet mutual assistance pact (not a military alliance) is the first practical move toward a comprehensive system of such pacts. Again the Soviet government has shown the capitalist powers an example of definite action in place of endless talk.

J. L. Garvin, influential conservative editor of the London *Observer*, writes scathingly of "the weakness and half-heartedness" of Britain's foreign policy. "Sir John Simon seems

to indulge in the pleasing vision of putting a wreath on Hitler's head and a garland around his neck and dancing before him in a scriptural manner while leading him gently back to the League of Nations." . . . Hitler "meets weakness with encroachment," he declares, ridiculing the policy of continuing "exploratory negotiations" with the blood-thirsty Nazis. Such a vacillating and hesitant policy only encourages Hitler. But that is exactly what most British capitalists favor. They are opposed to War in Western Europe, but do not object to War in Eastern Europe.

The real purposes of the Nazis are indicated in the following secret instructions sent to Nazi representatives in all countries, published in a Lithuanian newspaper:

"The task of German policy is to create the impression of the peaceableness of Germany; also its readiness to participate in pacts. Germany must have freedom of action, and therefore it will not bind itself by any obligations and will not return to the League of Nations.

"It must have the fullest freedom in the sphere of armaments. Twelve to eighteen months are necessary to complete German armaments. The German army must be one and a half times stronger than the French army. German aviation is already stronger than the French. Armed Germany will be an attracting force for other countries. In order to obtain this aim it is extremely convenient to utilize the idea of crusade against Bolshevism. The National Socialists will soon assume power in Austria."

Just why Anthony Eden did not go to Stresa, why he was put to bed with a "nervous breakdown," is not clear; possibly he was persuaded by Stalin and Litvinoff that an Eastern Locarno is necessary to preserve peace—and Sir John Simon and Ramsay MacDonald seem determined to scuttle this proposal, which would help to prevent a War against the U.S. S.R. Britain persists in playing for a balance of power, as in 1914. British diplomats would drown the Soviet peace proposals in an endless flood of fruitless "exploratory" discussion. It grows increasingly evident that War when it comes will start with an attempt by the Nazis to carry out their avowed plans to conquer the Ukraine, and to this the British imperialists are not opposed.

No one should imagine that all the facts were brought out at Stresa or Geneva. Doubtless there are secret agreements, as before the last War. All opponents of War must answer the maneuvering of diplomats with an immediate and decisive demonstration of their determination not to permit another slaughter, with a broad united front protest such as was given on April 12 by 150,000 students. Without world-wide militant opposition to War the best of peace pacts are worthless. Join with the American League Against War and Fascism on May 30 in a mighty nation-wide demonstration against War and Fascism!

FIGHT acknowledges with thanks a contribution of \$25 from the Press League, which in the first year of its existence has raised \$3,500 for publications fighting against War and Fascism. It hopes to double that amount this year, to provide a sustaining fund for the left-wing press, by means of a regular dues-paying membership. For information write to the Press League, 112 East 19th Street, New York, N. Y.

I have sworn eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.

Thomas Jefferson.

THE PATH TO ROME

["Si vis pacem, para bellum: to that stern old Roman recipe for peace our Government have decided to return after a perilous sojourn in the realms of disarmament. They are to be warmly congratulated on the decision."—Opening words of a paean of praise from the London "Morning Post" for the Government's "Statement Relating to Defence."]

I tell you, and I tell you true,
Those Romans knew a thing or two;
They knew, as sure as I'm alive,
How many beans (or guns) make five;
Had powder dawned upon their sky,
You bet they would have kept it dry!

Ah, yes! for virtue in its prime,
Give me the Romans every time—
A race who found peace so inviting
They hardly ever ceased from fighting.
And now, with Ramsay M.* as showman,
Thank Gawd, the Government's gone Roman!

"O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
All doubts and dangers fade away;
The clouds are gone, the sky is clear,
And everlasting peace is near;
We reach the goal our race was run for—
Disarmament is dead and done for!

Let scorpions now replace our whips,
Pile up the guns and launch the ships,
And let the European scene
Be what it was in far '14!
Arms didn't stop that famous row,
But never mind—they're sure to now!

Lucio.

From The Manchester Guardian.

* Read Franklin D.



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LIBERTY IN ARKANSAS

By LUCIEN KOCH

Director of Commonwealth College, at Mena, Arkansas

TERROR is sweeping Arkansas. Traditionally a rather inconspicuous, semi-feudal state, Arkansas now takes its place among those seething with reaction and resorting to Fascist measures against civil liberties. What has happened?

The plight of the tenant farmer everywhere is desperate, and has not been alleviated by the AAA. Nowhere is the tenant worse off than in the South under the plantation system which has inflicted peonage upon thousands of poverty-stricken Negro and white share-croppers.

For decades small farmers of Arkansas, as in other states, unable to pay taxes, have



A typical sharecroppers family and their shack, near Birdsong, Ark.

been gradually crowded off their land. The tendency toward merging small farms into immense plantations, the ownership of which is concentrated into fewer and fewer hands, was speeded up in the post-War slump. Negroes were brought in and used to force down the living standards of the whites. Some of these plantations contain many thousands of acres—the largest is 70,000 acres. The owner is a feudal baron tyrannizing over the lives of his serfs. This plantation system has so consolidated its power that it seemed utterly futile for a tenant to protest against the endless injustices and indignities inflicted upon him. The local government is dominated by the owner, often an absentee landlord. Many big plantations are owned by corporations, the Singer Sewing Machine Co., lumber and insurance companies, banks, etc.

American Peonage

On each parcel of twenty or thirty acres is a tenant, living in a hovel of unpainted weather-worn boards, eking out a barren, miserable existence. The tenant seldom sees any cash. He is given credit at the plantation commissary where prices are often 50 percent higher than in independent stores. The crop is divided on a fifty-fifty basis—but the landlord does all the bookkeeping. When accounts are settled the share-cropper usually finds himself in debt. The lot of the day-laborer is even worse; he gets 50 to 75 cents per day in Arkansas.

The misery of the tenants kept pace, in

inverse ratio, with the growing prosperity of the big planters. The tenant owns no home of his own, no tools, no mules or any capital whatever. Without organization he is completely at the mercy of the landlord. The tenant got nothing from the Cotton Acreage Reduction Contract, written by plantation owners, although Section 7 listed the benefits he was supposed to receive to relieve his distress. The proportionate distribution of these benefits was eight points for the landlord to one point for the sharecropper. Section 7 also included a provision that the planter could get rid of the tenant who was a "nuisance." Of course any tenant is a nuisance who complains or who dares to organize for collective action.

Tenants Not So Docile

The sharecroppers, traditionally regarded as patient and docile, finally learned that nothing can be done individually to improve their conditions. In July, 1934, with the aid of leading Socialists, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union was organized. The Union was incorporated under the laws of Arkansas. It grew rapidly to a membership of over six thousand, spreading to other states.

As soon as the planters recovered from their amazement that their meek, unresisting



A meeting of tenant farmers in Marked Tree; such meetings are now prohibited.



Fighters against Arkansas terror: Mrs. Stultz, H. L. Mitchell, W. H. Stultz, and L. C. Miller, leaders of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

serfs should dare to challenge their tyranny, they met in order to plan a campaign to smash the Union. To their further surprise the Union members were not easily intimidated by threats, and they then resorted to more drastic measures. Some of the Union leaders had small businesses; these were boycotted. Union members were evicted, and kept off the relief rolls. Negro and white organizers were arrested on the charge of with "interfering with labor," and held in jail for six weeks. In January, Ward Rod-

gers, a Socialist, was convicted of anarchy. Since then a whole series of atrocities has been perpetrated against organizers and members of the Union. Robert Reed and I were seized at a Union meeting, beaten and jailed. Meetings at Birdsong, Marked Tree and elsewhere were broken up, and the speakers driven out of the county. When Norman Thomas and H. L. Mitchell went to Governor Futrell to protest against the denial of civil rights they were told: "You can't preach social equality in Arkansas. Nor economic equality either." Three days later the planters drove Thomas, Mitchell, Howard Kester and John Herling out of Birdsong.

Arkansas Americanism

The cabin of A. B. Brookins, Negro preacher and Union song-leader, was riddled with 32 bullets while he escaped through the back door, and his wife and children hid under the bed. W. H. Stultz, president of the Union, formerly a school teacher, and Ed Pickering were arrested, threatened with death, and warned to "get the hell out of here!" All these Union leaders are now in hiding and forced to work "underground." (This is in "free, democratic" U. S. A., not in Hitler's Germany!) The Chief of Police then warned the Union that there must be no more meetings in Marked Tree. The roads are patrolled by carloads of planters and their thugs watching for Mitchell, Kester, and other "outside agitators"—nearly all of whom are natives of Arkansas. Even a Paramount News cameraman and an Associated Press reporter were told that they were not welcome in eastern Arkansas. A band of armed hoodlums poured shots into the home of C. T. Carpenter, the attorney for the Union, and threatened his life. His practice has been ruined because he believes in Jeffersonian democracy and the Bill of Rights.

But neither terrorism, nor the use of the Red scare, nor the attempt to foster racial hatred between Negroes and whites, nor the use of the yellow-dog contract and company union, have succeeded in breaking the unity and determination of the share-croppers. They are carrying on an heroic and historic fight which deserves wide support. (See page 14.)

Photos from Emergency Committee for Strikers' Relief, 112 E. 19th St., N. Y. C.



H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and E. B. McKinney, vice-president.

IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT—In Harlem

ONLY an eye-witness somehow identified with the life that had suddenly exploded could have any adequate conception of what happened in Harlem on the night of March 19. To see the surly and threatening mobs surrounded and buffeted by officers of the law; to hear the terrifying crash of huge plate glass windows; to look into the faces of white merchants deathly pale at the sight of power changing hands; to listen to the strained but determined voices of Negro men and women pouring forth their resentment against injustices, their demands, the declaration of their willingness and eagerness to die rather than submit longer to the racial tyranny in their community—only one who was there in it, racially, economically and socially identified with it, could begin to comprehend the forces that were operating. There was terror—the Negroes, the police, the merchants, pedestrians, everybody in Harlem felt the terror.

That terror has been in the hearts of thousands of Negroes for five years. It only broke out that night. It was not of decisive importance whether it was true that a boy had been beaten to death. It was a possibility. Were not they, the vast majority in the community, half-starved, jobless, crowded into slums, discriminated against, brow-beaten, scantily and shabbily clothed? Weren't their children hungry, denied pleasure and play-space, maltreated in the schools? A boy beaten to death was the symbol of slow death for thousands.

An Outbreak Against Intolerable Social Conditions

No leaflets distributed by "Reds" could possibly have even precipitated such an outburst. Negroes, as any one on the inside knows, have restrained themselves from that outbreak for months, years. Repeatedly have peaceful crowds, nevertheless vociferous, made known their discontent and resentment against the intolerable social conditions, the meager relief and joblessness, at Relief Station and on many Lenox Avenue corners. Just as repeatedly have they been driven away or given promises that went unfulfilled. For months

By **SHELTON HALE BISHOP**

Rector of St. Phillip's Protestant Episcopal Church, New York

and months they had become aware in larger and larger numbers that unemployment was creeping upon the *entire community*. Families doubled up. Meager and insufficient incomes were divided two or three ways. Comfortable apartments were forsaken for cheaper and inadequate ones. Eviction after eviction on nearly every street did not make for lessening the strain. It was always a question of who would be next—next to be evicted, next to lose his job, next to have his relief reduced or cut off on pretexts that always seemed invalid, next to have one of his children get into trouble, for stealing a banana to appease his aching hunger.

Scandalous Conditions in Schools and Hospitals

The problem is racial as well as social. No great amount of intelligence is required to comprehend without being conscious of it that most of the Negroes of Manhattan are forced to herd themselves into the congested Harlem area. You are identified by your address in Harlem as surely as by the color of your skin. And accompanying it is the sullen awareness that the whole mass of citizens with whom you have to ride, from whom you have to buy, from whom you have to try to wheedle a job—every white face shares the responsibility for that segregation. Whether it's true or not, and it probably is, almost every citizen of Harlem believes that everything he has, he has, not by choice, but by compulsion, and to his disadvantage at that. He knows that the conditions in the schools are intolerable, and he believes that they are worse than anywhere else in the city. Fire-traps, outside toilets, too many incompetent and unsympathetic teachers, lack of equipment such as other schools have—a whole visible and psychological demonstration of the Southern attitude that it's good enough for "niggers." He knows that the stench of Harlem Hospital is no community affair. And he believes that *the more tolerance and forbearance he practices toward it, the*



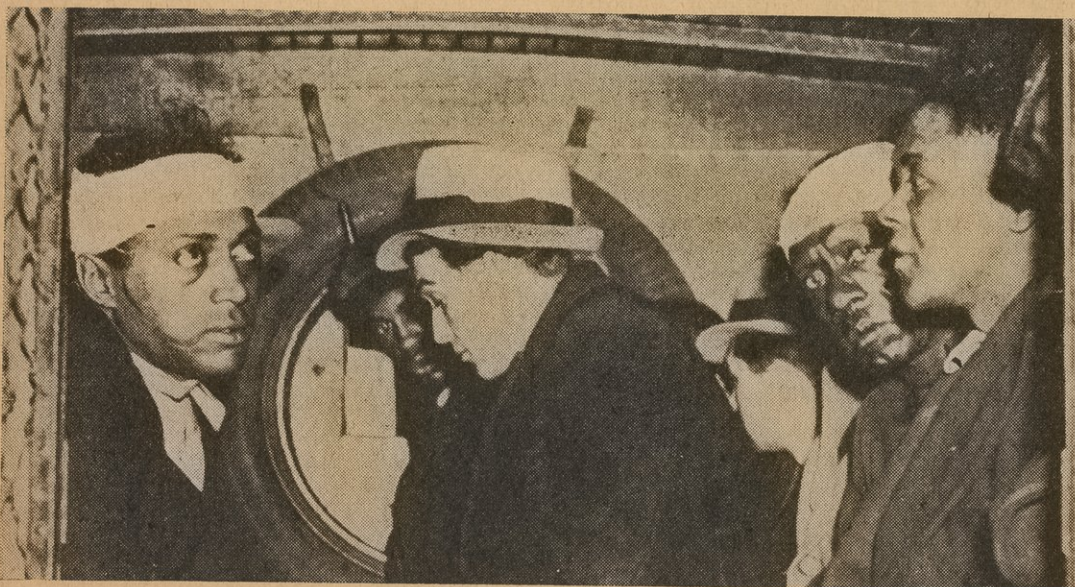
Another victim of "New York's finest," beaten for participation in the violent, desperate, leaderless and spontaneous uprising against intolerable living conditions in Harlem.

worse conditions get. Investigations bring no tangible results.

Other hospitals connive to keep Harlem Hospital a scandal. A Knickerbocker Hospital ambulance picked up a colored woman, unconscious and "unknown," on Columbus Avenue at 4:05 one afternoon this month, and at 11:15 next morning, she was "dumped" into Harlem Hospital, *still unconscious, still unknown*. She had had a cerebral hemorrhage before she arrived at Harlem and she died at five o'clock that afternoon. This practice of transferring Negro emergency patients to Harlem Hospital is usual among the hospitals of this community.

At the Mercy of White Landlords

The Negro knows that nearly all the landlords in Harlem are white, and too many of them bleed their tenants. They have them in an area from which they can scarcely escape and *they must pay what is demanded*. Rents can stay higher in Harlem than in any other similar community in the city. He has little or no opportunity to garner enough capital to invest in real estate or business, so he remains at the mercy of his unscrupulous overlords. He knows that the vast majority of business in Harlem is owned by whites and staffed by whites. At the only places where he can logically spend his money—his neighborhood stores—his potential enemies take his money for what he buys. And furthermore he knows as a result of the showdown in 125th Street last July, when some colored salesgirls did get into stores owned by whites as a result of picketing and boycott, that *this same white man will resist employing Negroes as sales people as long and as bitterly as possible, even though 90 percent of his intake is "black money."* It is racial. And the issue has been forced. It was inevitable, therefore, that the outburst on March 19 should have a racial tinge. *It was directed primarily against white merchants who refused to employ Negroes.*



A few of the victims of police brutality in the Harlem "race riots" on the way to jail.

(Continued on page 14)

Education Goes Into the Red

By EDWIN C. JOHNSON

Secretary, Committee on Militarism in Education

A LONG-CHERISHED illusion of bourgeois culture has been that under capitalism "success" results from "merit." Moreover, "universal education" has long been extolled as being a unique by-product of expanding capitalism as well as a technique designed and maintained by the generosity of capitalism for the purpose of encouraging the wider dispersion of "merit"—and "success," thus equalizing opportunity for advancement. Further, the conquest of backward colonial countries was justified on the ground that Western administration of these countries would bring them education and enlightenment.

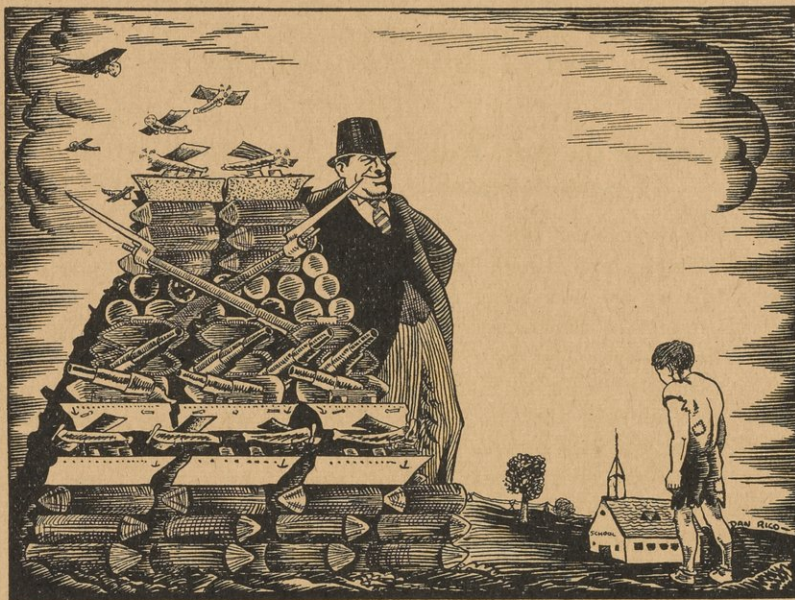
Times have changed. Educational opportunities were never equalized between rich and poor children, urban and rural children; and the myth of equal education for all regard-

A total of 2,280,000 American school children, 6 to 15 years of age, were not in school during 1933-34.

During 1933 one out of every four American teachers taught for less than \$750 per year. The pamphlet states: "An unskilled factory worker laboring for a year at the 'minimum' 'blanket code' rate would receive \$728, which is little enough!"

Lack of funds caused one of every four cities to shorten its school term. "Seven hundred and fifteen rural schools are expected to run less than three months this year . . . in 1930 rural schools for 1,500,000 children were open six months or less," says the pamphlet. It continues: "Inadequate school terms for American children stand in sharp contrast to the school terms common for children in

Between 1930 and 1934 total expenditures for education dropped over 50 percent. Federal appropriations for aid to states for schools declined nearly 20 percent in the past year, while expenditures for "national defense" increased by nearly 23 percent. The Federal Government now spends almost six times as much for War preparation as for education.



less of class or race, has lost what plausibility it may have had in more prosperous days.

"Universal education," far from being an inevitable concomitant of capitalist culture, is proving to be a fiction—like most of the other justifications commonly made in defense of our anarchic, profit-seeking economy. It is also becoming clear that the limited-scale education which characterized capitalism up to three or four years ago, far from being indispensable, now has become, apparently, an unbearable luxury, a service to be casually abrogated or strangled by crippling financial restrictions. A more certain pathway to a Fascist destination is difficult to imagine.

Closed Schools

The protracted economic crisis has worsened the plight of education to an unprecedented degree, as shown by the following figures taken from *The Deepening Crisis in Education*, a pamphlet issued by the U. S. Office of Education:

Nearly 2,000 rural schools in 34 states failed to open in the fall of 1933.

Approximately 200,000 certificated teachers were unemployed in 1933-34.

European countries: United States, 172 days; France, 200 days; Sweden, 210 days; Germany, 246 days. Prospects for the coming school year (1933-34): Michigan—90 percent of schools will shorten terms; Nebraska—15 percent of schools will cut at least one month; Missouri—1,600 rural schools face early closing."

Since 1930 the following curtailments have been made in 700 typical cities: 67 reduced their art instruction, 36 eliminated it; 110 reduced their music programs, 29 eliminated them; 81 reduced their physical education work, 28 eliminated it; 65 reduced their home economics work, 19 eliminated it; 58 reduced industrial art instruction, 24 eliminated it; 89 reduced their health service, 22 eliminated it.

The crisis in education has caused much agitation for outright Federal aid to education. Office of Education experts estimated that \$75,000,000 would be required in order to keep the schools in 23 states open for their customary terms in 1933-34. Congressman Lee of Oklahoma has estimated that \$100,000,000 would be required annually to finance a system of "equalization of educational opportunity" among the various states. Dean Russell of

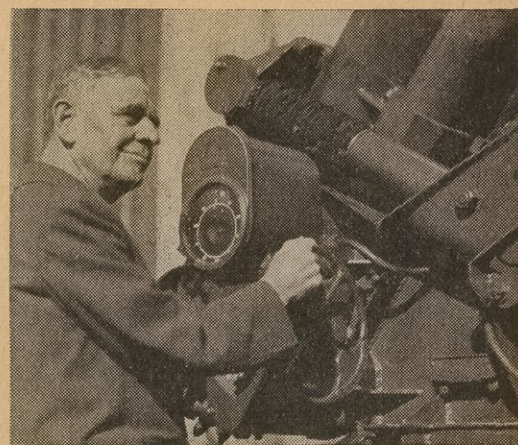
Teachers' College has cited the need for \$400,000,000.

Sober warnings that the current "financial deficit" of education may lead to a vastly more critical "social deficit" in the future have been expressed by many responsible leaders. In spite of these, the modest appeals made for education have not encountered much warm sympathy on the part of the powers that be. In 1933-34 emergency Federal aid to education amounted to \$26,000,000—less than the price of a single battleship. The outlook for more generous aid in 1934-35 is none too bright. Recently Senator Robinson, after a visit with President Roosevelt, was reported as saying that there was little if any hope for direct aid to education during this session of Congress.

Battleships Instead of Schools

One should not be so naive as to assume that our educational system is lapsing into disuse simply because capitalism is financially "broke." Not at all. Capitalism is in a process of rapid disintegration; but, in spite of that, it seems to be able and willing to squander stupendous and increasing sums for the expansion and maintenance of military and naval armaments—\$3,000,000 daily. On the floor of the Senate Senator King recently said: "It is certain that our appropriations for the army and navy for this next fiscal year (1936) will exceed a billion dollars, and, indeed, there is rather striking evidence that it will reach the stupendous sum of one billion three or four hundred million dollars."

Readers of FIGHT are familiar with these increases for War purposes; they need therefore not be set out in detail here. It is important, however, to point out the significance of these figures plus the figures on the crisis in education. They have a double-edged significance. They throw a revealing light both on the nature of capitalism and on the frightful goals toward which it moves. Mounting expenditures for armament together with retrenchment in education and similar social services—here in a nutshell are two valid indications as to why decaying capitalism promises to result in either the darkness and brutality of Fascism or the slaughter and chaos of War—or both. It is exceedingly doubtful that capitalism or any other socio-economic system can or will survive both of these two suicidal tendencies.



Secretary of War George Dern demonstrating the use of a new field-piece in Philadelphia. Dern said some years ago that one thing everybody learned from the World War was that preparation for War does not prevent War. He seems to have forgotten this lesson.

THEATRES— For And Against War

By **MARK MARVIN**

National Secretary of the New Theatre League

IN PRIMITIVE society medicine men, priests, and shamans incited youth to War through the earliest form of the drama—the tribal War-dance. Militarism has always used some form of drama to arouse the War spirit, to portray the enemy as a beast, and to glorify heroism. Seldom were these forms of the drama candid enough to portray the darker side of War—the killed and the maimed, the ravished and the diseased. Nor did they reveal the true political and economic reasons for battle.

During the World War the entire stage from vaudeville through the Little Theatres to the glamorous footlights of Broadway, was mobilized for War service by the central bureau of propaganda in Washington headed by George Creel. Leading artists were easily induced to forget that "art has nothing to do with propaganda." They wrote scripts or acted in chauvinistic plays that showed the "Huns" as barbarous and brutal. Actors and directors and playwrights rushed to the "colors," eager to do their bit by inducing others to fight in the "War to end War."

At the same time dramatic critics, historians, university professors, hastened to place "culture" in the service of War—far behind the lines. German culture including the theatre was classified as "barbarous." Plays from the contemporary German repertory were banned—even those which dealt with domestic tragedy were said to be infected with the militaristic virus of Hun *Kultur*.

Fascist Theatre Serves War-Mongers

Today the Nazis in Germany embody the characteristics falsely attributed to all Germany during the War. The Fascist theatre is a theatre of War. Its task, as envisioned by Goering and Goebbels, is to prepare the German spirit to sow the seed of Fascist "culture" in every land. The gigantic mania of Herr Rosenberg envisions all Europe under the domination of German Fascism. This spirit may be excellent for the creation of War-thirsty legions, but it is disastrous for the drama. Havoc has been inflicted upon the German drama by the Nazi theories and the Nazi suppression of vital artistic presentation. The official German theatre is sterile; its best artists

have been killed, exiled, or imprisoned in concentration camps. But despite Fascist terror, there is one dynamic, living German theatre—the theatre of protest. As part of the underground anti-Fascist movement, and without technical facilities, in the face of enormous difficulties and dangers, it plays a growing rôle in the life of the masses.

Here in America the stage is now for the most part relegating War propaganda to the movies. Pictures like "No Greater Glory," "Hell Below," and "Devil Dogs of the Air," prove that the War-makers never grow weary. However a CWA play project is producing a pro-War skit, "Meet the Enemy." It will require only a slight change in international relations for the bourgeois theatres to emulate the movies, and prostitute art to patriotism—to reveal the need for greater national defense and the glory of dying for one's country!

Throttling the Anti-War, Anti-Fascist Theatre

In order to prepare for the complete domination of stage and screen by jingoistic elements, threats are now being made to tighten federal and state censorships and give them autocratic power. The bill, HR 2999, now before Congress, seeks to install a rigid film censorship. It asks that no license shall be granted to any motion picture "which is harmful to the public or any part thereof in any respect, or which distorts representations of the national life, literature, manners, and customs of this country, or disturbs public peace or impairs friendly relations with foreign nations."

Under this proposed law any film exposing Fascist terror abroad or illustrating the need for militant unionism could be suppressed.

Boston and Philadelphia authorities have not waited for the enactment of such laws. The Boston police closed the *New Theatre Players* after their second performance of "Waiting for Lefty," by Cliff Odets, on the ground of "un-American activities," and this despite the fact that the play is running full-time on Broadway and that it has been recommended for the Pulitzer prize. In Phila-

delphia the *New Theatre* was forbidden to open with its play "Too Late to Die."

Censorship has always been a prelude to Fascism; and Fascism, as illustrated by Germany and Italy, means inanition, subjection, and death to the creative theatre.

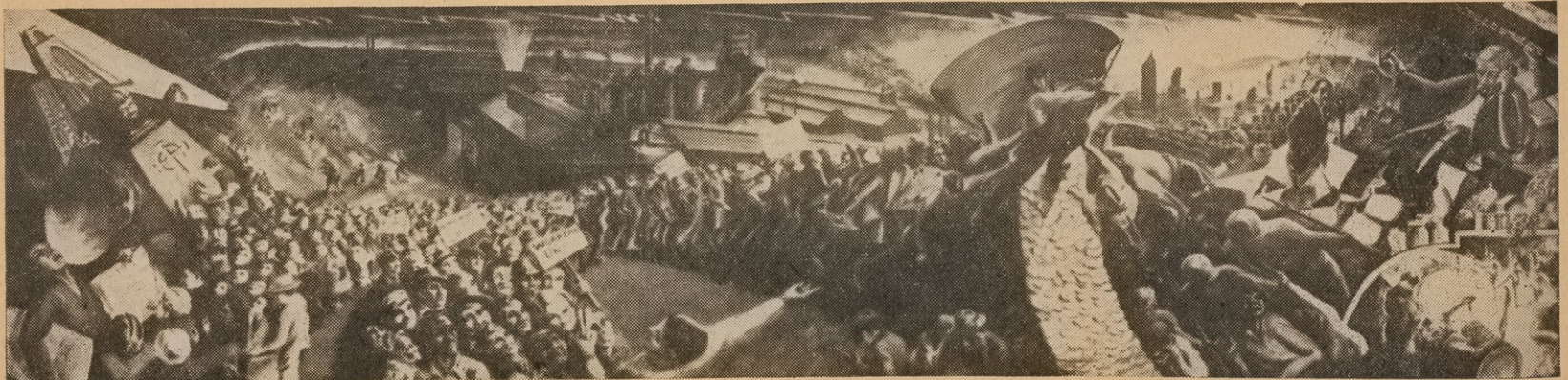
The Theatre as a Progressive Social Force

From 1914 to 1917 scarcely a theatre existed in America that dared to take up the challenge of the munition-makers, the bankers, and the jingoistic journals and patrioteers. However, things are different in 1935. There now are some three hundred theatres in the *New Theatre League*. This league stresses in its minimum program the struggle against War, Fascism, and censorship. There are also numerous theatrical organizations such as the Theatre Union, Group Theatre, Rebel Arts Players, Contemporary Players of Los Angeles, the Drama Union of Chicago, the Gilpin Players, and other dramatic groups not directly affiliated with the League, and others are being organized. These new social theatres are becoming a potent force in the fight against War and Fascism. Several branches of the American League Against War and Fascism have organized dramatic groups.

Some 1,500 members actively support the program of the *New Theatre League* in the professional and amateur theatre; other thousands endorse its work. The roll includes professional and Little Theatres, together with Communist, Socialist, Y. M. C. A., church, trade-union, and student dramatic groups. The National Office of the League supplies the new repertory as well as trained directors, stage technicians, and teachers of all phases of dramatic activity. Furthermore, it is constantly organizing new theatres, and educating those already established to take on renewed life and new meaning by presenting such plays as "Peace on Earth," "Stevadore," "Newsboy," "Waiting for Lefty," "1931," and "Black Pit."

During the week of May 12-19 the theatres of the League along with the New Dance League are preparing a *National Theatre Week* dedicated to the struggle in the theatre against War and Fascism, and in defense of civil rights.

The current issue of *New Theatre* is a special anti-War number. It effectively portrays the rôle of the theatre in the World War, and points out many ways in which the theatre can be utilized against War. The *New Theatre League* hopes to swing new thousands into anti-War and anti-Fascist activity.



Labor Mural, painted by Leland Knoch, an unemployed worker of Pittsburgh.

NEW MISERIES FOR OLD

WE CAME into the C.C.C. with scared faces. Hungry days, subway flops, long hopeless searching for jobs, tired, discouraged, worried parents badgered by bill-collectors—these are things you don't easily forget.

We were given physical examinations in Army Recruiting stations, numbered and shipped on by the hundreds of thousands. Our first stopping-place was an Army Fort. We were there for conditioning, they said. After a flowery speech of welcome, they warned us against prowling around after nine P. M.

The Fort was crowded. Three hundred men in each barrack, with commissioned officers in charge. In the rear was the mess-hall with a capacity of about one hundred. Three hundred men were jammed in at meal-time. Some of us would get under the long tables and there eat our food in peace while the feet of the others swung under our noses. The food was coarse and poorly cooked, but we were put off with the promise that everything would be rosy at the camps.

"Conditioning" turned out to be drilling, marching and doing work around the Fort. One day we fell into squads, platoons and columns. The next day we might be keeping the mess-fires burning, kitchen-policing, foraging for heavy lumber or cleaning up garbage. Two weeks of this and we were "conditioned," and ready for our mountain camps!

We left for our camp in the middle of the night. At the last moment we were told our destinations, one company going to New Jersey; the company in the next barrack all the way to Utah, and so on. Inter-company friendships that had been formed were now broken. We were lined up on a dark road leading thru the woods to the railroad tracks back of the Fort. Up ahead we could see the glare of the spotlights, and hear the shouts of the officers loading the trains. We were a pretty awed bunch, and the cockiness had suddenly left us. Addresses were hurriedly swapped in the dark, and we were on the move.

"Happy Days" in the Wilderness

The mountain camps were waiting. Some were pretty spots; some had swamps right in the middle of them. Some had good drinking water; in others the water had to be chlorinated. Practically all were a long distance from town. Ours was thirty miles up in the hills. One camp in Oregon boasted of being the hardest camp to reach. It was seventy miles away from the beaten trail, and could be reached only by canoe portages.

"Happy Days," the official C.C.C. paper, made its appearance after the camp was opened. It was loaded with promises of the good things we were going to get from Uncle Sam. Entertainment, among other things. Ninety-nine percent of this entertainment, it transpired, was performed right on the newspaper it was printed on! "Happy Days" also reported frequent accidents and deaths among us, making each seem like a splendid piece of heroism. Then they warned us to be careful or we would become heroes, too!

By **GEORGE SCUDDER**

Co-author, "The Young Go First"

A recruiting drive is announced which will enlist hundreds of thousands of young unemployed Americans in the Civilian Conservation Corps. Under the \$4,880,000,000 Work-Relief bill recently enacted, \$600,000,000 is earmarked for the C.C.C. camps. This will double their number and increase the enrollment from 303,000 to 600,000 who will be part of the reserve army of young men given military training in C.C.C. camps under army officers.

Short Rations and Casualties

Bitter quarrels arose over the food. Strikes began. One of the sorest spots was the lunches. Half the camp would be on a long-distance work job. Cold lunches were prepared to take along. The other half of the camp worked nearby and came in for a hot meal. State superintendents, greedy for more men on the job, cut the kitchen squads to the bone. The kitchen-squads as a result found it difficult to prepare two separate lunches. One lunch was thrown together haphazardly. Strikes followed, and very often the men suspected of being leaders were fined heavily, discharged or sent away to other camps with a "damaged goods" tag around their necks!

In the beginning work consisted of building fire-breaks, trails, tree-planting and fighting forest fires. Most of the boys had never handled axes and mattocks before. Accidents began to happen. Boys were brought in to the first-aid tents with ugly gashes in their legs, ruptures galore, broken arms and fractured skulls. Base hospitals had to enlarge their quarters to take care of them. I visited one, and wandered down row after row of sick and battered boys, moving restlessly under the covers and exchanging sad reminiscences. Forest-fires brought new injuries. We were singed, splintered and sometimes caught under trees. For a straight shift of thirty-six hours we were rewarded with six hours off! When complaints arose we were put off with promises and lies.

But we soon graduated from this work to bigger things. We began to build dams and bridges, to set up telephone lines. Many of us learned to do skilled work but our pay remained the same. Once in a while some guy was raised about twenty-five cents a day. He was either the best mechanic, cook, electrician or stool-pigeon in camp.

Old Miseries for New

There were many large, roomy trucks used to take the men out to work, but these could never be used for Sunday trips to town. For this purpose, two little Army Chevrolets, with a capacity of about ten each, were used. The towns were far beyond walking distance, and many of the boys rarely saw them. Brothels sprang up like mushrooms near the camps, and the boys began to turn up with gonorrhoea. When this was discovered by the medical offi-

cers, they were discharged immediately and sent home without treatment.

When the term of enlistment was over we went home (if we were lucky enough to have homes), "conditioned" and familiar with military mass movements, to make room for more future cannon-fodder. Some of us came home with an increase in weight; some with a limp, a scar or disease! The same living conditions and worse, were waiting for all of us when we returned as had driven us into the camps. Many of us began to long for the camps again. That was the sole service of the C.C.C.: it had made us forget our old miseries for new! But those who believe in military training can justly claim that the C.C.C. camps have turned out hundreds of thousands of boys prepared at quick notice to fight and die in the next War,—although there are a lot of us who are determined not to die—at least not in defense of profits!



May Day, 1934, in Philadelphia—a score were injured and eight arrested last year during the May Day demonstrations. This year the American people will demonstrate on May Day against War and Fascism in larger numbers than ever before.



Girls' rifle team, University of Maryland. Demand the abolition of military training in schools!

THE RAPE OF LITERATURE

By ANGEL FLORES

Formerly Editor of "The Literary World"

DR. GOEBBELS called the burning of the books in Nazi Germany, (May, 1933) "a symbolic act." Rarely has the Reichminister of Propaganda expressed himself with such brutal accuracy.

The burning of the books was a symbolic act, symbolic of the destructive attitude of Fascism toward cultural values. For if Mussolini, perhaps less imaginative than Dr. Goebbels, did not perform any auto-da-fe, he saw to it that all "dangerous writers" be murdered on the quiet or sent to jail on islands from which there is no hope of return. Even such harmless novels as *The Man's House* and *Poor Christ* were banned from Italy, and their author, Mario Mariani, had to cross the Alps on foot in winter to save his skin.

Back to Barbarism

On April 3, after the third performance of Schiller's *Don Carlos*, in Bremen, the Nazis clamped the lid down on this play, an eloquent appeal for freedom of thought which the audience had greeted with vigorous applause.

After their bonfires and murders and cultural rapes, what have Herr Hitler and Dr. Goebbels to offer in place of Schiller? What poet will supplant Heinrich Heine whose complete works were burned in Dusseldorf? What's in their mind when they shout: "We are not and do not want to be the land of Goethe and Einstein?" They have murdered the great Erich Mühsam. In concentration camps they are slowly murdering Klaus Neukrantz and Ludwig Renn and Karl von Ossietzky. The best exponents of German culture, the Manns, the Pliviers, the Einsteins,

Hitler and his henchmen, mediocrities have supplanted them. This explains, for instance, the sudden glory of that writer of popular thrillers and smutty stories, Hanns Heinz Ewers. Ewers' contribution to German culture resolves itself into editions of *The Kama Sutra* and *The Perfumed Garden*, and a few filthy novels, *Alraune*, *Vampyre*, etc. And yet Herr Hitler commissioned him to write the biography of the Nazi's national hero, Horst Wessel. Horst Wessel was a fitting subject for Ewers' genius. After all, was not Horst Wessel killed by Ali Höhler, a rival pimp, as a result of a scrap between the prostitute who supported him (in Ewers' biography she is made a Communist spy) and Ali's girl friends? It seems that Horst was in arrears with his rent. The landlady asked Ali to give him a beating. Since Horst's girl was monopolizing business to the detriment of competitors, Ali was glad to accept this assignment. He shot Horst Wessel, glorified hero of Storm Troopers. The wounds might not have been fatal, but Horst's friends did not permit a Jewish physician to assist him; death was preferable! The facts are these—the legend reads differently.

Triumphs of Fascist "Culture"

The cultural achievements of Fascism have been negligible. In Italy, for instance, the literary production of the past few years resolves itself into boisterous propaganda for a Greater Italy, and, among the intelligentsia, in an innocuous theoretical deadlock: cliques quarreling over *form* versus *content*. The result of it all is utter decay. Those who believe in "content" have produced but a handful of banalities on aesthetic theory, while the clownish aesthetes spend sleepless nights hunting for the *mot juste* in their attempt to surpass the "perfect beauty" of their idol, the fairy-like Wilde. The advocates of "revolutionary" form have just discovered James Joyce's *Ulysses*: Ettore Settani, for one, is being bravoed for his daring technique (the interior monologue!) in his *Who Killed Giovanni Bandone?* Vitaliano Brancati receives Mussolini's orchids for his *Strange Travel Adventure* depicting the sexual preoccupations of a journalist.

Another outstanding victory was recorded by Antonio Prestinzenza's *Love, Old Style*, "discreet and melancholy chamber music" (according to a leading Fascist critic) in which a young fellow falls in love with the wife of his drawing teacher. The maestro runs away from her and she commits suicide. From then on the story crawls through a most nauseating bog of sentimentalism with the young sap longing for his gone-but-not-forgotten lady. The famous Bologna Prize for 1934 has been awarded to the old timer Mario Puccini for his short stories, *The Last Sensualists*, deliquescent studies of morbid characters. Finally, the bearer of the fading Nobel laurels, Pirandello, has written a new tragedy significantly entitled *When One Becomes Somebody*. The rusty veteran this time takes up the story of a very old gentleman, also a very great writer, who married a young and innocent girl: she reciprocates his love. However, the hero's greatness, not to mention his senility and impotence, brings tragedy.

Fascist Genius Glorifies Pimp

Such, in brief, is Fascist Italy's contribution to world literature: untimely concern for outdated stylistic and structural problems (fragmentarism, interior monologue, art-for-art's-sakeism), pornography and decadence despite their pretended preoccupation with content.

As for Nazi Germany, the themes and emphasis are not essentially different, and the stagnation is just as pronounced. Since the outstanding German writers (now in exile) are not German at all, according to Herr

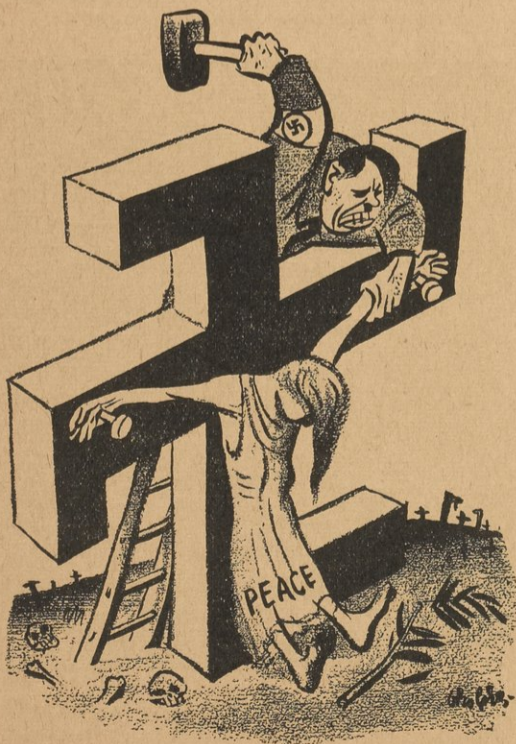
Hitler and his henchmen, mediocrities have supplanted them. This explains, for instance, the sudden glory of that writer of popular thrillers and smutty stories, Hanns Heinz Ewers. Ewers' contribution to German culture resolves itself into editions of *The Kama Sutra* and *The Perfumed Garden*, and a few filthy novels, *Alraune*, *Vampyre*, etc. And yet Herr Hitler commissioned him to write the biography of the Nazi's national hero, Horst Wessel. Horst Wessel was a fitting subject for Ewers' genius. After all, was not Horst Wessel killed by Ali Höhler, a rival pimp, as a result of a scrap between the prostitute who supported him (in Ewers' biography she is made a Communist spy) and Ali's girl friends? It seems that Horst was in arrears with his rent. The landlady asked Ali to give him a beating. Since Horst's girl was monopolizing business to the detriment of competitors, Ali was glad to accept this assignment. He shot Horst Wessel, glorified hero of Storm Troopers. The wounds might not have been fatal, but Horst's friends did not permit a Jewish physician to assist him; death was preferable! The facts are these—the legend reads differently.

The other mythical hero of the Nazis, Schlageter, has been apotheosized by Hanns Johst, now of the Prussian Academy. Ex-serviceman, unchivalrous knight of the Kapp putsch, Schlageter involved himself in all sorts of shady business. In 1923 he accepted a job at 18,000 marks per day, blowing up bridges in the Ruhr and performing "glorious" acts of sabotage for which he was executed by a French firing squad and hence glorified as a martyr.

Fascism is an Enemy of Culture

The list of Nazi literary achievements seems to be inexhaustible and just as revealing as the above instances. The recurrent themes? Glorification of War ("essential to develop a man's character"), glorification of the fatherland and all things German, glorification of woman-as-mother and household drudge ("that country alone has a safe future in which swaddling clothes are waving next to the national flag"), necessity of imperialist expansion—in general, the fostering of hatred: against the working class, against non-Aryans (especially against Frenchmen who "are not human beings," against the Jews "born from a sin against the Holy Ghost," against the Soviet Union, "the scum of humanity"), against internationalism, against democratic principles, against Socialism.

Fascists recognize culture as an enemy. It is time for all who would preserve cultural values, for all intellectuals, scientists, writers, artists, teachers, whatever their political views, to recognize Fascism as their implacable foe, and to join other workers in a united front against this menace to everything that makes life worth living.



Germany "preserves" peace.



"What a splendid advertisement." Drawing by Franklin Sims.

Militarization of Our Taxicabs

By MARGARET LAMONT

DETAILED PLANS for mobilizing taxi fleets and their drivers were recently described in *The Quartermaster Review*, a journal dedicated "To our Army and to our Industries, Cooperating in Peace, United in War." Captain Emil Scholz, author of the article, discusses the fruitful possibilities of the taxicab as a War-time auxiliary. His ideas on the subject may surprise the drivers themselves.

Captain Scholz points out that the 60,000 taxicabs at present running in cities of more than 25,000 population are a "little appreciated reserve force available in time of War or great national emergency," a force which could be quickly and easily mobilized. He points to the achievements of the Paris cab drivers who helped to rush the French army to the front in September of 1914. "Thousands of taxicabs were impressed into army service by order of General Gallieni, the military Governor of Paris district. . . . Back and forth the taxicab brigade rushed, each cab carrying five soldiers and a driver. . . ." Captain Scholz points out that since that time taxicabs and equipment have multiplied enormously, with great improvement in strength and design. He puts the total number of cabs in the United States at 74,000, with 111,000 drivers to be counted on, since "many of the cabs are operated in two shifts." And what about the men who have nothing to say in the matter? Even more important than the ready supply of vehicles for quick transportation, Captain Scholz feels, is the large number of well-trained drivers, mechanics, etc., who could be called into service.

In addition to the cabs and men the author says that there are fully equipped factory units, many large garages and machine shops prepared at a moment's notice to assemble new cars or to convert present taxicabs into larger buses, medium load trucks and towing machines for light artillery and camp equipment, which would be available for quick conversion into field ambulances, field kitchens, etc. "The many shops

could in a short time make whatever reconstruction is necessary in the cabs, including repainting and camouflaging. The business requires that the cabs be kept in perfect running condition and good appearance. Thousands of acres of garage space are available . . . where taxicabs could be assembled quickly and put in condition for special emergency."

In Strikes, Too

When E. S. Higgins, Vice-President of *Parmelee Taxicab Company*, known for his anti-union and strike-breaking policies, was interviewed about taxi mobilization in War-time, he waxed enthusiastic. Captain Scholz gives Mr. Higgins' views at length:

"Five or six years ago when I was in Philadelphia I became enthused about forming within our own organization a complete motor transport regiment. We had at that time in Philadelphia about 2,200 drivers with the necessary complement of supervisory and mechanical employees. It would have been easy to have recruited a thousand officers and men who would have been entirely competent and instantly available to handle motor transportation either by means of their own cabs or to man army vehicles. I had quite an extensive correspondence with General Dalton of the regular army, and the matter was referred back and forth, but they never took any affirmative action.

Training Drivers for War

"What you say," continues Mr. Higgins, "about the availability and suitability of the cab organization to work of this kind is entirely correct. Furthermore, in most of our cities we have a slack period in the summer, and arrangements could be made for the mobilization and training of these men in military matters without interference with their regular occupation. (i. e., at no cost to the corporation.)

"At the time I discussed the matter with the War Department they were very busy with paper plans for the development of a

huge reserve military force together with the mobilization of industry for War needs. I believe it was their plan to have the motor truck manufacturers instantly available to begin the production of suitable motor units, and they had pretty well worked out this end of it, but they had never developed the field forces for the operation of these trucks. It seemed therefore suitable and very desirable that motor transport regiments should be organized by civilians who would be able to operate, supervise and maintain the necessary convoys.

"I believe that the nature of the business of a taxicab company and its type of organization lends itself very well to utilization as a military unit, and I have an idea that if you give our men a thousand of our eight cylinder juggernauts, they would go over the top much to the consternation of the enemy, and what a grand advertisement it would be!"

With this cynical flourish Mr. Higgins cavalierly consigns the taxi drivers in his employ to slaughter. What a splendid advertisement for the *Parmelee Taxi Company* to have thousands of its workers smashed to bits and shovelled under for the Cause, any Cause! What a splendid advertisement for *General Motors* and the other interests that supply taxi bodies! What a fine advertisement of the strong physique and keen intelligence of the cab drivers!

It would be interesting to have the men's own version of Mr. Higgins' proposal.

Captain Scholz comments approvingly on the organization and technical knowledge of the executives in the taxicab companies, and points out that they would be of enormous value "in helping to mobilize our armed forces during an emergency," or in acting "as part of the Motor Transport Corps or as supervisors of hospital ambulances or other transportation units." He stresses the importance of the "instantaneous mobility" of the industry, and shows that "it would be possible to requisition the taxicabs of all or any parts of the country" almost over night. He advises "the War Department to have available data not only regarding the number of cabs, but their make, age, and general condition, the storage and shop facilities of the cab garages throughout the country, and the man power available in an emergency."

Cab Drivers Remember

There is little doubt that Captain Scholz is correct in assuming that the taxi company's executives could be counted on to "offer" their cabs and their employees to the militarists for "special emergency use." But the drivers who, without their knowledge, are being lined up for such service—what have they to say? During the last cab strike in New York City the drivers learned only too well what they may expect from their employers when asking for a bare living wage and for better working conditions. They learned then that they were part and parcel of the working class, and that their interests are tied up with those of all the exploited and oppressed. *The American League Against War and Fascism* must get ahead of the militarists, and themselves mobilize the tens of thousands of cab drivers throughout the country as well as other workers for opposition to Fascism and War.

CUBA "LIBRE"

By KATHERINE TERRELL

TERROR RULES Cuba today. The University is closed. Armed soldiers stand guard at the entrance to newspaper offices. Labor unions are outlawed. Labor leaders are in hiding or in prison. Three thousand political prisoners are crowded into Principe Fortress and other prisons. The best of Cubans, educators, editors and others have fled into exile. And the Machadistas are coming back from their hiding places abroad.

There was great rejoicing in August, 1933, when the Cuban people after a long and bitter struggle were rid of Machado. The general strike in protest against Machado, carried on with "dignity and elation," paralyzed the island. It is significant though that the general strike, decisive as it was, was not the last word that sent Machado on his way. The ultimatum came from the American Ambassador, Sumner Welles. When the support of the American State Department was withdrawn, Machado had to go.

When I arrived in Havana, March 5, the teachers and students' strike was in its third week. Every school was closed. Students and teachers, 300,000 strong, all across the island, had left their classrooms protesting the growing power of the army and the domination of American financial interests through the Mendieta government, demanding that the promised election be actually held.

"Cuba Needs a Dictator"—For Whom?

Within half an hour after I reached my hotel the cruise agent called to take the passengers on a sight-seeing Havana trip. Since I was the only one, I had an opportunity to study the type of person selected by such agencies to guide trusting American tourists. This man still in his thirties, a Presbyterian, born in Wisconsin, had spent the last seventeen years in Havana. "Cuba needs a strong hand, a dictator like Machado," he told me as we drove along the beautiful sea wall of Malecon in sight of Morro Castle. Tourists are always taken to the Havana cemetery, and with great pride the guide pointed out a magnificent mausoleum built, he assured me, of Italian marble and French crystal at a cost of \$100,000, in memory of a man who rose from a poor youth to be one of the richest men of Cuba. But as we stopped on the height overlooking the University, he exclaimed bitterly: "These students are hyenas. If I had my way, I would shut down this University in an hour, put the leaders against the wall and shoot them."

The last stop was at a famous cigar factory, one that has been in operation for ninety years. In 1931 when I had visited this factory the first time, it was a humming hive of industry. I remember the reader employed by the Tobacco Workers Union who from his high platform read from newspapers, books and pamphlets while the workers rolled the famous Havana cigars. Now, as I stepped into the big factory I was met by an almost deathly stillness. The young man who came forward to show me the place said: "Only the

sorting, labeling and boxing is done here now. Since the strike, the cigars are made in the country. In contrast to the few workers pasting boxes, labeling and sorting cigars were vast storage vaults where the incoming tobacco crop is cured before it is again shipped back to the 'country' to be made into cigars."

Trade Unions Smashed, Newspapers Suppressed

"More than two million dollars' worth of tobacco is in curing now." When I told a Cuban educator about my visit to the factory, he said: "The factory people did not tell you that *the largest part of the factory was moved to Trenton, New Jersey*. Nor that the Havana dock workers refused to handle the scab tobacco, striking in sympathy with the tobacco workers. The government and the army completely broke the strike, imprisoning the labor leaders and dissolving the unions."

I learned too, that the American tariff with its high rate on finished cigars and low tariff on crude tobacco completed the demoralization of Cuban tobacco workers. *All the gains, cultural, social and economic which the unions had secured for them are now destroyed.*

Events moved rapidly in the next four days of my stay. The strike led by the teachers and students steadily gained power. As other government employees joined the strike, the army closed the University and shut down one after another of the newspaper offices, *El Accion, El Pais, El Mundo, Ahora* so that by Saturday morning, not a newspaper was to be had, not even the *Havana Post*. No mail was going out, the postal workers joined the strike and for the first time the Havana Customs receipt was zero, though soldiers were substituted for the customs workers.

And everywhere the national police was on guard, well-fed in trim new uniforms in sharp contrast to the hungry and ragged people. I watched the customers entering Woolworth's 5 and 10 being searched as the police stood by, and I recalled that the Nye munitions investigations disclosed the contribution of John W. Young of Pittsburgh, president of Federal Laboratories, Inc., to the efficiency of the Havana police force. During the Grau San Martin regime Mr. Young carried on business both with the government in power and with those plotting against it. "Finally," the *New York Times* reports, "Mr. Young, it appeared, decided to cast his lot with the Mendieta government and since that government has taken control has been made a consultant or adviser to organize a national police and teach them to use tear gas instead of bullets. For this Mr. Young is paid \$12,000 a year."

Only the Army and Gambling Flourish

Before I left Havana I had another sight-seeing trip, this time with Cuban friends. The University, now closed, was occupied by the military; at the cemetery the new mausoleum was again pointed out to me: "See this beautiful mausoleum, of Carrara marble and Lalique

glass, costing \$100,000, in memory of one of the last slave owners of Cuba; built on the sweat of slaves." As we approached the Columbia Barrack, the army headquarters, a place of bustling activity with new buildings going up, I was told that recently a Cuban legislature appropriated fifty thousand dollars for a campaign against tuberculosis, and although every formality had been observed and every stipulation met, the money still was not forthcoming. *Meanwhile, additional millions had been voted for and received by the Army. "There are only two flourishing businesses in Cuba, the army and gambling, both under the protection of American interests,"* said my Cuban friend.

Mules versus Men

Near the Columbia Barracks I saw the first shanty town, dugouts in the hillsides; the next in the factory section on vacant lots near the power plant. Here, in the foreground, the sign "Frigidaire Park" left over from an unfinished realty development, were a hundred or more leaf covered shacks crowded closely together with the roofs touching. A few blocks further down was another colony larger and possibly denser. Then we drove across to a residential section and looked down upon a little valley filled with hundreds of the same palm-covered shacks. As in the other colonies the people starve, without sanitation, schools or relief. More than 10,000 people live in these shanty towns which have grown up since 1927. *Even the mules in the Columbia Barracks are better housed and fed than these men, women and children.*

Cuban Fascism

On Saturday as I was leaving Havana, the wholesale arrests of political prisoners was going forward, quite innocent and harmless people were shot "escaping." "The Mendieta government was on the point of collapsing" a Cuban friend writes, "when it rallied and displayed *the most efficient and ruthless Fascist terror against the striking workers.*"

This is a graphic illustration of the workings of Fascism, of capitalism's determination to maintain its stranglehold on Cuba by violence. For who owns Cuba, her sugar *centrales*, her railroads, her light and power? Why is it necessary to pay John W. Young \$12,000 a year to organize a national police when no money is available for libraries, and teachers go unpaid? Why must the Cuban government spend millions to maintain an army when no foe threatens?

The simple answer, of course, is that American investments and American property in Cuba must be protected and a high and steady rate of profit assured. The sugar workers get starvation wages while the army is rewarded with a special bonus for suppressing a strike.

Profits or Freedom?

Cuba's revenue collections for the first seven months of the 1934-35 fiscal year, according to the *New York Herald Tribune*, show an increase of over ten million dollars, or about 44 percent above the previous year. The report continues: "This situation, however, does not justify holders of the Morgan and Apeyer bonds to become optimistic as numerous spe-

(Continued on page 14)

AT ONE end of the railway bridge the drab buildings of a Russian town huddled together on a frozen mud street alongside the steel rails. From the other end twin ribbons of metal stretching out across leagues of gray steppe. Above, four wires that sang as the wind swept by. Beyond, the dim stars of the northern night.

At the far end of the bridge Smith halted, grounded his rifle, leaned against a steel truss too spare to dull the bite of wind.

And I swore I'd never lift a gun again—no matter whose War it might be! That was after Soissons, where bookkeepers from Chicago shot at bookkeepers from Berlin, and mechanics from Detroit fought mechanics from Dusseldorf.

Senator Hudson made a swell speech in the park that day we left home: "Crusade for human justice. War to end War. Make the world safe for Democracy. Lafayette we are coming." Nuts. Sounded swell then, though. Then the Senator went back to his factory, and young Waite Hudson got some sort of naval reserve commission. Spent the summer of 1917 riding up and down an inland stream in a motor boat with mysterious numbers on it. Defending the grand old flag.

Steve had the dope all right. Guess his spine didn't tingle like mine when the bands marched by. "Nuts to Senator Hudson," Steve said. "He's a liar, a hypocrite and a capitalist; and it's his War they want us to fight, and I won't fight his damned War." Steve said that too loud and too often. At that, Steve's War record looks better than mine. His and Debs'.

Same old grin when he met me at the train. Out of jail only a month or so. "Well, the hero's back," he said. "Had a good time making orphans of little German girls?" He never let me forget the German orphans. Nor the dollar check from the United States Treasury that old man Hudson had framed over his desk. The hacksaw factory paid 542 percent dividend in 1916—the rat.

A bowl of that Russian cabbage soup wouldn't go so bad. I'm an expert on soup. Any man is who lived from 1930 to 1932



CAPITALISM CARRIES ON

Soliloquy in Siberia—1937

By R. MARSHALL

without a job, before I got wise and came over here. That's one thing a capitalist misses in life. Never gets to appreciate soup. Steve got to be an expert, too. "Well, Andy Mellon cut another notch today," he used to say. That meant he'd had to take up his own belt another hole.

Well, the Mellons and the Hudsons did a good job of starving us. First Clara, then the kid.

Better not think of them. Memory is a terrible thing. No job at home, take to the road. Shanty towns, relief stations, snooty welfare workers. No jobs for floaters.

Soup at the bum's kitchen. Soup at the mission. Soup at the construction camp. Soup down by the tracks, brewed in a can.

Soup, beautiful soup! How Steve could talk over a bowl of soup! "Watch Soviet Russia," he said. "Watch her, because Hudson is watching her, and all the Hudsons everywhere. No unemployment in Russia. Everybody learns and works and sings and goes bathing. The machine doesn't rob 'em of jobs—it gives 'em leisure. Bad example for America, bad for France and Japan and Germany. They'll try to stop that. They'll cook up an excuse. Probably let Japan do most of the fighting. Offer 'em a piece of Siberia for it. But they'll all help—all over the world the bankers will help. They'll hand out the same old hokum—the kind you fell for when the *Lusitania* went down. Same old atrocity stories. The Red rape of civilization. They'll be selling War bonds in the schools. After all, the red menace scares the big boys more than the yellow peril. Let 'em fight each other. Let the Japs smash the Bolsheviks and then we'll smash the Japs if necessary . . . we need a little War to end this depression. That's the way the barons figure it."

That's what Steve said. He said it in back rooms, in bread lines, in box cars, in beet fields, in lumber camps. Well, here it is. And I'm in it. With a gas mask, ten thousand miles from nowhere. Wonder if I'll ever see a Jap. This War isn't fought by soldiers. Airplanes and bombs—gas bombs, disease bombs. You never shoot. They come over like a swarm of bees, way up, too far to see. They drop things, and everybody wilts. New kind of gas, made in America, they say.

Felt a little foolish when we started. Funny how we met so many on the way that felt like we did. Steve had letters, but at that they kept us around Moscow a hell of a long time before they gave us jobs. Wonder where Steve is now. Probably still whipping things out on a typewriter. How he swore when they sent him to run the coal mine! Then they found he could write. He's tearing off hot stuff by now, handing it to a Japanese comrade to translate.

The scrap's been on four months and I haven't heard a shot. Just rumors. About bombing raids, gas, little balls that drop and crack open and death that creeps along the ground. Wonder what Kagawa thinks about that. They've probably strung him up by this

time—a pacifist who trails along with Ghandi and Einstein and Tagore. Doesn't believe in fighting. Maybe he's right. And maybe it takes both—typewriters and guns. Well, Steve and I are giving 'em both. I just can't see the Hudsons of the world loving the peasants of Russia and the weavers of Japan and the coal miners in Pennsylvania. Anyway, they started it—the people who have more than their share. Waite Hudson, the louse, an observer with the Japanese army. Observer! What fancy names they have for crooked things. Fascist America pouring munitions into imperialistic Japan to destroy Soviet workers! Let Kagawa protest. Fat lot of good that does. And if I get a bullet, maybe it'll be a nice American one!

Me with a rifle again! That's a joke. No, it's no joke. This is my life, and I don't know any better way to live it. Nor to give it. Rather be killed here than starve in Chicago. Hope I can put in a year or so at it. Like to wipe out that other record. Hate to shoot at a Jap worker though. Damn 'em, why can't they see it, too? Why should we shoot at each other? Why don't they stay home and listen to guys like Steve and Kagawa? I guess some do, they can't all be suckers.

Well, I was a sucker once. Maybe I just woke up before they did. Me with a rifle! Carrying it in defense of an idea. Well, it's worth fighting for. The underdogs against the barons. This is one War I can fight in. Maybe some day I won't have to fight. Maybe I can help build a better world—a workers' world.

Some shooting star that. No. Can't be a star. It doesn't fall. I wonder if it's . . .

A spark plummets from above. It strikes the edge of the village. Smith fumbles for his mask. Russians stream from the houses. Other sparks fall. Smith drops, the fabric of his gas mask crumples. Fire breaks out in a dozen spots in the silent little town. All around lie people in grotesque postures—they writhe, then lie motionless. Out on the bridge is Smith—his face, black and distorted, revealed through the metal skeleton of his gas mask. His staring eyes contemplate the distant planets.

Smith—a common man.



General Von Seeckt, who helped Chiang-Kai-Chek organize the Chinese Nationalist Army campaigning against the Chinese Soviets, with Herr Goering and Fuehrer Hitler, going over War plans.

All over the United States a vast united front movement is gaining strength against the repressive legislation backed by the Hearst press, the American Legion, the Elks and Chambers of Commerce. Liberals and radicals, intellectuals and workers, trade unions and religious groups, are joining with the movement initiated by the American League Against War and Fascism to defeat this threat to our civil liberties, our constitutional rights. Mass meetings are being held. The largest of these took place in Madison Square Garden on April 3, under the joint auspices of the American Civil Liberties Union and the American League Against War and Fascism.

The articles on these pages are excerpts from speeches made at that historic meeting. Speeches by Clarence Irwin, Roger Baldwin, Harry F. Ward, and Bishop McConnell are omitted for lack of space.

In every city and town of this nation such meetings should immediately be called; the need for action is imperative. In several states such laws have already been passed; in a number of other states such legislation has been defeated by militant mass opposition.

Toward a Dictatorship of the Right

By VITO MARCANTONIO
Congressman from New York

THE failure of the New Deal has caused the superpatriots of America to inaugurate a reign of repressive legislation, so as to stifle protest against the inequalities and injustices of the present social and economic system.

America finds herself at the crossroads. We must choose between a dictatorship of the right or the adoption of an economic system which will give a minimum guarantee of food, clothing, shelter and education to every man, woman and child living in these United States.

The possessors of entrenched wealth have taken complete control of the New Deal and the present Administration. The forgotten man is now more completely forgotten than ever before. Labor is being regimented on the basis of a charity wage scale. The profits of the profiteers are becoming fatter and the income of the workers is becoming leaner.

The tendency of the New Deal is towards a dictatorship of the right, camouflaged behind a smile from the White House, but nevertheless, asserting and protecting the supremacy of privileged wealth.

It is therefore apparent that since these signs are perceptible to many in America, there is a strong desire to curtail freedom of speech, in order to prevent an exposure of this false liberalism. Hence the various committees of the House of Representatives are flooded with repressive legislation, attempting to gag the American citizen and to deport the lawful alien who sees through this mockery of the New Deal, and attempts to expose it as such.

The masters of the New Deal have become hysterical. They have gagged the representatives of the people in the House, and are now seeking to gag the American people themselves.

DEFEND YOUR



Twenty thousand New Yorkers protest enactment of alien and sedition bills now before Congress and state legislatures.

United Action the Only Defense

By MARY VAN KLEECK
Chairman, Inter-Professional Association for Social Insurance

ONLY one basic defense can withstand attacks against the civil liberties of the whole American people. That one basic defense is workers' united action. Therefore it is against workers' united action, economically in the trade unions and politically in the mass expression of labor's interest in legislative, executive and judicial measures, that the forces of reaction are massing their attacks.

... The sole source of power for workers' united action to protect their standards of living in a capitalist society is the power collectively to withhold their labor; that is, the right to strike. No governmental guarantee of wages, hours, or working conditions can sustain living standards against the forces of the conflicting claims of owners upon the national income unless this right to strike be recognized and maintained. Without labor's right to strike, government itself becomes the controlled instrument of capital; and without the effective challenge of labor, such a capital dominated government establishes the Fascist state and readily responds to the pressure toward war as the way out of the crisis.

... Promises to labor and power to the corporations were the twofold characteristics of the New Deal, and in signing the NIRA on June 16, 1933, the President invited from labor a promise to co-operate, which meant to refrain from striking or resisting the lowering of wages.

Suppression of any political organization of the working classes will restrict all political action of workers and leave without defense the economic activities of the trade unions in the face of government intervention.

But the rising protest of the masses in shops and factories and on farms, reinforced by professional workers and expressed first in trade union activities and then in support of laws for social insurance and in defense of civil liberties, finding expression also, let us hope, in a labor party based on the trade union—these are signs of coming victory for American Civil Liberties, defended by workers' united action.

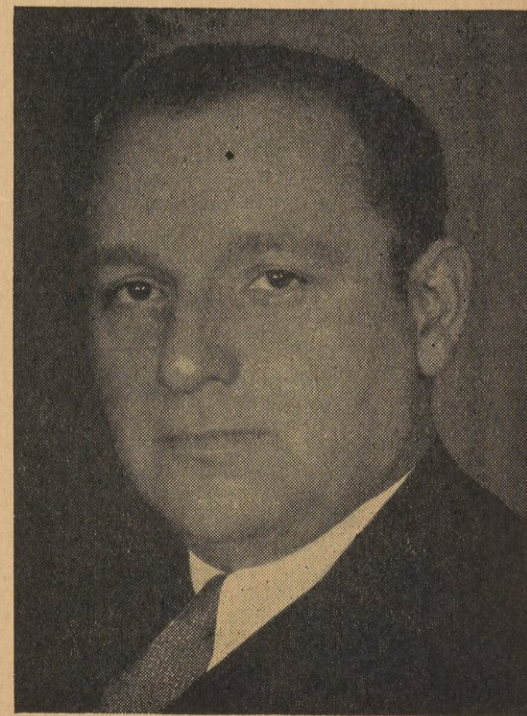
Destroying Democracy Under the Guise of Americanism

By RABBI EDWARD L. ISRAEL
Chairman, Social Justice Commission of American Rabbis

THE real menace to American democratic traditions is the reactionary who refuses to heed the demands of millions of people out of work, of millions struggling with inadequate living standards, and who is trying to substitute legislation in repression of civil liberties. . . .

We are facing a situation today in which the cumulative ills of our present economic society cry out for action. There are powerful interests in America who realize that such action will mean the destruction of their vested privileges. They are therefore opposed to the drastic social and economic changes that are necessary to bring about real justice. . . .

Unless we can stir the American people into a realization of the conditions right now, unless we can make our legislators who are passing these alien and sedition laws realize that, under the guise of protecting Americanism, they are in reality ruining American democracy, we are driving our country nearer and nearer to a complete collapse into Fascism. Unless the press of the country will stir itself to protest and to open conflict on the truly American side of these issues and refuse to be, as it is in so many cases, a fanatical inciter to Fascism, unless this fight can be understood by more than a handful of liberals or radicals and really become a fervent expression of the majority of the masses of America, we are hopelessly doomed.



Rabbi Edward L. Israel of Baltimore.

CIVIL RIGHTS!

No More Repression

By FRANCIS J. GORMAN

Vice-President, United Textile Workers
of America

WE HAVE been getting enough of repression as it is, without any specific legislation on the subject, from various legal authorities and agencies. Injunction-emitting judges, and governors who like to play with their state military forces, have been giving us plenty of trouble, just because of their privileged positions, coupled with personal and property prejudices. . . .

It is a far cry from the freedom to organize unions to the freedom to organize corporations; but we do not forget that the Congressional Act which was made into law for the purpose of limiting corporate monopoly in financial and commercial affairs, was used against the labor unions, which were convicted of "combination in restraint of trade." If that kind of use can be made of a law against the organization of trusts, we must certainly pause before endorsing any kind of limitation on the freedom of individual action, speech, thought or organization.

Employers of labor, and heresy-hunting corporation lawyers certainly have weapons enough as it is, against the possible activities of labor, organized or unorganized. We have gained for American workers certain recognitions of rights, rights which are now supposed to be inalienable. Any legislation which will limit these rights will be a step backward. And the organized labor movement must stand solidly against any infringement of the liberties of American citizens in respect to these matters.

The Plight of the Farmer

By PAUL J. KVALE

Congressman from Minnesota

OUR breath of life through all our years of entity has been the liberty to speak, to write, to voice our thoughts, to give expression to our religious, political, economic beliefs as we might be inspired to do. Liberty to meet and mingle as we desired. Liberty to hold our own independent views, and likewise to respect our neighbor who might emphatically disagree.

The Northwestern farmers, fighting grimly against a cruel series of reversals, have shown a courage, patience and resourcefulness difficult to believe. For 15 years they have seen their civil rights melt away, not with one dramatic overt act, such as publication of an edict, show of force, an act of God, but with the soul-torturing and inexorable progress of a glacier, or the march of a sand dune, or the withering blight of a drought.

The pity of it! Unorganized, dispersing their efforts, betrayed sometimes by false or incapable leadership, victimized by untimely appeals to what was represented to be their duties as loyal unselfish citizens, they have permitted the selfish groups of industrialists



Effigies of Hearst and the D. A. R. patrioters at the Madison Square Garden mass meeting against gag laws.

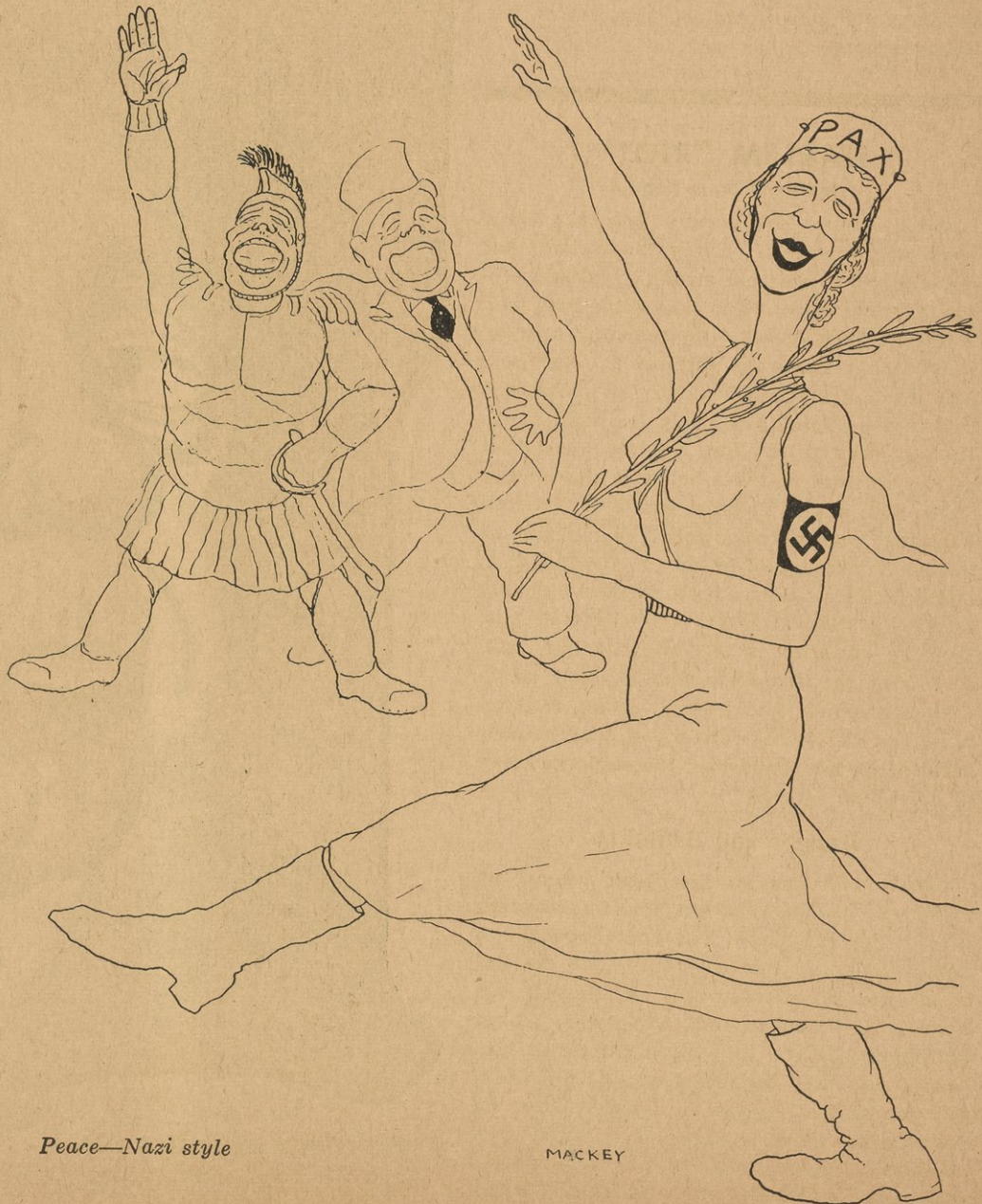
and processors to bring this once independently wealthy and economically content area to a state of virtually complete impoverishment, and bring a dissipation of wealth and source of income which cannot be redeemed in a generation. They confused the minds of their victims with protestations of sympathy and help, until today I am tempted to make the rather rash statement that the farmer is so dejected and depressed and disconsolate

over his situation that he may well wonder if free speech is any concern of his!

Think, that in these free and democratic United States of ours, should be an entire area where a whole economic group can be caught in a press, not of their own making, which threatens to disfranchise them, subject them to every ravage of starvation, illiteracy, lack of medical, educational and recreational facilities, and nothing but utter despair for the future. Think that when they endeavor to reach those in authority or the enlightened public opinion with a statement of their condition and an appeal for help, the reply to them is repression, abuse, force and threats of violence without a constructive act to help them in their desperation.

That is our first task. The New Deal has no more important work while this form of government obtains than to preserve for the farmer and worker, black or white, radical or reactionary, republican or communist, his right to free speech and assembly, to an unfettered press, to the inalienable right of Mr. John Citizen to his life, his bit of property, and his perhaps hopeless pursuit of happiness. God protect us from the insidious and invidious attacks of those who are stirring a nation into hysteria today. War psychology is being rekindled. Real issues are obscured.

Remember, and remember well the admonition that: "Patriotism is often the last refuge of a scoundrel."



Peace—Nazi style

MACKEY

CUBA "LIBRE"

(Continued from page 10)

cial credits for public works, for the army and navy, for special emergencies such as that provided by the late revolutionary general strike, have been voted by the government." In other words bondholders are being assured that money spent for the army and navy and to meet the "special emergencies" is spent for a good purpose, even though the immediate profits and dividends may be diminished. The Cuban workers understand too.

"Caffrey Must Go," I translated, as the inscription in letters a foot high caught my eye on the opposite wall in a Havana street. This is the demand of the Cuban workers. They know that back of Mendieta and the army, agents of American imperialism, stands the American State Department.

We in the United States, friends of the Cuban workers and foes of Fascism, can help in the struggle for a free Cuba. We can petition President Roosevelt, demanding the removal of Jefferson Caffrey, American Ambassador to Cuba. We can cable or write President Mendieta urging the immediate release of all political prisoners. A few have been released because of a flood of protests; hundreds of others face imprisonment or a firing squad. Members of the American League Against War and Fascism can help the Cuban workers to break the power of American imperialism and gain *Bread and Freedom for the Cuban people.*

HARLEM "RIOT"

(Continued from page 4)

But it is more fundamental than that. It is social and economic. Every illustration that I have already used has strong social and economic implications. The whole country read in the nation's press, with sympathy and acclaim, the tributes to Richard B. Harrison. And even the Cathedral of St. John the Divine was offered graciously for his funeral. He was dead then. But Negroes know that he was rejected by three hotels in the vicinity of the 44th Street Theatre, where "The Green Pastures" was playing, solely on account of his color. So he had to stay in the Y.M.C.A. in Harlem. He sought a hotel downtown merely to ward off the attack that finally took him. Multiply cases of social discrimination such as this by the thousands, and is a riot so incomprehensible? And when it comes, it is reported in the Hearst papers in such manner as to evoke the comment, "We ought to clean up the damn niggers."

Hunger and Brutality

Great condemnation has been heaped on "Harlem hoodlums" for the pillage and looting of the night of March 19. That had an economic basis. It was not looting for the fun of destruction. The people of Harlem are hungry. Not because they spend their money on "night life" or the policy racket, but because they have insufficient money for food. The majority of people on 125th Street, on Seventh and Lenox Avenues, that night, were between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five years. No job, shabby clothes, miserable hous-

ing, very little pleasure, and a shameful lack of food! Judgment cannot be passed too hastily on their sudden spontaneous acts. They were far from hoodlums. I was there. I watched. I ran with them. I saw policemen beat them as they ran, just because they ran. I saw white men jump out of their automobiles, strike and throw down innocent passers-by, and policemen made no move to stop it. But by and large it was a carnival of malicious resentment against social and economic conditions which are growing increasingly intolerable.

Only after three weeks has the threatening police menace been removed. I predict there will be no further outbreak unless conditions are not remedied or until they grow increasingly worse. Then it will come "as a thief in the night," and police and merchants and law-abiding citizens will be as unprepared for it as on March 19. This is a menace and a threat to the peace of all of New York. It may bring reprisals. But the saner people are beginning to echo the cry of one overwrought Negro on 125th Street that night—"You can only die once, and dying for your rights is better than living like dogs." Was he right?

LIBERTY IN ARKANSAS

(Continued from page 3)

In these struggles the teachers and students of Commonwealth College were active. The planters and politicians therefore, in reprisal, moved to suppress this labor college. The legislature sent a committee to investigate it, and a sedition bill was introduced which would not only outlaw the college but every militant organization of farmers or workers. After it passed the House, quick action was taken to mobilize national opposition to the bill, with the result that it was defeated in the Senate. But a bill was passed excluding any "un-American" political party from the ballot.

Liberty is decidedly on the defensive in Arkansas. There, as throughout the South and the rest of the nation, the drive to suppress civil rights is but the prelude to opening the gates for full-fledged Fascism. Only a fearless and unflagging fight on the part of workers, the farmers and all who value their liberties—those who will be the victims of Fascism—can prevent its victory.



THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
alias the "map" of Huey Long

Drawing by Mackey



BUILDING the LEAGUE



By IDA DAILES

Administration Secretary

DR. HARRY F. WARD addressed 2,500 people in Terre Haute, Ind., home of Eugene V. Debs, on March 31. The American Legion, Silver Shirts, Elks, and similar organizations did their utmost to prevent the meeting. The secretary of the Debs Educational Society, which sponsored the meeting, writes that they obtained the support of the Central Labor Union, the Protestant Ministers' Alliance, the Colored Ministers' Alliance, the Parent-Teachers' Association, the Council of Jewish Women, Y.W.C.A., two fraternal societies, a farmers' group and other organizations.

All the organizations in this united front received a letter from the Veterans' Council denouncing Dr. Ward as a "red" and demanding that the organizations withdraw their support. After an hour's debate the Central Labor Union tabled the communication. The ministers called a special meeting to discuss the demand of the Veterans' Council. They replied by declaring their belief in the preservation of civil liberties, and saw no reason why the Ward meeting should not be held. This action received a good deal of publicity and was the subject of several editorials in the local press defending the principle of free speech. The Fascists were defeated, the success of the meeting was assured.

A strong resolution condemning the proposed Pacific Naval maneuvers off the coast of Japan as part of preparations for War was passed. Another resolution demanded the repeal of the criminal syndicalist law enacted by the Indiana legislature to bar the Communist Party from the ballot. Plans are under way for the establishment of a broad, strong section of the American League in Terre Haute, as a result of this highly successful meeting.

Three hundred and seven delegates representing 50,000 persons in 191 organizations met in the hall of the Central Labor Council in Seattle to establish the Northwest Section of the League on April 6 and 7. Delegates came from the states of Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Forty-nine delegates represented 24 A.F. of L. unions, 30 delegates represented 16 units of Commonwealth Builders, 10 delegates represented independent unions, 30 delegates represented 16 youth organizations, 3 delegates represented church groups, 18 delegates represented branches of the American League, one delegate represented a county group of the Socialist Party. Unemployed groups, the Communist Party and other organizations were represented.

The Congress closed with a public mass meeting at the Labor Temple which was addressed by Nick Hughes of the Boilermakers Union, Harry Pilcher, Vice-president of the International Longshoremen's Association, Representative Tom Smith, Melvin Rader of the University of Washington, and other speakers.

As a follow-up to this Congress, a number of tours are being made by speakers and organizers in the three states, to set up a strong network of local committees and branches of the League. This important center of War industry is now on the way to becoming a real factor in the struggle against War and Fascism.

The Cleveland City Committee held a meeting against alien and sedition legislation, as well as against the Ohio criminal syndicalist legislation, on April 8, with 2,000 people in attendance. These people represented, as the chairman Rabbi Barnet R. Brickner stated, a cross-section of the city from the "extreme left to the conservative." In addition to Rabbi Brickner, speakers at the meeting included Dan Moley, Secretary of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, Hon. Marvin C. Harrison, former Ohio State Senator, Trent Longo, organizer of the Paint and Varnish Makers Union of the A.F. of L., Professor Paul Rogers of Oberlin College, and Hon. Sylvester V. McMahon, President of the Cleveland Bar Association.

The Philadelphia City Committee has been reorganized and is making plans to strengthen its affiliations. Already it has established a strong Organizational Committee composed of Trade Union representatives, fraternal orders, cultural, religious and professional groups. During the past month the sale of FIGHT has greatly increased, with the prospect of a greater increase in sales for the coming month. Plans for a Speakers' Bureau are under way. Branches are being organized in various sections of the city. Readers of FIGHT living in Philadelphia should communicate with the city office, Room 538 Widener Building, and cooperate in building the League in that city.

A preliminary meeting to set up League organization in Lancaster, Pa., was attended by representatives from the Teamsters Union, A.F. of L., Linoleum Workers Industrial Union, teachers, a minister and others. This group is launching a chapter of the League and at the next meeting will elect permanent officers. One of the first steps the new branch plans is the calling of a city-wide mass meeting.

Boston, which had a serious lapse in work for some months past, has been reorganized and is beginning to do excellent work. Branches have been established in Dorchester, Roxbury, Lynn and Cambridge. Mrs. Jessica Henderson has given a series of seven radio broadcasts for the American League over local stations. Mrs. Henderson reports: "We have several new workers, and for the first time in many months feel greatly encouraged. There is a constant demand for leaflets, and we have furnished material for theses and debates for some time now. Everyone is asking 'What is Fascism?' And we are telling them."

Pocatello, Idaho reports, "We are having a series of meetings in southern Idaho regarding War, with the intention of organizing the American League Against War and Fascism."

Thora Fredricksen, of Askov, Minn., reports: "I attended a large farmers' and workers' emergency relief conference in Sioux Falls, S. D. I used several opportunities to tell about the League and sold some literature at the women's sub-sessions. . . . Reverend Compere had a successful tour of our Pine County and one meeting on the Iron Range. In all he had six meetings. We hope to do some more organization work now."

YOUTH SPARKS

Estimates on the number of students who struck against War on April 12 range from 150,000 to 200,000. The remarkable response which the strike call received surprised the Strike Committee. In places where there was no student movement previously the call was taken up. So strong was the movement that it broke through the usual newspaper conspiracy of silence; so effective that the militarists through college and high school authorities used every form of suppression to keep the students from striking.

In Hunter College, N. Y. 5 students including the editor of the school paper have been suspended. In Chicago high schools students were beaten by principals and turned over to vigilante bands; in California there were arrests and police clubs.

In every city where there are people connected with the American League demonstrations should be prepared by anti-War organizations for May 30 which has been known as National Youth Day. Last year 25,000 gathered under the banner of the Youth Section in New York. Other cities had very impressive parades and meetings. This being Memorial Day jingoists will utilize the connection with War to spread preparedness talk. Anti-War demonstrations will be the best memorial to the ten millions slain in the World War.

On July 4, 5, 6 there will be held in Detroit the Second American Youth Congress. The Youth Section has had friendly although unofficial relations with this movement. Many of the groups in our organization are in the Youth Congress; the program against War and Fascism is the same. The success of this Congress will be of great importance for the anti-War movement.

A different type of youth congress is being developed in Louisville, Kentucky, by the same group which tried to start one in New York under the leadership of Fascist-financed Viola Ilma. Bernarr Macfadden, publisher of *Liberty*, which has been running anti-labor editorials is one of the backers. The aim is to combat radicalism particularly among unemployed youth.

At the Northwest Congress Against War and Fascism a Youth Committee was elected which includes representatives of Technocrats, Commonwealth Builders, Baptist Young Peoples' Union and other church and labor groups. . . . A conference of youth in Cleveland was attended by representatives from unions, settlement houses, churches and foreign language organizations. . . . A new field was opened when 60 delegates of New Hampshire and Vermont met at a youth conference and set up organization. The Hanover chapter of the American League was active in preparing the ground here. . . . A conference called by Denver religious groups was attended by 100 youth delegates. They adopted the American League program and voted to send delegates all the way to the California Congress Against War and Fascism.—J. L.

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