

FIGHT

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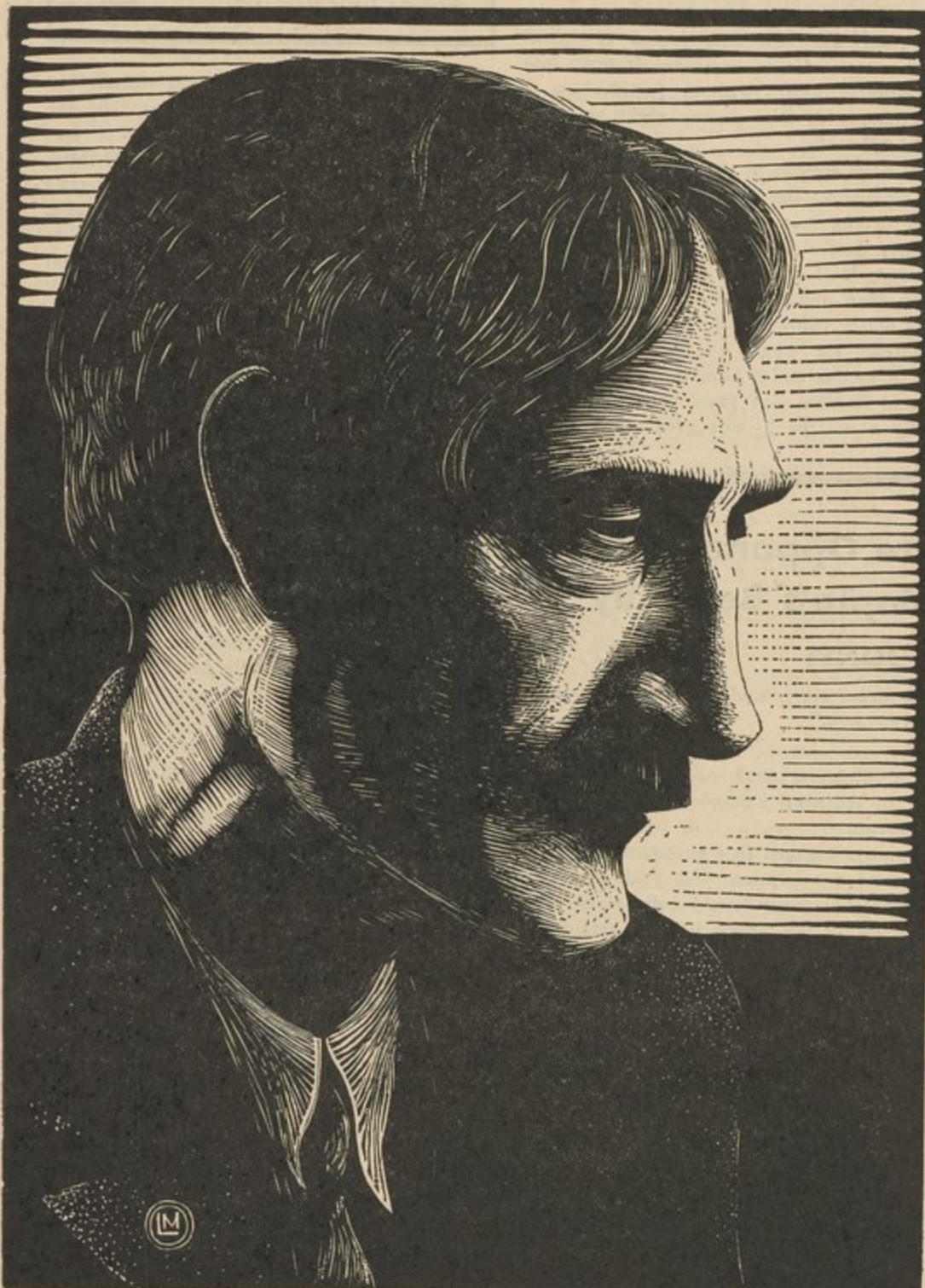
OCTOBER

1935

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AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

STOP THE CONQUEST OF ETHIOPIA



HENRI BARBUSSE

Woodcut by Liston M. Oak

RESISTANCE IN ITALY TO
PLUNDER OF ETHIOPIA

by

Tito Nunzio and William N. Jones

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PROTEST AGAINST WAR?

by *Julia Kolar*

Henri Barbusse, Anti-Fascist Fighter

By LOUIS GIBARTI

Associated with Barbusse in organizing the Brussels Congress for Colonial Liberation in 1927, and the Amsterdam Congress Against War and Fascism in 1932.

A MEDITERRANEAN storm was drumming upon our windows in the tiny sleeping French village, Miramare de l'Estrelle. During that April night in 1932, in Paris and other remote French cities excitement was running high. The French President Doumer had been assassinated by the White Guard Russian, Gorgulov. This provocateur, a strange forerunner of Van der Lubbe, threatened to become a useful tool in the hands of the French fascists attempting to drive France into a war of intervention against the Soviet Union.

Exploiting his Russian nationality, the French "patriot" press had linked this mad adventurer to the "Tcheka." Not only the jingo sheets of the perfume manufacturer Coty, but even the semi-official newspaper of the Foreign Office, *Le Temps*, had charged that "by this murder the Soviets are seeking to create a revolutionary crisis in France." The whole atmosphere was tense, and war seemed imminent.

Henry Barbusse had gone to Miramare de l'Estrelle for a vacation—which meant leisure to meditate undisturbed over a new novel. But he had received a huge parcel from Paris; newspaper clippings and the minutes of the court at the first Gorgulov hearing. He realized the tremendous implications of the reactionary campaign launched by the fascists around the Gorgulov affair. He swept aside all plans for a new novel. Although still ill after a strenuous anti-war campaign in Paris, Barbusse plunged into a painstaking study of the documents.

Long after midnight he awoke his secretary and began dictating. . . . Outside the gale was raging furiously. . . . The great

writer sat shivering in an armchair, wrapped in his overcoat, his head sunk between hunched shoulders. I involuntarily thought of the statue by Rodin of Balzac, seized by a great idea. Barbusse dictated:

"I accuse . . . the Prime Minister André Tardieu. . . ."

I accuse the Minister of the Interior Mahieu . . . the investigating Judge . . . and the Police Prefect of Paris. . . ."

As he dictated, his deep resonant voice rose, reflecting his intense passionate hatred of injustice, his love of humanity. The typewriter clicked off page after page . . . thousands of words, eloquent words, marching like soldiers to the battle. Hour after hour . . . thus was created one of the most important contributions made by this great man to the fight against war and the defense of the Soviet Union, the splendid booklet, *J'accuse*.

Later when that booklet became a force, compelling the fascists to retreat; when the prosecuting attorney was forced to admit that the Soviet Union had been dragged into the Gorgulov affair without justification, I often thought of that stormy night in Miramare de l'Estrelle.

That little episode in the life of Henri Barbusse symbolizes the devotion, the indomitable energy of the man in defense of peace and humanity better than could any biography. A modest, frail old man, a dear friend, who at any time and any place would at a moment's notice throw himself passionately into the battle; for whom no sacrifice was too great. A genius and a humble worker against war and fascism has gone from our midst, literally a martyr to this great cause. But

Unity of Black and White Opponents of War and Fascism is Ethiopia's Best Ally

By WILLIAM N. JONES

Excerpts from an article by an outstanding Negro editor and journalist in the Baltimore "Afro-American."

AFTER TALKING to representatives of the Ethiopian Government, newspaper editors and well-informed leaders in England, France, Geneva, Poland and Russia, it seems clear to me that the war against Ethiopia is likely to be the spark that may set off a world-wide conflagration.

Although from the very beginning Ethiopia has had the diplomatic cards stacked against her, she has played the game so skillfully that she is coming out of this phase of the struggle a victor.

When I left America, Ethiopia's situation looked gloomy to me. It still looks grave, but I feel now that she has a fifty-fifty chance to win.

Both England and France are opposing Italy over but not against the proposed divi-

sion of Ethiopia. Both are committed to a policy of reducing Ethiopia to some kind of protectorate.

Germany, engaged in a program of plunder and racial proscription, will grab any part of Africa that comes handy, but has her eyes turned toward the provinces of Austria and Soviet Russia.

Those who have looked to Japan as a defender of Ethiopia as a colored race are mistaken. Japan is engaged in a campaign of subjugation of another colored race; she has joined the ranks of the exploiting imperialists. . . . Japan is playing for higher stakes in an impending European conflicts. . . . Japanese policy at this moment coincides with the policy of Italy in raiding Haile Selassie's kingdom.



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this frail old man was and will remain one of the dynamic centers of our age in the fight against oppression. Possessed of tremendous creative force, the genius of Barbusse penetrated beyond all frontiers. His message has reached millions in every land, and the movement which he initiated has embraced people of every race and every social stratum in the most significant human task in the world today: the building of a warless and a classless society.

Barbusse is dead—forward with the fight to which he gave his life—against war and fascism!

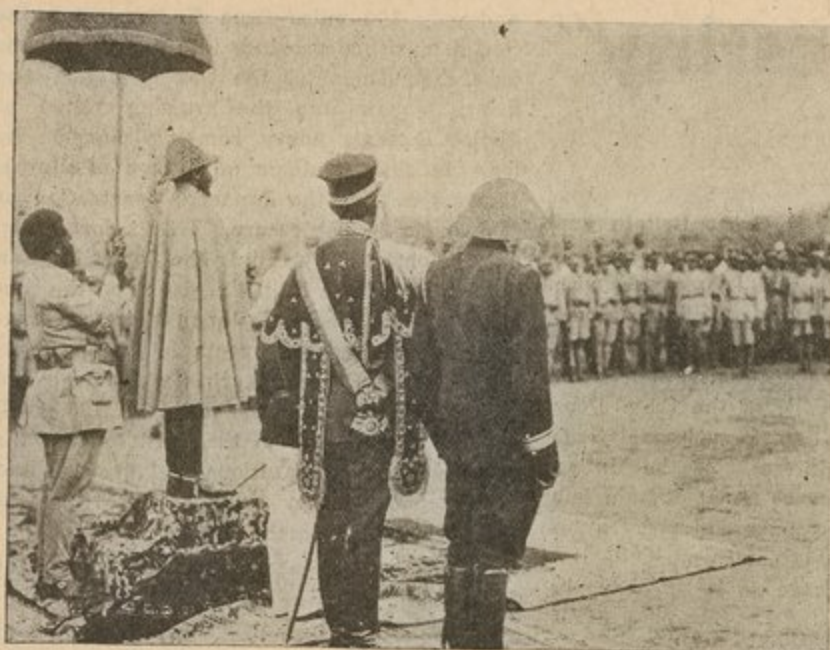
England and France are in a strangle-hold with Italy . . . they fear the consequences of a possible Italian defeat. They see, in addition to a "rising tide of color," a rising tide of white, brown and black working people.

France and England, therefore, are making a desperate effort not only to halt the catastrophe, but to save their faces with their millions of toiling colonials by a show of opposition to Italian plans with the evident intention of finally forcing Ethiopia to bow largely to the will of Mussolini.

The crisis in Italy and Germany has become so acute that it is forcing the rulers to drastic efforts to stave off the crash. Frenzied capitalist economy comes to a pyramiding stage when it must pile more exploitation upon exploitation by reaching out for new fields of operation. . . . The whole Italian national economy has been subordinated to the purpose of the Ethiopian campaign.

Ethiopia's greatest ally is the militant manner in which white, black, brown and yellow workers are lining up against Italy's war in Africa. . . .

It is my earnest conviction that Russia stands today as the nation most actively opposing Italian plundering of Ethiopia.



Emperor Haile Selassie appealing to his troops to defend Ethiopia, and Il Duce reviewing part of his million soldiers departing for the African campaign. To the left and below Mussolini is Balbo, who will lead Italian forces in the invasion of the last independent African nation.

Resistance In Italy to Plunder of Ethiopia

“**L DUCE** wants the whole of Ethiopia.” Thus spoke Baron Aloisi, the representative of the fascist government of Italy, at the Council meeting of the League of Nations.

The Italian representative reiterated Mussolini's determination to go ahead with his plan to plunder and rape Ethiopia, and asked the other members of the League to stand by, without intervening for or against. But his statement met with a sharp and outspoken retort coming from Litvinov—the Foreign Commissar of the Soviet Union—who declared that unless the Covenant is fully applied against the aggressor in the threatening Italo-Ethiopian war, the whole purpose of the League of Nations is utterly lost. Litvinov's ringing statement isolated the fascist government of Italy, as the representatives of small nations followed his lead and came out in favor of all measures to curb Mussolini in this unprovoked aggression.

Il Duce stands indicted not only as the enemy of Ethiopian independence, but also as a mad imperialist adventurer who has disorganized world peace. He is desperate but refuses stubbornly to give up his plan to swallow Ethiopia. His spokesmen at Geneva and Rome emphasize that he is prepared to go on, *with the League, without the League, or against the League.*

An old Japanese proverb says that he who rides the tiger does not dare to leave the saddle, fearing that he might be torn to pieces. This is true of Mussolini at this critical hour. Mussolini is riding the war tiger and must go on or face a revolt which would seriously threaten his régime. He has already spent billions to send close to 300,000 men to Africa; he has put the whole country on a war basis. Above all he has definitely tied up the prestige of his régime to his plan of colonial expansion. To demobilize would mean to spend even more than he has already to call nearly a million men to arms. The result of the demobilization would be increased unrest among the soldiers who will demand to be provided for after leaving the army. Mus-

By TITO NUNZIO

Editor, *L'Unità Operaia*

solini's prestige—which was already shaken before the present war preparations—would be completely shattered. The Italian workers and peasants would look upon Mussolini's retreat as a sign of weakness, and would feel spurred to intensify the struggle against the hated régime of terror and hunger and war.

Mussolini of all people knows that he lies when he boasts that the Italian people are unanimously in favor of war. He knows that they have never been. They were against the first African war, and immediately after the famous defeat at Adowa in 1896 they prevented, through strike struggles, the sending of more troops to Africa, thus bringing about the end of that much hated war. In 1912 they were against the second African war. In answer to Mussolini's call (Mussolini was at that time editor of *Avanti*, the official organ of the Socialist Party of Italy), they demonstrated in the street and the railroad tracks were barricaded with the living bodies of men, women and children to prevent the trains from leaving with their cargo of cannon fodder.

In 1915 the Italian workers and peasants fought against intervening in the World War. A clear index of their opposition to war is to be found in the expulsion of Benito Mussolini from the Socialist Party because of his interventionist stand on behalf of the imperialists of France whose gold had enabled him to start the publication of his pro-war paper, *Il Popolo d'Italia*. The great number of deserters—which had no parallel in any other country—is another sign of the workers' anti-war stand. This however was revealed more clearly at Caporetto, where Italian soldiers refused to fight and were killed not by the Austrians, but by fresh Italian recruits sent out to halt their retreat. Caporetto was a sort of blind revolt which was crushed because of the fact that the Italian soldiers participating in it lacked militant,

determined leadership, and had thrown away their arms instead of keeping them and fighting with them to end the war.

Among the Italian toilers there is no less opposition to the present war which Mussolini is launching against Ethiopia than to past wars. There is a large and growing number who are against the oppression of the people of Ethiopia. They are continuing their militant traditions, handed down to them by Garibaldi, the Knight of Humanity, who never raised arms against the people of other countries and always fought *against foreign oppression at home and abroad.*

Space does not permit a full account of all the struggles and anti-war actions of the working people of Italy since Mussolini began to mass troops on the border of Ethiopia. It suffices to mention only the most important ones. The sulphur workers of Caltanissetta (in Sicily) struck immediately after the first mobilization order was given out and, together with their wives and mothers, prevented for several hours the carrying out of Mussolini's order. In Milan the soldiers beat up the fascist officers and told them: “Why don't you go to Africa to be butchered?” The soldiers of two divisions demonstrated in their barracks in Florence and Messina. A contingent of the Gavignana Division mutinied in Pistoia. More recently, the people and the soldiers of Sommatino, Delia, San Cataldo and other towns in the province of Caltanissetta staged a violent demonstration at the station and encouraged many soldiers to escape and desert. In view of the workers' militancy, the fascist officers did not dare to resort to violence and tried to calm them down without making a single arrest. Again in Milan civilians prevented the fascists from demonstrating in favor of war. The fascists were carrying placards reading: “We want the heart of the Negus.” In the conflict with civilians many of them were hurt. The windows of the Café Savini were smashed.

When a whole regiment mutinied in Northern Italy, refused to go to Africa and returned

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Japan's "Manifest Destiny"

By JOHANNES STEEL

Foreign Editor, New York Post

JAPAN has come of age. Japan has entered the era of economic imperialism. She has reached that stage in her phenomenal rise as an industrial nation where she is forced to make her economic and commercial expansion strategically secure in order to assure perpetuation under her present economic and social setup.

This strategic security can only be obtained by transforming her commercial expansion into and supporting it with territorial expansion.

To this end Japan must conquer and rule all of China, inner and outer Mongolia, the Sea of Japan, half of the Pacific Ocean, in addition to the many dominions such as Korea and Manchukuo, which she already possesses.

Japan seriously began to embark upon her road to imperial power when, in the wet, cold morning hours of February 22, 1932, three second class privates carried a tube 12 feet high filled with high explosives and its fuse already ignited, to the barbed wire entanglements of Miaohungcheu, near Shanghai, and blew the Chinese defenses and themselves into the air. Since that day Japan has conquered a territory as large as the states of Washington, California, Texas and New Mexico put together.

She has done so in defiance of the League of Nations, the Kellogg Pact, and the Washington Nine Power Treaty, which provided that the principle of the "open door in China should be maintained," and the Stimson Doctrine, which provides that the United States of America "will not recognize any territorial changes in China in violation of the existing treaties."

Today Japan already controls a substantial part of both the foreign political and economic relations of China, as represented by the so-called Nationalist (Kuomintang) Government of Nanking.

The intense offensive drive of Japanese imperialism on the continent of Asia and the establishment of the "Monroe Doctrine of the East," which a Japanese diplomat recently called merely a violation of the American copyright, have created a problem in the Pacific. The establishment of the Japanese protectorate has closed the Chinese markets to American exporters and created a danger to the colonial possessions of the United States in the Far East, such as the Philippines and Guam.

The military danger to American possessions in the Pacific is accentuated by Japan's inroads into American sales in America's own territorial possessions. Nippon's share in the commercial and economic activity in the American Pacific possessions as well as Panama and the Canal Zone, has, during the last three years, consistently been higher than the share of these United States, both in terms of total volume and total value of trade done.

The danger is particularly great since there is no likelihood that an anti-Japanese

front will be formed by Great Britain and the United States, as the former is pledged to pro-Japanese policy, and is occupied with difficulties in Europe. Great Britain has no intention of stopping Japanese expansion, and takes a particularly indifferent attitude to violations of the principle of the Open Door in China by Japan, since such violations strike mainly at the interests of the United States. This is so because Great Britain has realized that Japan's commercial penetration of India, for example, is not so much an impediment to British trade as it is commonly held to be.

Not only is the Japanese trade menace in India greatly exaggerated, but it is particularly important to note that during the past 25 years, Japan bought from India materials worth 3,000,000,000 yen more than what she sold to that country. In the same period, England sold to India materials worth 2,800,000,000 yen more than what she imported from that country. This naturally means that while Japan put an average of 125,000,000 yen per year into India, England took away no less than an average of 100,000,000 yen every year. In other words, the money that India received from Japan has enabled her to pay for the goods bought from England. Great Britain is therefore definitely on the side of Japan, particularly since Japan in the East, just as Germany in the West, is regarded by conservative British circles as the only effective bulwark against the spread of Communism, which, advancing from Soviet China, already touches the British "spheres of influence" in the Far East. With a strategy that is magnificent Nippon's leaders are going ahead to make Japan the "Britain of the East."

Their action is timed to come always when the other big powers are more than occupied with their own crises. Violating treaty upon treaty, Japan had already, in December, 1933, infringed upon the provisions of the London Naval Treaty of April 3, 1931. By that time it had exceeded the limits which according to this treaty, can be laid down, by 20,000 tons for aeroplane carriers; 51,000 tons for cruisers "B"; by 33,072 tons for torpedo boats; by 19,200 tons for submarines. Today the Japanese navy is equal to the American navy in respect to aeroplane carriers, and considerably stronger than the American navy in respect to both types of cruisers, and particularly in respect to light cruisers with six inch guns.

On February 13, 1934, Japan passed a budget bill providing for the largest armament appropriations in Japan's history. In 1935 Japan's armament expenditure will amount to 50 per cent of its total budget.

However, before the "Riddle of the Pacific" is solved, the answer to the question "When will Japan fight Soviet Russia?" will have to be given to the world. Soviet Russia's fortified harbor of Vladivostock, within approximately 650 miles from Tokio and the industrial naval centers of Japan,

and only 100 miles from Korea, makes the Soviet maritime province into a powerful air base that dominates the Sea of Japan and brings Japan into the cruising range of Soviet Russia's heavy bombing planes. As long as this strategic advantage of Russia remains a fact, the Japanese penetration of Manchuria is not secure. This security can only be obtained by ending the Soviet Russian domination of the Baikal regions and the conquest of Vladivostock. Japan therefore anxiously watches developments in Europe, hoping that the European crisis which is bound to come to a head in the winter of 1935, will lead to a conflagration that will obscure the Japanese war preparations and attacks, and give Japan another opportunity to present the world with a further *fait accompli*.

Japan's war preparations are going on at fever pitch. During the last year, she constructed in North Manchuria 2,000 miles of railroad which are economically unnecessary and have been constructed only for strategic reasons. Japan has fifty aviation bases in Manchukuo and 130,000 Japanese troops in addition to 155,000 soldiers of the Manchukuoan army and 12,000 White Guard Russians.

It is well to ask: What price glory? when considering the fantastic price in terms of human suffering on the part of her own nationals that Japan is paying in order to become a great imperial power. Japan pays for its glory with an almost unbelievable measure of exploitation of the Japanese middle and working classes. This is the result of the extreme rationalization of the Japanese economic structure necessitated by her drive for expansion. The agricultural crisis in Japan has taken on proportions that are well nigh catastrophic. The debts of the small peasantry have risen to a total of seven billion yen, an indebtedness of no less than 1200 yen for each individual peasant family. Agricultural wages declined by no less than 35 percent during the past 12 months. The average daily wage now paid to the Japanese farm hand for a twelve hour day is 35c at the best, while the prices for consumers' goods are rising steadily.

In sharp contrast to the indescribable misery and suffering that is engulfing the whole Japanese people are, of course, the colossal expenditures for rearmament that are being paid for largely by increased taxation. One of the most amazing contradictions, however, is that, economically speaking, the Japanese domination of Manchukuo has so far proved a complete flop.

Instead of making money out of her imperial adventure, Nippon has been losing heavily, and the prospects, a careful analysis reveals, are more than gloomy. Since 1931 some \$150,000,000 of private Japanese money has been poured into Manchukuo, and the military expenditure of this vassal state met by the Japanese budget will be \$200,000,000 by the end of the present fiscal year. The strain of these heavy capital exports on Japan's balance of payments, as well as on her money markets, is being increasingly felt. A large proportion of the private investment, moreover, has found its way into unprofitable industries under the militant

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Speed Up the Day of Deliverance

By **WALTER CITRINE**

Secretary, British Trades Union Congress, and President,
International Federation of Trade Unions

ONE OF THE difficulties of dealing with a subject like the fascist terror is that the plain facts of the case seem almost incredible to people without first hand knowledge of what is taking place. To the British or American public, for example, the tale of cruelties and stupidities (some of the worst are of course practically untellable) perpetrated under fascist rule, bears a nightmare aspect which to some extent serves to rob it of the appearance of reality. But to the victims of an abominable system nothing is too terrible or fantastic to be expected. Their sufferings have already taught them that under their present rulers the worst may be yet to come.

Most of the examples of fascist terrorism revealed to us in our own press are, though illuminating, merely symptomatic of the deranged mentality by which they are inspired. We read of a British subject thrown into prison because he remarked, in a private conversation, that one of his best friends was a Jew! We hear of the kidnaping of a two-year-old boy in the hope of luring his parents to torture and death. We hear a little less, perhaps, nowadays, of the beatings, shootings, and tortures of individual Germans and Italians and Austrians, largely because (apart from the fascist censorship) such occurrences have become as commonplace under fascist rule as automobile accidents elsewhere.

Because of these things there is, perhaps, a tendency to forget that the mass oppression of whole populations is going on steadily day by day, with more and more cruel effects on the minds and bodies of the victims.

Millions of men, women and children are being treated as if their very existence were an offence to their persecutors. They are allowed less than the status of criminals, and credited with no greater rights and privileges

than if they were pests to be exterminated.

Over a large part of Europe today it is, in effect, a crime to be a Jew, a Roman Catholic (or indeed a votary of any religion worthy of the name), a Freemason, a Socialist, a Communist, or a Trade Unionist: a casual word may earn a fate in comparison with which the life of the convicted malefactor in other climes is happy and rational.

The Trade Union and Labor Movement throughout the fold has a special and tragic interest in the fate of all those victims of our modern Neros. In the first place, it has for more than a century done a tremendous amount of work, through bad times and good, in maintaining the ideals of democracy and freedom. In the second place, it has seen its champions in fascist states singled out for specially virulent forms of persecution. In Italy, in Germany, and in Austria, the robber bands of the fascist dictators have directed the full force of their attack on the workers' organizations. Hundreds of Trade Union leaders have been murdered offhand. Thousands more, in prisons and concentration camps, have expiated, in their endurance of unmentionable tortures, the crime of having devoted their lives to the service of their fellow workers.

The Hitler régime perhaps deserves some slight precedence in the hierarchy of fascist persecutors. In Germany under the sly and savage dictatorship of a clique among whom Goering, the drug addict, and Goebbels, the moral pervert, are shining lights, the masses of the German people have felt the full force of an oppression designed to reduce them to complete economic slavery.

Successive waves of terrorism have swept more than 100,000 people into the concentration camps, where the shooting of prisoners is one of the cherished pastimes of the



Opposition to Hitler grows. There have been several successful strikes and the demand for free trade unions increases.
Drawing by Frans Masereel.

guards. Hundreds of thousands of dependents, women and little children, have had to mourn (in secret, for fear of reprisals) the plight of husbands, fathers, brothers and sons, whose ultimate fate has only been revealed by the discovery of their mutilated corpses in the mortuaries.

Is it surprising that such methods of "government" should lead to economic ruin? The finances of the German State today are in a desperate condition. Budget deficits have to be reckoned, not in millions, but in billions of marks. There is a progressive breakdown of internal and external trade. Some 5,000,000 workers are unemployed, while the wages of those still in employment have been cut to a starvation level.

The wages of the fully employed workman in Germany today are little higher than the scanty benefit paid in Great Britain to the unemployed worker. And yet the cost of living is rising.

Figures given in the *Deutsche Arbeitsfront* (the official paper of the Nazi Labor Front) show that one third of the German workers earn less than \$2.00 a week; another third less than \$6.00 a week; only one per cent earn more than \$10.00 a week.

It is not surprising that, despite the savage repressive measures of the government, there should be uprisings among the workers. In a number of industries there have been strikes against the ruthless cutting of wages in the interests of the Nazi exploiters. Not a single German newspaper dared to say a word about those strikes, but knowledge of them is spreading among the workers of Germany, whose spirit of resistance is mounting daily.

An effective weapon against Hitlerism is the boycott of German goods and services, in which our Trade Union and Labor Movement, and the International Federation of Trade Unions, of which I am President, have taken a leading part. Some months ago a "World Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi Council to Champion Human Rights" was formed in order to concentrate international action against Fascism.

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Young Germany on the march. The Nazis are ready to take advantage of war in Africa to seize Austria and launch an anti-Soviet attack.
From *Der Simpl*

WHO RUNS SOUTH DAKOTA?

By ELSIE OLSON

Chairman of Junior Department, Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America; State Director of Education for the South Dakota Division of the Farmers' Union.

THE HOMESTAKE Gold Mine at Lead, South Dakota, is the richest in the world.

To its owners it has meant fabulous dividends and power. To South Dakota it has meant controlled government, with schools, and other institutions used as cats-paws; it has meant contaminated churches and schools, corrupt politics, and loss of natural resources.

Back of this record, which dates from statehood in 1889, stands the flag-waving patriot and savior of the Constitution, promoter and part owner of Homestake, William Randolph Hearst.

The fight waged by the Farmers Union aided by other organized groups of farmers and workers in the 1935 session of the state legislature, publicized by the slogan, "Tax gold, not thistles," was more than an attempt to shift taxes from the patched backs of farmers to those of the bonanza mine owners. *Democratic government itself was on trial.*

For many years the Homestake has been the heart, pumping gold from "the richest 100 square miles in the world." Purchased by Hearst and his partners at \$70,000, in its corporate life it has produced \$400,000,000. The value of Homestake stock has risen from a high of \$93 in 1929 to \$430 in 1934.

According to the June issue of *Fortune* there are 251,160 shares outstanding, but for taxing purposes this hundred million dollar corporation has been listed at less than \$10,000,000 until recently, when this valuation was raised a couple of million dollars. About 130,000 of the shares of stock are controlled by Hearst and those associated with him in developing this property.

Production in 1934 reached a total of \$16,900,000, with profits almost trebled by the increased valuation of the gold dollar from 100 cents to 166 cents. Mr. Hearst can well afford to support a government which gives him the right to exploit natural resources practically without taxation. Over the entrance to the marble edifice which houses the Supreme Court in Washington is inscribed "Equal Justice Under Law." No doubt it is the way justice is meted out to the Hearsts vs. the masses that makes him such a firm supporter of the Guardian of the Rights of Property, the Constitution and the status quo.

In contrast to the Homestake prosperity, bankruptcy, mortgages, and insecurity blanket the rest of the state, dependent on agriculture for support. For years, farmers, left to the tender mercies of tariffs, trade agreements, the profit system and the money changers, have received less than the cost of production for feeding and clothing the nation. Beginning in 1925, drought brought with it disaster and swarms of grasshoppers that hatched and stayed until there was nothing left for them to eat but each other. From the bare baked earth, choking dust storms were whipped by never ending winds that drove the dust into every crack and piled it to the roofs and over fences, grind-

ing the paint from buildings and threatening the very existence of the people.

Rural schools were closing and half of them were without funds, as officially stated by Superintendent of Public Instruction, I. D. Weeks, early in 1934. Teachers, drawing \$40 and \$50 per month, were forced to have their warrants discounted as much as 25 per cent, and many warrants were not salable at any price. The total cost of operating the rural schools was approximately \$7,000,000, or about the added net annual profit obtained by Homestake from the increased value of gold. The people of the state echoed the sentiment of Emil Loriks, state president of the Farmers Union, when he said: "*If the people of this state permit their schools to close for lack of funds, and let gold production go untaxed, they have less sense than a jackass that would starve to death in clover up to its belly.*"

A general exodus from the state was prevented only by enforcement of antiquated "poor laws" which prohibit propertyless people from establishing residence in new localities if there is danger of their becoming public charges. Year after year we have had to "take it," only to have farms offered at tax and mortgage sales where there were no bidders. The Economics Department of the State College estimates that 40 per cent of the farms have been foreclosed on; the *Chicago Tribune*, December, 1933, described as "the silent march of destruction" tax sales of 30 percent of the land in South Dakota that month.

Why, then, have "self-governing" people of South Dakota failed to place an adequate tax on the property and production of Homestake mine? The answer is that *Homestake has been the government.* Only recently has its power been challenged. They have maintained powerful lobbies and expert legal talent who have arranged gentlemen's agreements with other groups, as the chain banks, power trust, packers and bond holders who seek protection from the will of the people. State schools and institutions requiring appropriations have had to line up and vote their legislators to suit the special interests, to get appropriations. Itchy palms of hungry legislators were soothed at public expense, more than 30 legislators being rewarded with jobs in violation of the state constitution, during the present administration.

The 1935 legislative fight was not the first time that forces headed by the Farmers Union on one side and Hearst-Homestake on the other have come into conflict.

An ore tax bill drafted by Oscar Fosheim, Vice-President of the Farmers Union and leader of the farm block in the House of Representatives, was on our program in 1933, but was defeated by the efforts of Homestake and allied groups. At that time the Northwest Bancorporation feared the state would default on Rural Credit bonds which it held,

and to protect its money joined forces with the administration, the Homestake, and other special interest groups. At a midnight session of the Senate, an administration bill to divert 2 cents per gallon of the gasoline tax from the highway funds and refunds reverting to tractor farmers, into a sinking fund to retire bonds, was given two readings and shot through to the House the following day.

This was a surprise move put across before the people could hear about it. What made this diversion stick out like a sore thumb was the fact that less than a year before the State Supreme Court had ruled that the fund could not be diverted to loans to farmers. Then it was desperately needed to feed our cattle and horses, starving to death during a winter of famine, blizzards, and horror. Many people, especially school children, were suffering from malnutrition. Fuel, food, and credit were running out—when the Red Cross came to our rescue. The next year, when the bonding interests spoke with the backing of the Hearst-Homestake crowd, action could be secured overnight to *permanently divert the fund!* Today, South Dakota, in dire need of employment for the destitute, finds its road building program blocked because it lacks funds to match with Federal dollars!

A bill to reapportion representation in both houses of the Legislature according to population, as provided by the state constitution, was defeated by the same group. Lawrence County, home of Homestake, has four representatives in the House, with no greater population than Brown and Davison counties, which have but two each. Also defeated was the organized farmers' and laborers' fight for a net income tax, and in its place a glorified sales tax, or gross income tax, was enacted.

With these experiences behind them, the Farmers Union went to work to pass an ore tax in 1935 and see whether the people had any voice in state government. We have the right of initiative in the state, and a bill providing for a 10 per cent gross ore tax was circulated in petition, which would give the legislature the choice of passing an ore tax or submitting the initiated bill to the people at the next election. Loriks and Fosheim took the lead in the campaign through the *Union Farmer*, official paper of the state Farmers Union; in the public press; over the radio; and by use of a car equipped with a loud speaker that covered practically every town and village, as well as farm meetings, in the state. People became ore-tax conscious, and legislators were elected pledged to enactment.

Drought again gripped the state, and most of the people were living on Federal relief, directly or indirectly. Schools and other institutions were threatened for lack of funds, and Federal donations were necessary to keep them open. Frightened at the thought of the tax, Homestake was not idle. Donations of \$10,000 each were made to Dakota Wesleyan,

Yankton College, Huron College, Augustana College, and Sioux Falls College. Later even smaller schools received gifts. During the legislative fight over the ore tax, the poor little Junior College at Wessington Springs sent out letters urging its friends to wire their legislators to vote against an ore tax, and enclosed small checks "from a special fund" to pay for telegrams! One of these checks was displayed on the Senate floor, during the ore tax fight.

When it came to the legislative session, we had 40 members of the Farmers Union in the two houses. On the fourth day of the session Oscar Fosheim introduced our Ore Tax Bill in the House. The Governor, taking up the fight against an ore tax, countered with a new Gross Tax Bill, stepping up the rates applying to Homestead from 1 percent to 3 percent. This the House promptly killed, almost wrecking the Governor's control over the legislature. The high-powered lobbyists then concentrated on the Senate, which amended the Ore Tax Bill by striking out everything but the title, and substituting one drawn by their own lawyers! Like Judas steers which lead fellow cattle up to slaughter chutes to get an ear of corn for themselves, some of the Senators we had counted on, "got something," and the substitute fake bill passed the Senate.

We still held our Initiation petition in reserve, so when the bill as amended went to conference between the two houses, Fosheim, acting on the House committee, was able to get a compromise, which will tax the Homestead about \$700,000 per year, a mere shaving from the mark up in the price of gold. Still Homestead's Lawrence County threatened to secede from the state, but later decided it was easier to take the amount of the tax out of the wages of their mine workers, who are unorganized, since Hearst, good fascist that he is, will not tolerate organized labor other than company unions at the Homestead.

Who runs South Dakota? Here was a perfect test case. One isolated industry pitted against the people of the state. On one side the "richest one hundred square miles on earth," marked up in value by a scratch of the President's pen, on the other side debt-ridden farmers, drought and pestilence, and an overwhelming voting power. Yet the best this majority could do even after a concerted and intense campaign was—a draw! Oh, we made a dent, thanks to the brilliant and untiring effort of our "Gold Dust Twins," Loriks and Fosheim, and the unflagging support of organized farmers and labor.

But, we got in addition a 2 per cent sales tax that largely comes out of relief and rehabilitation checks; and a Department of Justice, with storm troopers, first used to smash the strike of Sioux Falls Meat Cutters, and no doubt created to take care of any future militancy of farmers or workers. But the people of South Dakota are determined to protect their democratic rights against the attacks of reactionary corporations and fascists. The fight will go on.



German-American Nazis at a camp on Long Island, N. Y. The United States Government protests against alleged "propaganda from Moscow" but fails to protest against propaganda from Berlin. The Nazi network of agents is spreading throughout the world.

"EXCERPT"

(Document found in a soldier's pocket in Africa. Dated July, 1937)

By CHARLES R. ALLEN

WHY I write this I do not know. It seems certain that it will be consigned to the flames. Even now Africa is disintegrating in terrific eruptions, smearing the sky with blood-red hellish light. Doomed by the mighty air armadas—doomed as surely as Europe, as civilization itself is doomed.

It is evident the end has come. At the moment I write the rumble of the armies in the distance grows louder; death is sweeping onward like a tidal wave. The drone of steel ships of destruction fills the sky; their vast company comes between the earth and the sun, shutting out light.

Let me not think of the past year. It is too maddening to know that piece by piece the earth is being blown asunder. Spain, France and England are dissolving under the stenching piles of dead and Africa lies rotting under the dissolution of heavy lethal gases. Fire is everywhere. The skies, molten and brassy, are livid with it. There is an acrid, biting smell in the air. For days, weeks, men have died in agony from poison gases, wave after wave, behind which march the conquerors of civilization.

I am wondering at this moment what the conquerors will find when the last stone has crumbled. What do they expect to achieve, what is left that is worth conquering?

I write this from within a crumbling mass once quaintly termed a dugout, in the last stronghold on this crumbling continent. Above me a world is perishing. I have looked out over many miles of earth—torn, shredded, scorched. I know that here—was it centuries ago?—there were only waving plains, sparkling rivers and green growing things. The air was fresh and pure. Tribes of men roamed these plains. Their skin was dark; they were called "savages"!

Scattered around were other people—white people. Short months ago they walked here, talked, laughed, loved and lived. There was

something called religion and a man they sung about once in a while—a man named Jesus . . . how far away and long ago it all seems!

Now the air is hot and burning. The first fumes of the gases are creeping in. I am not afraid to die. But I am curious. I am wondering what it will look like when the sun sinks tonight over the last traces of what they called "civilization."

LETTERS FROM ERITREA

FROM ILLEGAL anti-fascist sources in Italy we have received copies of letters from Italian soldiers in Eritrea and Italian Somaliland. Here are typical excerpts:

"The drinking water here is filthy and dangerous to our health. Pure drinking water is as expensive as wine. . . . The heat is blistering and many succumb. . . . I am one of the lucky ones in the barracks, as most of the soldiers are in tents which give poor protection from the heat. Many are so exhausted with the heat, the poor food and water that they can barely walk, yet the discipline is inflexible. . . . There is a shortage of everything except sand. . . ."

"Our send-off when we sailed was in an atmosphere of artificially stimulated and compulsory 'enthusiasm.' The authorities collected a few hundred pro-fascists at the pier who cheered when they were ordered to do so. The military commander ordered wine given out. The soldiers and sailors got completely drunk and didn't know what or why they were cheering.

"The food, etc., was bad enough on shipboard and gave us a foretaste of what we might expect here—but it is worse than we feared. . . . The discontent is increasing so fast the officers are afraid of rebellion and enforce the strictest discipline, while making extravagant promises of better conditions soon. . . . There remains little enthusiasm for this mad adventure of Mussolini's even among the formerly loyal fascisti. Nobody relishes the idea of killing Ethiopians or dying ourselves in Ethiopian deserts and swamps to win honor and glory for Il Duce. Tell the comrades to carry on the fight."

GOEBBELS versus SCHACHT

By DR. KURT ROSENFELD

Former German Social Democratic Reichstag Leader and Minister of Justice in Prussia; now in exile in America.

THE RIVALRY between Schacht and Goebbels is the momentary expression of the fierce battle for power raging between various cliques in the Third Reich. This battle between the Economic Dictator and the Minister of Propaganda symbolizes the lack of unity in Germany; it has far-reaching significance and illustrates one weakness within the fascist dictatorship.

One clique of Nazis set fire to the Reichstag and thus smoothed the path of the Nazis to power. Within this clique there have developed new cliques, continuously fighting among themselves for power with the same weapon of brute force they used in crushing opposition.

When Hitler seized power, the tormented German people were taken by surprise and since then have had no peace. Feuds between the various cliques went on constantly behind the scenes. Hitler, holding the balance of power, maintained his supremacy over all groups by siding first with one and then the other.

This inner fight for leadership among the dictators found its first dramatic public expression in the blood-purge of June 30, 1934. Until a few days prior to this hideous night of murder, Goebbels was in the camp of the conspirators working in closest relationship with Roehm, head of one of the rival cliques. Goebbels managed to save himself by a last-minute, daring leap from one camp to the other when he saw that victory would be won by the opposing clique, the more ruthless and brutal gang of murderers.

The owner and two waiters of a Munich restaurant where secret meetings were held between Goebbels and Roehm, were simply put out of the world in the general purge because of their dangerous knowledge. One murder more or less did not matter.

Thus Goebbels was able to maintain his position by betraying his "friends" and allying himself with the stronger clique.

The head of the faction opposing Goebbels as well as all other combinations of forces in the National Socialist opposition is Schacht. He is certainly made of different stuff than his opponent. But he is as shrewd as Goebbels. This man, President of the Reichsbank, who held the highest position under the Weimar Republic, who never uttered a word against the democratic government, this very man who posed as a republican and the loyal servant of the Constitution, travelled with the speed of lightning toward the Right when it became obvious that Hitler would be victorious.

Schacht had been an intimate associate of the German Nationalist Hugenberg. But when Hugenberg was driven out of the government, Schacht betrayed his former friend and became doglike in his devotion to Hitler. Recently he did not hesitate to betray the fraternal lodge of which he was a member. To a large extent his rise was due to the

support of these fraternal organizations, but when it served his purpose he spoke publicly against the lodges and supported Hitler's Decree of Dissolution (against the Freemasons, etc.).

The Economic Dictator of the Third Reich surely recognizes the defects of the politics of the Nazi dictatorship. As an economist, he cannot possibly be in agreement and he is certainly not satisfied with many of the economic measures of the Third Reich; hence his speech against the "economic dilettantes." But he will never jeopardize his position nor will he retire voluntarily from his ministerial office.

The Nazis by their bloody rage against the Jews and their other insane measures threaten the success of Schacht's policy of reaching an understanding with the financiers of other countries. Schacht criticizes the breaking of windows of Jewish firms, for the same stones fall into his own window. The unfavorable effect of Nazi terrorism upon American public opinion very materially hinders Schacht in his endeavors to float American loans. But he has but one goal—to remain in power. So he "sits tight." His opposition to terrorism and to Nazi policies goes only to the point beyond which he is afraid another step would jeopardize his position.

Recently Schacht permitted Goebbels to censor the main points of his important speech against Nazi anti-Semitic terror. He contented himself with having his speech distributed in pamphlet form. Hitler did not disapprove of Goebbels' censorship of Schacht's speech, yet on the other hand he agreed to the distribution of the pamphlet. An example of Hitler's irresolution.

In a previous clash between the two, Schacht was victor over Goebbels. One day Goebbels threw a subordinate of Schacht into a concentration camp. Ostensibly this was because this subordinate, who was his tenant, had acted in an "anti-social manner." Schacht ascertained that the charge was not well founded. He was able to insist, not only that his subordinate be immediately set free and restored to his position, but that this decision be published in Nazi papers.

But Schacht's condemnation of the extremes of Jewish persecutions, of Pogroms, has not had any tangible effect. The "race war" continues unabated. And Schacht is clever enough not to carry his fight against the Nazi extremists too far and endanger himself.

Although Schacht is not a member of the Nazi Party, which has a majority in the Cabinet, he could certainly be the strongest man in it, not only because of the vast economic power entrusted to him by finance capital, but because he has the decisive support of the Reichswehr and of the old conservative elements behind him. But he knows that if he carried his opposition to the Nazi extremists too far, it would be the end for him—and not only political death. But he

is too ambitious to subordinate himself entirely.

So for the moment the two men stand in sharp opposition—the one as the representative of the German bankers and industrialists, and the other as the spokesmen of the resolute Nazi Party and its terroristic methods. But among those on the inside, "in the know," it is whispered that the two who are apparently fighting bitterly are only engaged in a sham battle. At the decisive moment they are ready if necessary to fall on each other's necks.

But the day must and will come when all acting and pretense will end, and no more maneuvers will be possible. Events are pressing toward a decision. No matter who will be the victor of this duel, in the end the continuously increasing strength of the opposition, the discontent of the toiling German masses, will create the means with the help of which Schacht and Goebbels and all the Nazi murderers will disappear and a government of the people will sweep away this abominable system of intrigue, and destroy not one clique but the entire Nazi dictatorship.



Three Thousand People of No Importance

"My health is good. I lost no one of any importance. I put my losses at three thousand killed and wounded."

From a letter written by Napoleon to Empress Marie Louise in 1813.



Drawing by George Grosz

Cotton is Smearred with Blood in Alabama

By AL JACKSON

A REIGN of terror against the cotton pickers' strike in Alabama is in progress that rivals the terror in fascist Germany. The writer, being the most hunted person in the Black Belt, writing this in the shadow of the lynch rope, knows certain death awaits him if he is found by vigilantes.

The cotton pickers' strike was called by the Share Croppers' Union in an effort to raise the miserably low wages paid for farm work. Demands for \$1 per 100 pounds for picking cotton (the old price being 35c to 50c), \$1 a day for 10 hours' work on farms for wage workers (the usual wage being \$2 to \$3 a week), and 20c an hour, 40 hours a week, pay in cash for rural relief workers (the present rates vary, but are much less than this, and pay is in the form of a food order at a landlord store), were popularized throughout the counties in which the union is organized.

On the first day of the strike, August 19, at J. R. Bell's plantation in Calhoun, Lowndes County, Ala., Sheriff R. E. Woodruff was called to force the strikers back to the fields. They refused to go. Willie Witcher, a Negro strike leader, was singled out for attack. He was shot at 8 times, beaten over the head with a pistol butt, and carried to the Haynesville jail. The spirit of the strike was exemplified by Witcher's challenge in the face of the lyncher's guns, "Maybe you'll kill me but you'll never scare me into scabbing."

Under the personal leadership of Sheriff R. E. Woodruff of Haynesville a gang of landlords, deputies, and small town rowdies were organized to terrorize the strikers in Lowndes County. In the next few days more than six Negro strikers were carried off at night, beaten almost to death and left in the swamps.

On August 22, this same gang raided several homes in the day, beating Callie Calloway and her sisters. Jim Press Merriwether passed the door of the Calloway shack unarmed while the vigilantes were there. John Frank Bates of Fort Deposit saw him and shot him down. They found Jim Merriwether's wife, beat her, hung her from a rafter for "sport," and then released her. Then they carried Merriwether to C. C. Ryles' plantation where they tried to question the dying man, getting no information. After this they carried him to Sandy Ridge where they riddled his body with bullets.

That night the strikers armed themselves and met Sheriff Woodruff's vigilante gang on even terms. The brave vigilantes ran before a shot was fired.

The local newspapers carried on a rabid lynch-inciting campaign against the strike, spreading slanderous stories to justify vigilante terror.

In the search for the writer, Charles Tasker and James Jackson, Negro workers of Montgomery, were arrested and questioned. Failing to get any information from them they were released, carried to the County line and told to "Keep going and never show up here again!" Both of these workers have homes and families here.

Despite all the terror the strike has continued and has spread to new counties. The

strike is now solid in parts of Montgomery County, and in Talapoosa, Chambers, Lee and Randolph Counties.

On Sept. 2 the terror broke out again in Lowndes County. As a part of the Labor Day "celebration," Sheriff Woodruff's vigilante gang went to Hope Hull and attacked the home of Ed Bracy, militant Negro union leader. When Bracy tried to escape through the back door he was shot down, 19 bullets entering his neck, back and head.

Determination, born out of the miserable conditions under which the white and Negro farm workers, croppers and tenants live, gave these strikers the courage to carry on in spite of this last attack.

Every vestige of their human, civil and constitutional rights has been swept aside by landlords, sheriffs and vigilantes in their murderous campaign to keep the living stand-

ards of the farm toilers down to a starvation level. To break the strike, the landlords have murdered five men; in addition to Willie Witcher, Jim Merriwether and Ed Bracy, Sam Childs and B. Jackson have been killed. The Share Croppers Union is waiting word from the Southern Tenants Farmers Union of Arkansas on whether the two organizations will unite in the near future or not. Every indication is that unity will be achieved.

All workers and farmers are urged to flood President Roosevelt and Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama, with protest telegrams, letters and resolutions demanding that all terror against the strike and the Share Croppers Union stop at once, and that the right of the workers to organize, meet, strike and picket be protected.

Support the striking cotton pickers in their struggle for a living wage and their fight against fascist terror.



BLACK AND WHITE UNITE!

Drawing by William Siegal



Congress passes "neutrality" legislation while mobilizing soldiers in the largest mimic war in our history at Pine Camp, N. Y., to "prove" that we need ever larger appropriations for preparedness. Meantime, British, German, Italian, French and other armies are also holding maneuvers, playing at war, rehearsing for the World War which is threatened. How soon will this play become grim reality?

FASCIST PARADE

CONGRESSMAN JOHN J. McSWAIN, Representative of South Carolina, and Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, explained to the House on August 26th the benefits of the Thomason Bill which provides that 1,000 R.O.T.C. officers shall annually be called to active duty for training with the Regular Army, and that fifty R.O.T.C. officers shall be commissioned in the Regular Army. He said:

"Now, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I contend also that the scheme of preparing officer material contemplated by the Thomason Bill will have a far-reaching influence upon all the 125,000 students in the R.O.T.C. units in the Nation. Why? Because heretofore the door of opportunity was closed. Now the door of opportunity is open. It is true the door is not widely open, and is merely 'cracked,' but still there is a chance, whereas heretofore there was no chance for a young man who could not induce his Congressman to give him an appointment to the Military Academy, to finally get a commission in the Regular Army. Therefore, I can visualize, and I have letters from more than 100 college presidents who express the same thought and have caught the same vision, that every one of the 125,000 students in the R.O.T.C., after they learn of the provisions of the Thomason Bill, and they are sure to learn of those provisions, will be stimulated, enthused, and aroused to take greater interest in his military training. He will become more amenable to discipline. He will begin to study military history. He will read the biographies of great soldiers. He will begin to think about what it may mean to achieve glory in war. So that, in the place of a dull and listless body of R.O.T.C. students without hope, there will be morale, enthusiasm, zeal, ambition, and intense interest throughout the entire 125,000 R.O.T.C. students."—*Congression Record, Vol. 79, No. 179, uage 15172.*

SINCE early in August, Sonoma County, California, has been terrorized by 300 vigilantes organized to crush the strike movement of workers in the apple orchards and hop fields. Apple pickers got 12c an hour until 1933 when a strike won them an in-

crease to 25c. This year the pickers demanded more because the cost of living has gone up. A few farmers gave in, and paid 35c an hour; but the majority of the wealthiest orchard owners got together with the Chamber of Commerce crowd and the American Legion, and organized the vigilantes to put down the "red menace."

An August 12 they broke up meetings of farm workers throughout the county. On August 21 they seized five of the workers' leaders, beat up three and gave two a coat of tar and feathers. The American Civil Liberties Union charges that the Sheriff and District Attorney had advance knowledge of the raid and know who led the vigilantes but refuse to prosecute.

Workers refused to pick the apples and hops for the starvation wages offered and under conditions of terror; they promptly left the county. There was "a serious shortage of labor"; so the SERA director of San Francisco, John H. Small, took 500 men off relief rolls and put them to work picking hops and apples; he plans to take 5,000 men off relief rolls for this forced labor. He states, "the order does not oblige men to go to the agricultural areas . . . but they will receive no relief until the harvest is over." Sweet land of liberty!

POWERS HAPGOOD, Indianapolis party leader, and two other Socialists were arrested in Terre Haute on Sept. 5, and booked on "vagrancy" charges for their participation in a campaign to end martial law in Vigo County. Hapgood was jailed, for the second time in two weeks, after he protested the arrest of Leo Vernon, Socialist organizer from Madison, Wis., and Aaron Gilmartin, secretary of the Labor and Socialist Defense Committee. The arrests followed the re-establishment of picket lines at the Columbia Stamping and Enameling Plant in violation of martial law.

Norman Thomas, national Socialist leader, spoke at a mass meeting of 2,000 trade unionists, Socialists and Communists on Sept. 4, on the Terre Haute courthouse steps in defiance of the military rules. Martial law was declared July 22 during a general strike.

Thomas also aided in the formation of a local defense committee. In Sullivan County, which has been under martial law since a mine strike in October, 1933, another defense committee was organized.

INDICTMENTS against 24 persons were returned by the Anderson Co. grand jury in connection with the armed attack on picketing textile workers in Pelzer, S. C., on Labor Day when two persons were killed and 22 injured. Mrs. Bertha Kelly, one of those killed, was a member of the United Textile Workers' Union and mother of two children.

The shooting occurred when strikebreakers attempted to pass through the picket line of 150 union workers at the Pelzer mill. The strike began two months ago when the company threatened to fire all workers who refused to join the Goodwill Association, a company union. Two companies of National Guardsmen were sent to Pelzer by Governor Olin D. Johnson immediately after the shooting.

THE TRIALS of Robert Wood and R. F. Hall, charged with violating the Birmingham Down's Ordinance were again postponed on Sept. 4. The case against Nora Elliot, arrested at the same time was dismissed, as the police, when they raided her home, found no literature more seditious than the Bible and Shakespeare. The Downs' Ordinance provides a penalty of six months in jail and/or a fine of \$100 for possession of more than one copy of a radical publication.

Edward Sears, a Negro miner, got 10 months on the chain gang under a similar ordinance in Bessemer, Ala., on Sept. 4. He had a Scottsboro pamphlet, *Act Three*, by Sasha Small, and was not permitted to get in touch with a lawyer. Sears' conviction will be appealed by the International Labor Defense.

NEW SCOTTSBORO trials will probably begin in October, according to Lieutenant-Governor Thomas E. Knight. The Morgan County jury rolls are being revised to include the names of Negroes in accordance with the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court.

THE DOTHAN (Ala.) *Eagle* carried an editorial reading:

"Rally Round, Comrades! Let's Hoist the Red Flag"

"Because Gov. Graves waited one day too long to veto the anti-sedition bill, it automatically becomes the law of Alabama.

"Thus it is now a misdemeanor for any citizen to advocate the overthrow of the government by violence, or to possess more than one copy of a publication, cut or cartoon advocating the overthrow of the government by violence.

"As a newspaper believing implicitly in the fundamental importance of free speech and a free press, *The Eagle* is interested in testing this drastic and wholly unnecessary law.

"Therefore We Advocate the Overthrow of Alabama's Government by Violence"

"We urge the citizens to arm themselves with shillalabs, set out for Montgomery and whale Hell out of the members of the Alabama Legislature who voted for the anti-sedition bill. We advocate that they also be kicked swiftly in the after deck of the pantalons."

The bill has been repealed by the State legislature; another victory for mass protest.

H. L. MITCHELL, Secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, reports that the members of the union voted 11,186 to 450 to call their first strike of cotton pickers. They demand \$1 per hundred pounds—instead of 40c; this "will enable us to get by." A good picker averages a hundred pounds daily. "The rich planters got millions of dollars from the government for cotton we didn't raise; but they want to continue paying starvation wages." Those on the strike committee face persecution, torture, perhaps death at the hands of vigilantes organized by the planters and often led by local sheriffs. "The night-riders will beat and kill men and burn houses and churches where we meet, riddle our homes with bullets as they have in the past. But we must not be terrorized or starved into going back into the fields until we have won. This is a pioneer strike. Upon its outcome hangs the fate of many impoverished Southern workers. Conditions have not changed in Arkansas since Naomi Mitchison, famous English novelist, said last spring that she saw more suffering in Arkansas than in famine-stricken China."

The strike covers cotton fields in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. Meantime the Share Croppers Union is leading a cotton pickers' strike in Alabama, accompanied by terror, described in this issue by one of its leaders. Negotiations between the two unions recently established a joint program of action against the plantation owners looking toward unity of the two organizations of Southern sharecroppers, tenant farmers and farm workers.

These photos were not taken in Nazi Germany but in "democratic" United States, where we are all "guaranteed" certain "inalienable" rights. (LEFT TO RIGHT) Jack Green with his family; and Green and Solomon Nitzburg with their coat of tar and feathers, and C. Meyer and George Ford, who were beaten by a mob of 300 vigilantes in Santa Rosa, Calif.



WE WANT AN ANSWER FROM EVERY READER!

Should the name of our magazine be changed? If so, can you suggest a better title?

Should the price be increased to 10c so that we can give you 32 pages instead of 16? Or should the price remain at 5c and FIGHT be made a weekly?

What criticisms of FIGHT have you and what suggestions for improvement?

Do you want more text and fewer photos and cartoons or vice versa?

Do you want to read less about the war danger and fascism in Europe and more about fascist trends and war preparations in the United States?

I earnestly request an answer from each person who reads FIGHT, for the guidance of the Publications Committee. Decisions on the first three questions will probably not be made until the Third Congress of the League, but we need your help in making plans.

Liston M. Oak, Editor.

ORGANIZED labor in Detroit is faced with the task of fighting against Father Coughlin's semi-fascist company union of automobile workers. Throwing off his sanctimonious cloak on Labor Day week-end, Coughlin launched this yellow-dog "union," claiming 15,000 members. Its main immediate effect is to make more difficult the organization of automobile workers into the A. F. of L. union. Behind this move, labor leaders charge, are Ford and other automobile manufacturers.

Coughlin has until now confined himself to vague fascist demagoguery. The 9,000,000 "members" of his National Union for Social Justice are merely radio listeners who send in fan letters. He has refused to state definitely for what "principles" this National Union stands. But now he launches a scab "union" and takes his stand on the side of the anti-labor automobile manufacturers. With his tremendous following, he will be a useful tool to keep down wages and prevent organization.

PROTEST pays. The campaign against the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, which the artist, Harold Gray, uses for fascist propaganda, has brought results. James Clendenin, editor of the *Huntington*, W. Va., *Herald Dispatch*, wrote an editorial condemning the comic "which has been made the vehicle for vindictive propaganda," and said it would no longer be used in his paper. He got a telegram

from the *Chicago Tribune* stating that the artist had been "ordered to stop editorializing." The strip is used by 135 daily and 100 Sunday papers—a lot of whom have heard from their readers who didn't like the viciously anti-labor stuff in "Little Orphan Annie."

THE United States is preparing for an offensive war and is now spending more money getting ready for war than any other country on earth, Senator Gerald P. Nye declared at Atlantic City on Sept. 9. The blueprints of military action by the United States in the next war do not call for a single battle on our own territory, but "call for moving 3,000,000 of our young men across the sea to engage in a war somewhere else," he said. "That is not national defense. It is aggression." The Federal war budget has increased 197 per cent since the World War, Nye stated.

TWO were killed and about fifty others injured in Minneapolis when police fired into the mass picket line at the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works. The strike had lasted eight weeks.

The following day a large mass meeting was held to protest these killings and to demand that the Farmer-Labor Mayor, Latimer, fire the chief of police and remove the scabs and armed guards living in the plant in violation of a city ordinance. Tear gas bombs were fired by the police into this protest meeting.

There is mass indignation among the members of the Farmer-Labor Party against those leaders of the party who condone the strike-breaking action of Latimer.

ANTI-fascists in Pennsylvania are demanding that Governor Earle, who has declared his opposition to fascism, disband the White Crusaders, vigilantes who have terrorized Negro miners in Washington County for weeks.

EVIDENTLY seeking revenge for the victory of American anti-fascists in the famous Bremen case, Nazi secret police arrested an American seaman, William Gill, member of the crew of the liner *George Washington*, at Hamburg, on the charge of "defaming Hitler." He has been sentenced to two months in prison. The circumstances of this case are very similar to those surrounding the arrest of Lawrence Simpson, kidnaped on June 28 from the S.S. Manhattan at Hamburg. Simpson is held in the concentration camp at Fuehlsbittel. The American Civil Liberties Union, the International Labor Defense, the Anti-Nazi Federation and other organizations are seeking to get action from the U.S. State Department, and to force the Nazis to allow an American lawyer to defend Simpson in court.



Is It a Crime to Protest Against War?

By JULIA CHURCH KOLAR

A direct descendant of American Revolutionists and a staunch fighter against War and Fascism

I AM AN AMERICAN MOTHER, arrested on September 7th because I dared to protest against Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia to the Italian Vice-consul in New York City. With Miss Jane Craik Speed I went to the consulate, representing the Women's Committee of the American League Against War and Fascism.

That visit ended in the arrest of Miss Speed and myself. That visit did something to me. I don't like being arrested. But what happened at the Italian consulate proved to me the need for united action if we are to fight the war mongers. And, I, for one, will submit to arrest many times over if by doing so I can help prevent the most terrible crime against civilization: *War!*

Ever since my affiliation with the American League Against War and Fascism, about a year ago, I have been speaking to various women's organizations. Always I have urged those people who listened to me to fully realize that pacific protest against war is not enough—that more than social hours and tea drinking must be engaged in if anti-war activity is to be effective.

Heywood Broun says: "You can't change the world and be nice and polite at the same time." I know that Heywood Broun is right about this. So I wasn't as nice and polite as I've been brought up to be when I went to the Italian Consulate with Jane Speed and announced to Prince Colonno, the Italian Vice-consul, that "We came here to protest against Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia." When he indignantly accused us of attacking his country, I told him this was no attack upon the Italian people. That I and the other anti-fascists love Italy and the Italian people. We deeply appreciate their contributions to world culture. We explained that this attack is on Mussolini's fascist government and its plans for a war of conquest of a defenseless nation.

Last summer, while I was traveling in Switzerland, I was told by a Swiss government official that Italy was bankrupt. I later realized that this was the reason for Mussolini's war plans whose goal is the exploitation of Ethiopian resources and the enslavement of the Ethiopian people.

Not only do the other anti-fascists and I speak on behalf of the Ethiopian people and the innocent Italian workers, but also on behalf of our own American people. We must all realize that all of Europe and the United States will be involved in the world conflagration which will follow the initial crime of Mussolini. For our own youth, then, we must fight this terrible monster which looms on the horizon. To wait until war is here is to wait too long. Immediate and powerful action is necessary. And we middle-class people must realize that our position is with the working people against war—and not with the war

makers who will make us their victims as well as the workers.

My ancestors fought in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars for freedom, for civil rights—for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Today, in fighting against war, Jane Speed and I take the same stand as our ancestors took—in defense of the rights of all people to peace and security.

Since the beginning of the depression, 5,000,000 American youths have been graduated from our schools and colleges. 250,000 are turned out yearly. For these children there is no future—very few can achieve economic security and an opportunity to show what they are capable of doing. Hundreds are sent yearly to CCC camps, away from their families and friends, deprived of a normal existence, pressed down under a military routine. Is this the future we want for our American youth? Do we want war to be the only career open to our fine American boys?

Every American mother must ask herself: shall it be profits for Wall Street or safety and happiness for my children? Unless we American mothers fight the terrible menace of war, the outlook for the future of our sons and daughters is dark, very dark.

JAPAN'S "MANIFEST DESTINY"

(Continued from page 4)

guidance of the army generals who are in complete control at Hsinking. A complete deadlock has been reached as past investments are insufficient to develop the country industrially to a point where profits can be expected, while it is beyond Japan's power to supply fresh capital needed to make the previous outlay pay.

But as usual, reason has no chance when the military run amuck.

"Stimson Doctrine or no Stimson Doctrine, Japan is going to do what she wants in China. . . . Naval treaty or no naval treaty Japan will build as many ships as necessary to support her political program," said Admiral Yamamoto in November, 1934, in London, to an interviewer, not forgetting to add however, "If you quote me on this, I shall, of course, deny it emphatically and sue you for libel."



ACCORDING to the Transatlantic Information Service, the average wage level in Austria is now from 25 to 40 percent below the level of pre-fascist years, varying in different industries; and over 50 percent below the 1929 level. The Austrian fascist "unions" claim a "voluntary" membership of 300,000; but this is misleading. It is estimated that less than a third of the members pay dues, and workers do not join of their own free will, but as the result of constant pressure.

THE British Trade Union Congress, at its 67th annual meeting recently, adopted resolutions and a program of action against war and fascism and for trade union unity. It urged labor throughout the world to support all efforts to check Italian fascist aggression against Ethiopia, including if necessary sanctions (specific penalties imposed by the League of Nations) and the extension of the economic boycott of Italian and German goods.



Drawing by Mackey

THE International Transport Workers Federation, with 1,600,000 members in thirty-two countries, reports that a careful investigation of all strata of Italian society reveals that:

"1. The Italian people have, generally speaking, a strong impression that fascism wishes to provoke a war in North Africa at all costs, and heedless of the conciliatory efforts of other countries.

"2. War is unpopular not only among the workers and middle-class groups, but also in certain upper circles which fear the consequences of a defeat.

"3. It is generally felt that a war will be 'the grave of fascism.'

"4. The vast military and economic preparations made by the fascist régime clearly prove that Mussolini intends to carry matters to an extreme.

"5. Apart from these groups who are benefiting from the booming armament industries, the aversion of the people to war is general. This feeling is beginning to find expression in a spontaneous and unorganized manner, both among the troops and the civilian population. The discontent of the civilian population is so great that the régime has no alternative but to resort to increasingly drastic measures. The present situation may best be summed up by saying that a mood of growing defeatism is seizing wide sections of the people. Among the troops protests and desertions are becoming more and more frequent. Not for nothing are the troops unarmed until after their arrival in North Africa. . . ."

A CRUSHING blow to Polish fascists was delivered on Sept. 8; the Opposition, which boycotted the elections then held, declares that the weakness of the fascist regime was revealed and that it is the beginning of the end of the attempt to make Poland a totalitarian or corporative State. Officially 46 per cent took part in the election, but the Opposition claims the actual number was only 36 per cent of the eligible voters. The successors of Marshall Pilsudski however still claim a victory and will tighten the grip of the dictatorship.

BUILDING THE LEAGUE

By PAUL REID

Executive Secretary, American League Against War and Fascism.

Los Angeles: The City Central Committee has been re-organized. It now contains a Mexican, a Japanese and a Negro representative. Eight Branches are in action. Ten organizations have affiliated, including the Lithuanian Federation, Friends of the Soviet Union, Women's Current Events Club, and Swedish Good Templars. The resolutions submitted to the Production for Use Congress on the subject of a united movement against war and fascism were passed unanimously. Current activities are: campaign on the Ethiopian issue, enlarged program against Hearst, protest against Nazi persecutions, week-end school on September 8, drive against the Constitution Society of the United States as a potential fascist organization, a picnic on September 22, and a huge parade on November 11.

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois: Prof. Lybier of the University of Illinois addressed a League meeting on July 10, and discussed war propaganda. On August 3, a symposium on the subject, "Fascism Drives Italy to War," included as speakers a Socialist and a Negro. Resolutions were adopted and protests sent to the President, the Italian Embassy, and to the local Congressman.

Terre Haute: Though the National Guard is still patrolling the streets of this city, the League is carrying on. Petitions demanding that Governor McNutt withdraw the troops are being circulated. On August 23rd a large five-county mass meeting was held at Clinton, and the Terre Haute Secretary, Shubert Sebree, spoke. FIGHT was sold at the time Norman Thomas and Powers Hapgood tested the right of assemblage and free speech. A huge meeting under the auspices of the League to protest the violation of Constitutional rights is being arranged.

Portland, Oregon: Protest meeting on the Ethiopian situation was held on August 30th. Plans are taking form for a District Conference.

Toledo: A weekly "League" column is now appearing in the "Toledo Union Leader," a labor paper. The International Association of Machinists, Local 105, has affiliated with the League. Plans are being completed for a District Conference on October 13th.

Minnesota: An open letter was sent to the delegates of the State Federation of Labor meeting at Redwing. Minneapolis erected a booth for the sale and display of League literature at the State Fair, and circulated the Women's Petition for Total Disarmament. Virginia held an anti-war meeting on August 8th with Herman Griffiths, League secretary of Duluth, as main speaker. Rochester was instrumental in sending an open letter against participation in war to the recent state meeting of the American Legion.

Pittsburgh: Sponsored a large Anti-Nazi meeting on August 8th, receiving support of Governor Earle by a written statement.

Took part in busy and eventful "Save Herndon Day" on August 14th, and held impressive meeting on Civil Rights, September 17th, with Dr. Harry F. Ward as the main speaker.

East Pittsburgh: Called a conference on German persecutions, August 29th, with twelve organizations represented. A mass meeting on this issue is being planned for a later date.

Cincinnati: League here organized a real united front meeting against Nazi persecutions on August 18th, and this was followed by an effective protest campaign against a Nazi display at a German-American day demonstration. Speakers at the meeting on the 18th were a trade union leader, a Rabbi, two Protestant ministers, and the League secretary, Carl H. Levy. Telegrams of protest were sent to the American Olympic Committee, the German Ambassador and local Congressmen. An Ethiopian protest meeting was held on September 5th with Alex Phillian, mid-western organizer of the League, as chief speaker. The local branch of the N.A.A.C.P. has affiliated with the League.

New Jersey: The League in Bayonne fought against a proposed ordinance to prohibit the distribution of free literature, and saw the measure defeated. The "Theater Against War and Fascism," a dramatic group of the League, provided entertainment for a straw-ride and picnic on August 25th. Passaic is planning a city conference for this month. At Trenton several members of the local League took active part on the investigating committee which visited King's Farms in the interest of discovering the working conditions of the laborers and the suppression of their union. On September 5th they held a protest meeting against the management of this farm. Perth Amboy League members circulated the Herndon petition at a recent Socialist picnic and secured over 300 signatures.

Phelps, Wisconsin: This newly organized Branch of the League—just founded last month—has already secured two affiliates: a Farmers and Workers Club, and the Phelps Co-op. Society.

Albany: The League members here organized a conference on the subject of the recent German persecutions, and are planning a huge mass meeting on this issue at an early date.

Boston: A campaign for repeal of the recently enacted Teachers' Oath Bill is being developed. The Dorchester Branch is carrying on an active drive against the Hearst Metro-tone Newsreels and also against advertisers in the Hearst press. The Lynn Branch plans a week-end training school.

Chicago: The League took part in the demonstration against the denial of a parade permit for an Ethiopian protest parade on August 31st, and is still active on this issue. A week-end school on Trade unions and the League was held September 6th and 7th. The

League has led the intensive campaign against the extension of military training in the high schools of Chicago. It has also taken active part in the drive against the Hearst newsreels, utilizing stickers very effectively for this purpose.

St. Louis: The League here is being re-organized and new branches are being developed. A series of radio broadcasts is planned for the fall.

Baltimore: On August 24th the League took part in an Ethiopian Defense meeting at the City Hall Plaza, where Angelo Herndon was the chief speaker. The League also organized an anti-Nazi protest meeting, on August 22nd, attended by over 2,000 people, and addressed by Rabbi Sidney Goldstein of New York City, the Rev. F. C. Rueggeberg, George Renahan, a Catholic layman, and other speakers of Baltimore. Resolutions protesting the German persecutions, and banning the Olympic games in Berlin were adopted.

Dagmar, Montana: A group of nearly 100 farmers composes the Branch of the League here. An anti-war play was produced at a recent meeting.

Mount Vernon, New York: The League Branch here has organized a City Central Committee, made up of delegates from adult and youth Branches and four affiliates. An aggressive anti-Hearst campaign is being conducted against the newsreel and local newspapers. An anti-war mass meeting is scheduled for October 2nd.

New York City: The services of a trade-union organizer, S. R. Solmonick, have been secured for a period of ten weeks in order to carry on intensive work in the labor field. A picket line for four days, night and day, was maintained around the Italian consulate from September 4th to 7th inclusive, and street meetings were held in the neighborhood in protest against the Italian aggression on Ethiopia. A general membership meeting was held on September 8th, at which plans for the next four months' activities were developed. These include a District Conference on October 26th, and a great demonstration against war on November 11th. The fight against the Hearst newsreels is being carried on aggressively. A recent investigation by a Committee of lawyers revealed the fact that Hearst interests have a 50% stake in the newsreels, though distribution is controlled by Loew theatre interests in New York City.

With Our Organizers in the Field: Bert Leech, West Coast Organizer, has shifted the headquarters of his activities from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Working with Thelma Bramley, Regional Secretary, he has succeeded in laying the basic work for District Conferences in Bakersfield, Fresno, Sacramento, San Francisco, Salinas and Ukiah, in central and northern California; and in San Diego, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Los Angeles and in the Imperial Valley in the south. The delegates from the West Coast Region to the National Congress in Cleveland are planning to travel by special railroad coach, stopping to pick up additional delegates at Denver, and spend the time en route in discussions on League tactics and program. Leech is also arranging for District Conferences at Portland and Seattle in the northwest. He reports that San Francisco has reorganized its executive committee and

is very busy with a number of activities: a fight for free speech, delegation to the Italian consulate, mass meeting on the Ethiopian crisis on August 30th, and an intensified campaign against Hearst.

Waldo McNutt, National Organization Secretary, left New York on August 21st for an extended mid-western tour. He reports intense interest in the League in Kansas. The Farmer-Labor Party at its recent convention voted to affiliate with the League, and brings to our organization the support of the most militant group in the state. The Topeka local of the Socialist Party also affiliated with the League. McNutt spoke also in Roseland, Coffeyville, Independence, and Wichita. The Nazi destruction of the Masonic lodges in Germany has made many people in the mid-west realize the menace of Hitler's régime. Their opposition to American fascist tendencies and acts is growing. McNutt's tour will take him to Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, Chicago and Minneapolis, before he returns East.

Alex Phillian, Mid-western Organizer, has spoken in Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Columbus, Cincinnati and Zanesville recently, and is making remarkable progress among trade union people in gaining their support and activity for the League. He will be busy in the Youngstown-Pittsburg area for the next two or three weeks, and will then transfer the center of his operations to the southwestern section of the state.

James Lerner, Secretary of the Youth Section, is in Baltimore organizing a District Conference. His activities will take him into Delaware and Virginia on this southern trip. By the middle of the month he expects to make a tour for the Youth Section through the northern part of New York state.

Jay Wright, New Jersey Organizer, has plunged headlong into work for the New Jersey District Conference to be held at Trenton on October 26th. The Conference Committee met at Newark on September 6th and held a busy session. The draft call is being endorsed by outstanding individuals and important organizations, directives for the various commissions are issued, and financial support for the Conference is coming in!

National Office Notes: Dorothy Chertak, head of the Speakers' Bureau, has returned from a trip abroad. Eleanor Brannan, who has ably substituted for her this summer, will take up other League activities at the end of the month. Already 26 cities have agreed to act as centers for District Conferences. Several Districts have not yet reported, but the prospects are that we will have 30 or more of these Conferences in preparation for the Third National Congress. Waldo McNutt and Paul Reid will lead a Mid-western Training School for League workers at Chicago on September 28th and 29th. Reid will visit several cities in the interests of the League while he is in this area. During the past month new branches and contacts have been established in 14 new towns and cities, among them being Mena, Arkansas; Saginaw, Missouri; Pottsville, Pennsylvania; Alicia, Michigan and Eugene, Oregon.

Speed Up the Day of Deliverance

(Continued from page 5)

This body, of which I have the honor to be Chairman, has already done effective work in operating and intensifying the boycott.

Germany's adverse trade balance is giving serious concern to the Nazi dictators, under

whose rule the indebtedness of the country has increased by at least \$5,000,000,000.

Affairs are in no better state in fascist Italy, where State credit has been shaken to its foundations. Wages are even lower than in Germany. Complaint is stifled by a vigorous terroristic régime, under which the mere expression of opinion may earn a prison sentence of 21 years.

Mussolini is realist enough to know the strength of the resentment accumulating against his régime. His campaign of aggression against Ethiopia is a last desperate gamble to avert consequences which are now looming only too clearly for the peace of mind of Italian fascists.

In Austria also fascism is running true to form. Starvation wages, overflowing prisons, incessant persecutions by the gangsters of the fascist government are the order of the day. A ray of light is the striking development of the illegal trade unions which, in spite of every effort of intimidation and repression, are now credited, by the fascists themselves, with a membership of 300,000—nearly half the membership of the Trade Union movement before it was forcibly dissolved more than a year ago.

There can be no doubt of the danger of fascism as an inveterate enemy of the free progress and development of mankind. *Fascism is a "back to the jungle" movement; it is the negation of everything which has taught civilized man to lead a decent, ordered, and courageous life in the interests of the community of which he is a part.*

Prevention is better than cure. It is our task to check the destructive inroads which this savage cult has already made into modern civilization, and to aid the millions of helpless people now languishing under fascist rule to recover their liberty.

To do this means a co-ordination and intensification of the efforts now being made through the various organizations which have taken up the struggle against fascism. *The Chest for Liberation of Workers of Europe, American labor's valuable contribution to the cause of labor solidarity and organized labor everywhere, is in the forefront of this great humanitarian struggle.*

We have to do everything possible to relieve the sufferings of the victims of the fascist dictators. We have to use every endeavor to render support to the thousands of brave men and women who, in fascist countries, are taking their lives in their hands in order to speed up the day of deliverance. And throughout it should be our object to render double service to our own democratic institutions, the bulwarks of defense against the new barbarism.

I know that the struggle will not be in vain. Fascism, as all reliable observers agree, carries within itself the germs of its own decay. But the human suffering for which it is responsible cannot be too speedily relieved. I hope that everyone who reads this article will resolve to do his utmost—and to do it now—to save his fellow men and women from the misery which, through no fault of their own, is inflicted on them by the agents of the cruellest anti-social cult of the century.



WAR FINDS AN ALLY
Cartoon by Efimov in "Pravda," Moscow

Origin of War

That modern war among nations is primarily economic in origin is beyond dispute. The doctrines of nationalism transform economic quarrels among merchants, industrialists and financiers of various countries into controversies among their respective governments. These governments in turn are dominated by powerful economic groups which are continuously fanning the flames of nationalism through control of the press, the movies, the radio and other channels of reaching the public mind. So long as the profit system prevails vested interests will seek to enlist governmental armed support for their competitive struggles in other lands. And just so long will international war remain an imminent menace.

Thus it is apparent that the prevailing system of private ownership of the mass instruments of production and distribution and their operation for private gain through the competitive struggle stands indicted on the following counts: it frustrates efficiency in the utilization of the national equipment first, by depriving the masses of adequate, purchasing power; and second, by the anarchy of competition it prevents coordination in the entire process of production and distribution; it exacts a terrific toll from the personalities of the winners; it plunges multitudes of losers into the abyss of destitution, despair and enmity; and on a vast scale it produces economic conflict, class war and international war. Persons who sanction and support this system of economic individualism are as blind as were the men of other days who defended slavery, serfdom and the divine right of kings.

From an article by Kirby Page
in the NEW LEADER.

A civilization cannot progress without criticism and must, therefore, to save itself from stagnation and putrefaction, declare impunity for criticism. This means impunity not only for propositions which, however novel, seem interesting, statesmanlike and respectable but for propositions that shock the uncritical as obscene, seditious, blasphemous, heretical and revolutionary.

George Bernard Shaw.

BOOKS

CHALLENGE TO DEATH

A Symposium
E. P. Dutton. \$2.50.

VISCOUNT CECIL, Storm Jameson, J. B. Priestley, Rebecca West, Vera Brittain, and nine other prominent English liberals give the pacifist challenge to the war-makers. It paints the horror of slaughter in its worst colors and appeals to all who love humanity and freedom to oppose the reactionary forces driving us into another world war, but without giving an effective militant program of anti-war action. The writers look to international cooperation through the League of Nations and Disarmament Conferences and Peace Pacts for the solution, just as these instrumentalities are breaking down under the impact of economic and political conflicts inherent in capitalism, and intensified by fascism.

AMERICA FACES THE BARRICADES

By John L. Spivak
Covici-Friede. \$2.50

FIVE years ago the country was amazed at the startling discovery by a New York reporter that the police commissioner of that city had developed a "red menace" on the basis of forged documents. This hoax threw a bombshell into the red-hunting Fish Committee.

Last year the same reporter again startled America with a detailed report on the would-be Hitlers and Mussolinis of America.

In *America Faces the Barricades* Spivak has hit the bell again. This time it is no startling detective work, but a candid insight into what the American thinks and whither we are headed.

Going into every section of this country to speak to labor leaders, workers, bankers, farmers, Spivak discovered bewilderment on the part of business and political leaders, widespread discontent among the masses, a groping toward a solution.

This happened in Italy and Austria and Germany. It happened in Russia earlier. Many interpreters of fascism have seen it as a strange phenomenon engineered by neurotics. Spivak's analysis proceeds to show that "The tendency by business to accept a dictatorship both from the government and from its own industrial leaders, its accusation that the workers who ask for more bread are effected by alien doctrines, must be considered as fascist trends."

We are taken to Frisco, the South, textile centers, and learn from the very mouths of the makers of government and financial rule that "when the economic conditions become more acute, these accusations by the employing class will inevitably assume open hostility. . . ."

Some of the startling chapters from last year's exposé of the "shirt" movements are present and take their place among the trends which are forcing progressive forces to beware, and not only Dennis' anti-Semitism, but also Roosevelt's military disaffection bill are part of the same menace.

Whoever would understand fascist beginnings in America should read this book.

James Lerner.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

By George Seldes
Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.75.

THE NEWSPAPER remains, despite the radio, the most powerful weapon in the arsenal of the reactionary forces. Hearst's wire to Frederic Remington in Cuba in 1898: "You supply the pictures and I'll make the war," sums it all up. When the big finance capitalists, the munitions makers, the reactionaries, are ready for war they discover a pretext and whip up patriotic fervor.

Georges Seldes in his book, *Freedom of the Press*, shows how the Hearst press is merely the most advanced section of a prostitute press which is almost completely lined up behind big business interests and ready to serve them in war or peace.

Even the *New York Times*, which is regarded generally as the most impartial and trustworthy source of information, is shown in an uncomplimentary light. Its treatment of news from Italy, particularly, is shown to be far from impartial. Arnaldo Cortesi, its Italian correspondent, is an enthusiastic fascist. George Sokolsky, its expert on the Far East, is a munitions salesman and an agent of Japanese imperialism.

One recent example of how the press "serves" the public is the campaign against the mild Tugwell Pure Food Bill. Responding to the pleas of national advertisers, the press did a good job in helping to kill this bill. There is a constant flow of "news" and "information" welling from poisoned springs, imbibed daily by credulous Americans, and Seldes indicates the source of some of the poison. From some of the the same sources comes pro-fascist and pro-war propaganda.

RUBBER TRUNCHEON

By Wolfgang Langhof
E. P. Dutton and Co. \$2.50.

WE HAVE barely emerged from the war-book era, and a new calamity has released a new stream of horror stories. This is again the story of a German concentration camp—the inevitable cruelties, jailings of people who don't even know the reasons, the same brave working-class prisoners who laugh, work and fight in spite of terror and torture. Again we see the disillusioned special guards of Hitler who thought they fought a revolution and find themselves back where they started from. They begin to turn against Hitlerism.

The author of this book was an actor. His crime consisted in having performed for some workers' clubs. He served thirteen months, and has a good story to tell. Karl Billinger's *Fatherland* together with *Rubber Truncheon* give a clear record and analysis of Nazi terror and its political purposes.

THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM

By Charles Recht
The Social Economic Foundations. 15 cents.

"EVERY economic disturbance has brought in its wake a sharpening of laws against aliens." This is true of the present crisis. We have departed long since from the American tradition established by the first colonists, that all the oppressed of the earth fleeing from tyrants "should be succored among us"; from the principles set forth by George Washington in his Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1795 praying that God would "render this country more and more a safe and propitious asylum for the unfortunate of other countries." Thomas Jefferson in causing the repeal of the Alien and Sedition Laws asked: "Shall oppressed humanity find no asylum on this globe? Shall we refuse the unhappy fugitive from distress that hospitality which the savages of the wilderness extended to our forefathers arriving in this land?" Abraham Lincoln put a plank in the platform of the Republican Party in 1864 providing that this country should remain an asylum for the oppressed of all countries.

For this tradition of asylum has been substituted a policy of cutting off immigration and of deporting aliens—especially radical aliens, who need asylum more than any others. Today Germans and Italians and Poles are deported back to suffer the ruthless "justice" of fascist dictatorships. For instance, there are Sallitto and Ferrero, peaceful residents of California for fifteen and thirty years respectively, now held for deportation to fascist Italy—because they rented office space in their restaurant to Anarchists! There are now thirty-eight aliens held for

deportation because of their activity in radical or labor organizations. Many of these will be deported to almost certain death in fascist countries unless mass protest prevents it. Among such aliens are Eric Becker, Carl Ohm, Otto Richter, Stella Petrosky, and Walter Baer.

The fight against deportation is a fight for the preservation of democratic rights, not only for aliens, but for all of us; it is a fight for the preservation of the best traditions in American history.

WORKING-CLASS UNITY — BULWARK AGAINST FASCISM

By Georgi Dimitrov

Report to the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International. Workers' Library Publishers, 96 pages, 10 cents.

THIS brilliant speech of Dimitrov's is a thoroughgoing analysis of the very essence of fascism and an exposition of what fascism brings to the working masses. At the same time it brings forward in sharper and more powerful form the weapon of the masses for defeating fascism: *the United Front*.

Dimitrov gives a clear-cut answer to these two questions which are agitating working people throughout the world: How can fascism be prevented from coming to power, and how can fascism be overthrown after it has been victorious?

Dimitrov's speech supplies all anti-fascists with a clearly defined and well-lit path along which to travel in the struggle for unity against the onslaught of fascism.

Plunder of Ethiopia

(Continued from page 3)

home carrying their rifles with them for protection, the fascist authorities were afraid to imprison them and hushed up the affair. The news leaked out despite the censorship. The fascist newspapers also conceal the fact that the number of deserters fleeing across the frontiers into Yugoslavia increases daily, and that there are frequent conflicts between the fascist militia and soldiers, workers and peasants, like the recent conflict at Brescia.

Letters received by Italians in America confirm the fact that resentment against Mussolini's imperialist adventure is widespread and only fascist terror prevents more effective mass resistance.

This indicates only in a small measure how the Italian workers are enriching their Garibaldist traditions of struggle for freedom and for the defense of weak people, with the revolutionist tradition of struggle for the defeat of one's "own" war lords and merchants of death, for the defeat of fascism and what it stands for.

Day by day, in the face of the most ruthless terror which Mussolini is increasing as he is hastening to attack Ethiopia, the workers and peasants of Italy are building a wide popular front against war. The united front recently realized by the Communist and Socialist parties of Italy is the most encouraging and promising sign of the widening front against a new slaughter and for peace and freedom.

In this critical hour it is the duty of every friend of peace, every enemy of fascist reaction, to fight also in America in defense of the people of Ethiopia and to support the heroic struggle of the Italian toilers against war.

FINALS OF SUBSCRIPTION CONTEST

FROM MAY 22 TO SEPTEMBER 10

First prize	Bernard Seeman, N. Y. City Committee.....	71	subs.....	\$40
Second	Regina Rolph, McKinley Square Branch, N. Y. C.....	69	"	\$25
Third	J. Hefner, Pittsburgh Branch.....	64	"	\$10
Fourth	Garland Martin, San Francisco Branch.....	44	"	\$5
Fifth	Frank Swerdloff, Baltimore Branch.....	34	"	\$3
Sixth	S. R. Zorfias, Los Angeles Branch.....	28	"	\$1
Seventh	S. Philip Blechman, Coatesville, Pa.	27	"	\$1
Eighth	M. Rosenberg, Croton-on-Hudson.....	26	"	\$1
Ninth	Mary Martha Gleason, Philadelphia Branch.....	24	"	\$1
Tenth	J. Lopow, Spring Valley Branch.....	18	"	\$1
Eleventh	Lew Davis, Plainfield, N. J.	18	"	\$1
Twelfth	Charles Tuccillo, Bronx.....	18	"	\$1
Thirteenth	Lad Dolista, Cleveland Branch.....	16	"	\$1
Fourteenth	Robert Immordino, Trenton Branch.....	16	"	\$1
Fifteenth	Natalie Langbein, Mt. Vernon Branch.....	15	"	\$1

Total number of subs turned in up to September 10th—1,902

The results of this subscription contest are distinctly disappointing. Chicago, the second largest city in this country, turned in only 12 subs. What is the matter with the Chicago branch of the League? Now that the subscription contest is over, we hope that those branches which have failed so miserably this summer, will get busy and redeem themselves.

S. R. Zorfias, literature director of the Los Angeles committee, is doing excellent work, putting FIGHT on the newsstands, in trade union halls, and taking it to the membership meetings of the I. W. O. FIGHTer Zorfias arranged a picnic for the benefit of the Sustaining Fund for literature. The Los Angeles order has increased from 750 to 1250 copies of FIGHT.

The San Francisco Branch, with Garland Martin as the new literature agent, is paying off its old bill at the rate of \$20 each month. The sale of FIGHT there is growing steadily.

From our Cleveland agent, Lad Dolista, we have excellent monthly reports on the sale of FIGHT, and constructive criticism on the magazine, and how we can improve our sales technique.

ARE YOU ON THE BLACKLIST?

Are you on that moral blacklist of persons who are against war but who are doing nothing to stop it? **NOBODY WANTS WAR**—but if you are doing nothing to protest, nothing to prevent it, you are allowing the war mongers to proceed unhindered!

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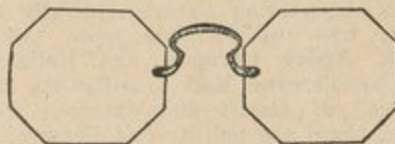
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