

# FIGHT

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MARCH  
1936

5¢

AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM



*Drawing by William Sanderson*

W.S.



# WAR MACHINE SPEEDS UP

By HAROLD WARD

**P**LUMP at the beginning of his Annual Report to President Roosevelt, Secretary of War George H. Dern announced:

"The fiscal year ending June 30, 1935, was in many respects one of the most important in the peace-time history of the War Department. This," he adds, with the luxurious sigh of the confirmed militarist, "is due not to any fear of impending war . . . but rather to a recognition that, in the absence of any effective assurance of permanent peace" [three million American citizens have just voiced such an assurance through the Cleveland Congress of the American League Against War and Fascism] "a great country needs an efficient military force to provide against unforeseen eventualities . . ."

17,000,000 unemployed at the beginning of the seventh year of the Great Crisis; well over 20,000,000 Americans suffering from the ravages of "probably the worst depression of all time" (I quote, not from a Communist document, but from the official Report of the President's Committee on Economic Security)—and the War Department calmly warns us against "unforeseen eventualities." It would be to laugh—if you did not know that this warning is to be backed up by the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars on the most ambitious program of military defense (read also, "civil repression") in the country's history.

## Oiled Up

Here are a few facts and figures, to show how the American war machine is being oiled up for action.

First, as regards the Navy Department, the U. S. Treasury gives the following figures. Note the steeply rising curve:

Appropriations (Navy Department)		
1935, actual	1936, estimated	1937, estimated
\$321,410,530	\$425,350,500	\$567,872,400

When it comes to the Army and War Department activities, in general, however, the dollars begin to flow like champagne at a banquet given by the *American Liberty League* in honor of the patriotic John Pierpont Morgan clan. On February 10 (two days before Lincoln's birthday) the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives submitted the following recommendations, constituting an all-time record—to date—for military expenditures during "peace":

## Why Millions Go Hungry!

A total War Department appropriation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1936, of \$572,655,316. This is almost \$50,000,000 more than was authorized for the current year (ending on July first), although still nearly \$30,000,000 below the first

budget estimates for the period. This gigantic sum—sufficient to provide every one of the 20,000,000 odd Americans now on one form or another of relief with a cash bonus of \$28—is divided as follows:

For direct military activities: \$374,981,521, an increase of nearly 24 million over the previous year. For non-military activities (then why the "War" Department?), \$197,673,795—an increase of nearly 26 million dollars. Recommendations include:

For the Army Air Corps, \$45,540,177, an increase of 16 million dollars. This will permit purchase of 565 new combat planes, instead of the 800 formerly requested.

For improvement of seacoast defenses (against whom?), \$8,518,994, as compared with \$1,284,970 last year. This allows \$725,000 for the Panama Canal, and \$3,000,000 each for Hawaii and Pacific Coast stations.

For mechanization and improvement of military equipment, \$7,500,000.

For rivers and harbors projects, \$129,000,000.

It is also planned to increase the man-power of the Army's forces from 140,000 to 150,000 enlisted men, and the National Guard to a total of at least 200,000 men and an additional 5,000 officers.

## A Frank Appeal

And don't forget that Major General Hugh A. Drum appealed frankly for a \$50,000,000, "five-year-plan" of national defense for our Hawaiian colonies, to be followed by Major General Lytle Brown with a similar scheme of \$25,000,000 for the Canal Department, and by Major General Paul B. Malone, who wants \$15,610,000 for the Pacific Coast ("Strike insurance," by any chance?)



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Note also the following increases:

	1936, actual	1934, actual
Reserves .....	6,372,178	3,611,720
R.O.T.C. ....	4,452,304	2,569,963
Rifle Practice .....	491,054	51,792

A 900 percent increase in funds for "rifle practice," taken in connection with the notorious strike-breaking activities of the National Guard certainly looks as though the U. S. War Department meant business in regard to one of its principal jobs: the ruthless suppression of all labor activities, as a first step in the attack upon all American liberties, civil and otherwise. As for the youth, they are to be properly regimented by the addition of nearly 100 new R.O.T.C. units in high schools and colleges, thus adding 60,000 more students to the 148,000 now under War Department control. Two-thirds of the new units will be operated on a compulsory basis. Another body, the Citizens Military Training Camps, has had its 1936 appropriations doubled (to \$2,000,000). This means a hundred percent increase in enlistments, to 30,000 with a War Department objective of 50,000 enrollments annually. Secretary Dern is also clamoring for funds sufficient to provide active duty training (meaning the CCC and, we may presume, wherever the workers try to start anything in their own defense) for some 30,000 officers from the Organized Reserves—total enrollment to date, 112,590.

If this doesn't look like the preliminaries for "M-Day" (the War Department's code-word for national mobilization on all fronts) you might as well call it a grand and glorious picnic—just a lot of good clean fun, with nothing worse ahead than a few millions of people all shot to pieces, while the rest dance merrily around the flag-pole in the middle of jolly greenswards euphemistically called "concentration camps." . . .

## Whose Interests?

A few further proofs of how well the military are looking after our "interests":

At an annual cost of about \$70,000,000 the War Department hopes to fulfil its program for 800 new combat and pursuit planes, of which 100 are already being built at a contract price of \$2,500,000. Another 82 units are on the way. Since 1934 the Army has purchased 769 planes, at a total cost of \$43,000,000. "Replacements" must be at the rate of 300 new planes a year!

To provide the necessary man-power to operate and maintain this air fleet it is proposed to give special air-training to CCC enrollees.

By authority of the Wilcox Air Base Act (signed by the President last August), there are to be established 10 or 12 powerful air-bases at a cost of about \$120,000,000. An Army Airdrome at Hawaii is to cost \$17,000,000, with another million dollars or more for construction work on Hawaiian air bases for the Pacific Fleet. The recently established commercial air route to China, with its numerous island bases (Wake Island, etc.), ties up another million of government money.

(Continued on page fourteen)





Drawing by Mackey

## Snoopers

A picture of your backyard if the gag bills now before Congress are passed

# How Gag Laws Gag

By SAMUEL PAUL PUNER

Legislative Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union

THERE IS nothing inherent in gag laws—sedition laws and the like, that places them beyond the pale and processes of the normal penal law. Prosecutions follow the same procedure of indictment and trial. Convictions bring sentences depriving the defendant of his liberty. To all outward appearances the structure of the criminal law is maintained with all the safeguards inherent in it. Yet in operation they stand apart in the lengths to which the courts will go to justify their encroachment upon fundamental rights.

For example, in the ordinary crime it is necessary that the prosecution show that the accused, in doing the act charged, did so with a guilty mind—a criminal intent to commit the crime. If in a crowded car one places his hand in his neighbor's pocket accidentally while reaching for a handkerchief, he is not a robber. Yet, the pickpocket, intent on rifling the pocket, in committing the same act is guilty of a crime. The physical aspects were the same, but the difference between criminality and innocence lay in the state of mind of the individual committing them. But, difficult as it is to prove, the law from time immemorial has insisted upon proof of the guilty state of mind before it would convict.

### A New "Crime"

Should the Tydings-McCormack bill become law, a new crime would be placed on our statute books. "Whoever with intent to disaffection . . . counsels . . . any member of the Army and Navy . . . to disobey the laws . . ." would become subject to a fine of \$1,000 or two years imprisonment, or both. Although new as a peacetime measure, the law is not unprecedented in our federal criminal

law, as a law substantially the same is still on our statute books, a carry-over from the last war. This law is the notorious "Espionage Act" of 1917 which has never been repealed, and automatically comes into operation during times of war. From the prosecutions under it we have an astounding body of precedents of its systematic perversion out of the channels of normal criminal procedure to serve as guiding principles for future action under the Tydings Act.

Shortly after the "Espionage Act" went into effect, the New York postmaster, exercising the authority he contended it gave him, barred from the mails the publication *The Masses*. Injunction proceedings were immediately commenced against him to compel him to rescind his order and permit its transmission. After trial, Judge Learned Hand in the Southern District of New York granted the injunction. Concluding that the test in the civil suit was identical with the test of guilt in a criminal prosecution, and that no conviction could result unless the utterances sought to be interdicted were made with an unmistakable intent to incite to direct action and violence, in trenchant language he wrote:

*If one stops short of urging upon others that it is their duty or their interest to resist the law, it seems to me that one should not be held to have attempted its violations. If that be not the test, I can see no escape from the conclusion that under this section every political agitation which can be shown to be apt to create a seditious temper is illegal. I am confident that by such language Congress had no such revolutionary purpose in view.*

No wiser test of the criminality of utterances could have been devised. Yet, in reiterating these principles, Judge Hand merely

restated the tradition of the criminal law which holds it intolerable that one should be held criminally responsible for an offense of the commission of which he was ignorant.

### The New Test

Had this test of guilt been finally established, the sweeping reign of terror that saw over two thousand arrests in a little more than two years could have been avoided. But the forces of reaction were too strong, and when the *Masses* case reached the Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Hand was reversed, and a new test was substituted. The objective test of guilt was repudiated and utterances, it was held, were punishable, "if the natural and reasonable effect of what is said is to encourage resistance to law." Anything therefore, which indirectly or conceivably might tend to affect the operation of the war, would fall within the prohibitions of the act. What the intention of the utterer was, no longer was a crucial test, but could be inferred from the remote and indirect injuries which might be effected from the language used. "The undoubted effect," writes Zachariah Chaffee, "of the final decision in *Masses v. Patten*, was to establish the old-time doctrine of remote bad tendency in the minds of the district judges throughout the country. By its rejection of the common law test of incitement, it deprived us of the only standard of criminal speech there was. . . ."

### An End to Freedom

The establishment of this loose test immediately put an end to all genuine discussion of public matters. It was tempting providence

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# SCHOOLS OR GUNS?

**H**IGHER AND HIGHER it goes! The requested budget for military arms of our government will establish a new record! Speaking in New York City recently, U. S. Senator Nye declared that our government is "spending more money than any other country, with the possible exception of Italy—not for a national defense but for a national offense."

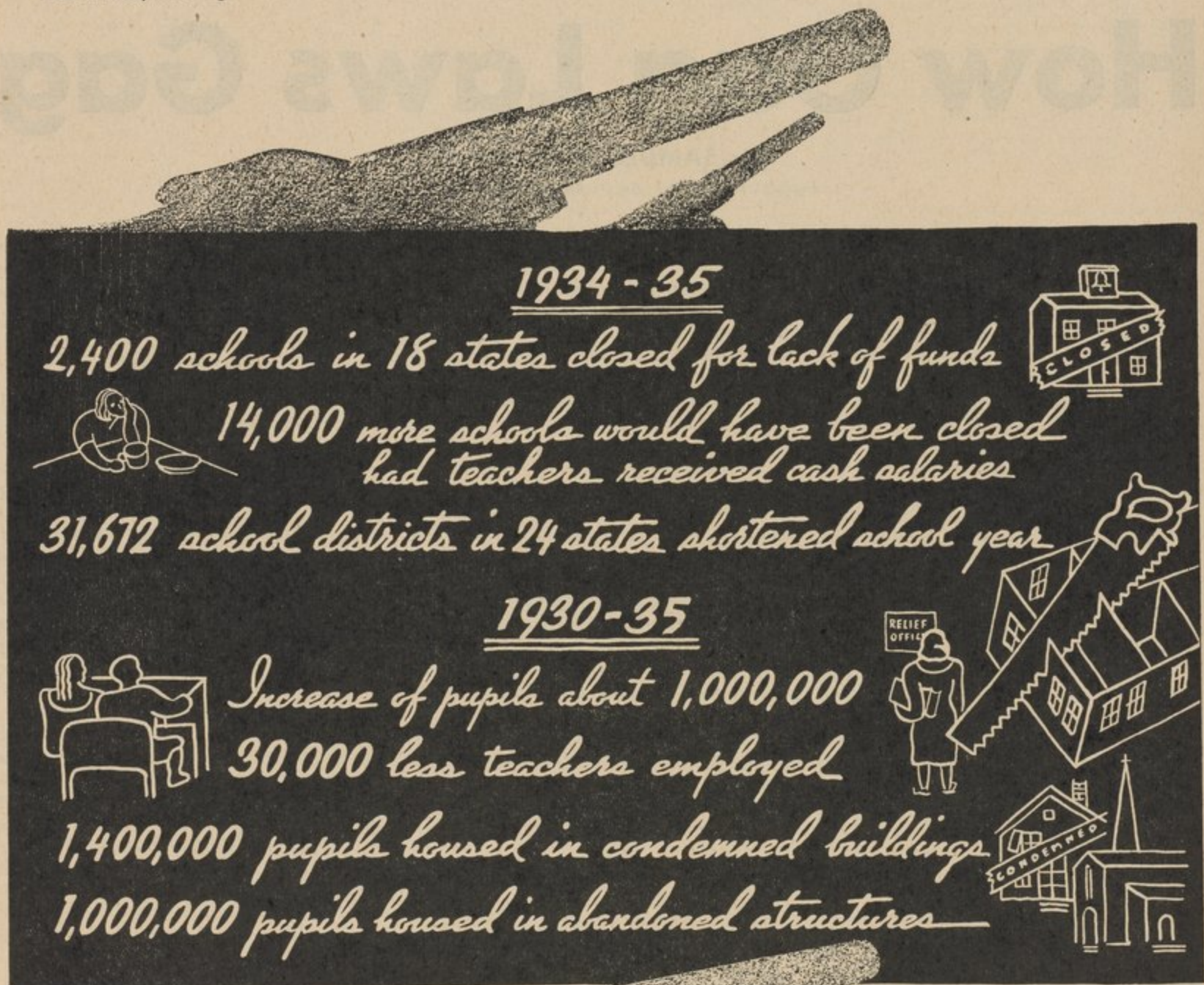
How tragic is the plight of our civilization when we realize that as the mouths of the guns expand and as the machine guns gain greater efficiency, educational facilities shrink. Where will it all end? We build this Frankenstein at the expense of education, culture, life. Today in Congress there is a bill, H.R. 10662, introduced by Rep. McSwain, chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee which calls for the establishment of an Air Reserve Training Corps, for youth between the ages of 17-24, as a new arm of national defense. It is hardly conceivable that thousands of aviators will be needed to exterminate a foreign enemy on American shores. Will these boys be sent to some far-off "No Man's Land" again?

This country was a pioneer in the establishment of education

for the masses of people. That was in the days when we were poor, striving to establish a great nation in a land of wilderness and forest. Today with our wealth, our magnificent universities and education-hungry youth, the doors of our schools are slammed shut. The money for teachers' wages is lacking. There are funds for R.O.T.C., C.M.T.C. instructors, Air Reserve teachers and National Guard officers but schools close because of lack of heat, paper and books.

National defense is the cry of the jingoist, the Hearstian. Here is the first line of national defense—defense of our educational facilities, defense of the rights of our children. This is what is prompting Americans to back the Nye-Kvale Bill against compulsory military training. This is what is moving peace forces to demand the use of war funds for social purposes. It is national defense against the return to the backwoods era rather than against a mythical enemy that threatens America.

Shall it be schools for our children or guns for an imaginary foe?







## Mr. Morgan before the Munitions Committee

NEWS ITEM: Before leaving Washington for home Wednesday, J. P. Morgan (RIGHT) had his picture taken, shook hands with members of the Senate, and remarked, "I have had a fine time; I would not have missed this investigation for the world."

# MUSSOLINI and the KING

By CARLO TRESCA

Editor, "Il Martello"

*The writer of this article has for almost four decades been an active participant in the labor movement in Italy and in the U. S. A. He knew and worked with Mussolini before the latter turned against the trade union and socialist movements.—EDITOR*

THAT THIS is eminently Mussolini's war there can be no doubt. However, it would be childish and illogical to overlook the fact that it is also the Italian capitalists' war.

There may be Italian industrialists, bankers, merchants who would rather carry on their hand-to-mouth existence and avoid all changes which might bring about the downfall of the tottering régime. But the historic, basic truth is that fascism, which served for the moneyed men the convenient purpose of enslaving the Italian workmen, is now acting as a tool of the same class for the realization of imperialistic dreams.

It is convenient to say that Mussolini's ambition, Mussolini's calculations today coincide with the ambition and the calculations of the Italian upper class.

### The Rulers United

But the interests of the reigning house, too, harmonize with those of the capitalists. To be more accurate, it must be said that it is the first time since 1870 that the an-

cient, deep-rooted desire of the Savoy monarchy for domination, for possession and expansion, is not in conflict with the interests of the capitalist class. National unity once effected, the Italian upper class found itself under the necessity of solving quickly and to its exclusive advantage the problem of the organization of the state.

Prime Minister Mancini, and Crispi after him, were "Africanist," not because they, as the representatives of the bourgeoisie, had developed a colonial consciousness impelling them to follow in the wake of the imperialistic powers. In effect, after the defeat of the Italian troops at Dogali, Crispi, who thought that the honor of the reigning house had been seriously impaired, did not hesitate to plunge headlong into an adventure in which the Italian bourgeoisie did not feel that its interests were at stake.

Doubtless, the blame for the disastrous war of 1896, which climaxed at Adowa and brought about Crispi's downfall, is to be laid at the door of the king.

King Humberto's personal ambition and his craving for an emperor's crown, which led him to order the minting of new coins bearing his imperial effigy even before victory could be achieved, were the main causes of the disaster.

Humberto had clear and well defined aims.

His objects were: to deprive the Italian people of its constitutional liberties; to organize the state along the lines of the German empire, namely, on a militaristic and feudalistic basis; to create a kind of absolute monarchy, and to invade Africa in order to gain the coveted imperial crown.

The reactionary general Pelloux was his man, as Crispi had been before him. Humberto gave orders; they were obeyed, until the sudden death of the king opened in the national life a new interlude which was closed by the coming of fascism to power.

### A Perfect Set Up

What Humberto had been unable to accomplish, his son did, and in a larger measure. Absolute power is now vested in the monarchy; the Italian state is totalitarian; the people have lost their liberty.

It is a mistake to believe that Mussolini is the sole master of an enchained people. The fact is that the king, although preferring, and at times being obliged to hide behind the curtain, is always "on the job." The king needs Mussolini just as much as Mussolini needs the king.

Historically there is this difference between Victor Emmanuel and Humberto: under Humberto the African wars were predominantly and almost exclusively dynastic; under Victor Emmanuel, with the colonial consciousness of the Italian bourgeoisie already formed, the Ethiopian war is both dynastic and capitalistic.

Mussolini, as dictator, is driving the nation to war with the knowledge that by so doing he is not only satisfying his ambition and his necessity of prestige, but is also serving the monarchy and the capitalistic class. He knows that his fall will be their fall, and so he holds them bound to himself by reminding them that revolution will spare neither men nor institutions. The spectre of revolution keeps them together.

King Victor Emmanuel is trying hard to keep himself and his family aloof, so as to be able to say, when the time comes: "I am not to blame; I did my best." The King is always preparing himself, and his house, for any eventuality; he strives to avoid being too closely identified with Mussolini and his henchmen.

Let no one be deceived by a resourceful and well organized propaganda carried on in the interest of the reigning house. The king, it is said, is not answerable for the murders, the abuses and the violences committed by the fascists; the king is said to be a prisoner of the régime.

As a result of this propaganda, not a few, we should say a majority of the students of Italian life and history, are inclined to consider the king of Italy as a feeble, a vacillating, a powerless ruler, a kind of pawn in Mussolini's hands. What a travesty of the truth!

### The Deciding Factor

Reports are spread that the army staff is opposed to Mussolini's African adventure. Since the superior officers of the Italian regular army are as royalist as the king, the implication would be that the king, too, is averse to the war. This is nonsense! The



truth is that this is Mussolini's and Victor Emmanuel's war, and it is also the war of the Italian imperialists. Victor Emmanuel is directly participating in the bloody adventure. We need only recall, to be convinced, his recent, spectacular trip through Eritrea and Somaliland.

Fully aware of this, Mussolini is eager to dispatch royal princes to Africa and to pa-

rade the king through the peninsula in these days of militaristic exaltation.

For Mussolini is nobody's fool. He does not want to be Victor Emmanuel's scapegoat. If he falls, he wants to drag the monarchy with him in his fall.

But Italy's fate does not rest in Mussolini's hands. The Italian people will be the deciding factor.

The *National Student Federation of America* is an organization of student councils—elective bodies which govern student affairs. Founded in 1927 to create sentiment favorable to the World Court, its avoidance of vital issues reduced it, until three years ago, to a letterhead society whose only real function was to have an annual convention at which student council presidents got drunk and delegates lobbied hysterically to capture the next convention for their city. The N.S.F.A. was and still is largely unknown to the general body of students. Only some 150 out of 800 councils are affiliated to it.

In the last three years, under pressure from the Student L.I.D. and N.S.L. and the devastating effects of the depression on the campus, it has begun to concern itself with the issues that really mean something to students today. Whatever prestige it has lately achieved has been through united front activities. It is a contradictory body whose members can never quite decide whether an honest stand on an issue may not blast their careers. At its most recent convention it voted to support the *American Youth Act*, but it also favored participation in the Nazi Olympics! It voted to support the Nye-Kvale bill making R.O.T.C. optional, but not the great student strike against war! Because so many of its members are in line for faculty jobs, it tends to become a company union currying favor with college administrations and not a student union aggressively representative of the students. It lacks convictions!

### The Hope of America

The Student Christian Movement is the student divisions of the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., but in a larger sense it can be said to include the National Council of Methodist Youth, the Inter-Seminary Movement, and the many other organized religious student groups. As such it is the strongest and most influential student organization in America and one of the most progressive! The National Council of Methodist Youth and many local Y's supported the student strike against war. They have fought courageously against Jim-crowism and violations of academic freedom. They have cooperated with labor in strikes. They are for the united student front for peace, freedom and security because they consider it the consistent expression of true religion under present conditions.

But the dynamic center of the progressive student movement in the United States today is the American Student Union which was formed at Columbus by 427 delegates representing the Student L.I.D. and N.S.L. as well as 21 student councils and a host of undergraduate associations hitherto unidentified with social action. The A.S.U. represents to the students of America uncompromising struggle against a war which would destroy our generation. It represents the affirmation of these students to the present rulers of society that if capitalism, and the government which represents it, propel us into war, it will not have our allegiance; that we will refuse to support any war which the U. S. government may undertake. It represents the struggle for renewal of N.Y.A. student relief through passage of the *American Youth Act*. It boldly challenges Hearst and the inner oligarchy of

(Continued on page twelve)

# THE UNITED STUDENT FRONT

By JOSEPH P. LASH

National Secretary, American Student Union

EUROPEANS COMING to the United States are bewildered by the American student scene. Instead of the familiar government-dominated, caste-minded reactionary movement within the universities from which the progressive students are isolated, they find a broad, independent, aggressive united student front at the very center of which are the progressives, a united front friendly toward labor, determined for peace, and cherishing the traditions of academic freedom.

The universities in America are institutions emphatically representative of the American middle class. They are peopled in the East by sons and daughters of merchants, professionals and industrialists; in the Middle West by the children of wealthier farmers, and throughout by only a minority percentage from trade union and "little men" homes. It

is against a background of an American middle class which is the most powerful in the world, that the united student front, best epitomized in the *November 8th Student Mobilization for Peace*, represents one of the best omens that America will not go fascist nor go to war.

### Forces at Work

What is the actual relationship of forces on the American campus at the present time? There are four groups to be considered in the student struggle for peace, freedom and security: The National Student Federation of America, the Student Christian Movement, the American Student Union and the R. O. T. C.-Vigilante crowd. The future of the American student movement, which is the future of one million college students and three million boys and girls in the high schools, rests largely in their hands.



The foremast of the U.S.S. Pennsylvania, flagship of the U.S. fleet



# NEGRO SLAVERY

## A Story in Pictures from Old Prints



A Slave Market in Ancient Rome



Black Ivory

A Slave Ship carrying Negroes from Africa to America



(Left)  
Sick and Dying  
Slaves Shackled  
together and  
Thrown overboard

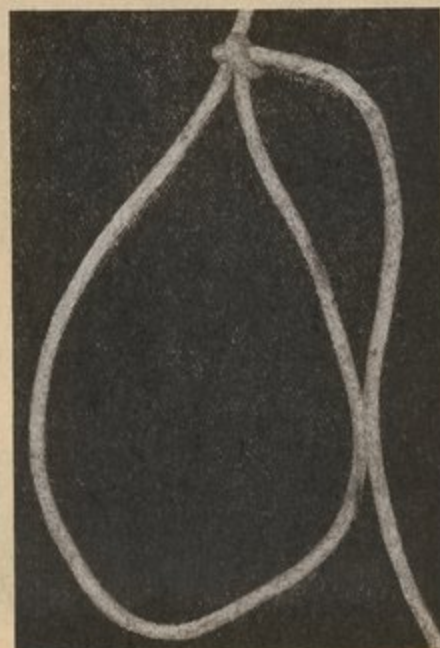


(Right)  
A Slave Sale  
in Charleston  
South Carolina

... the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons..."  
— Abraham Lincoln, Emancipation Proclamation

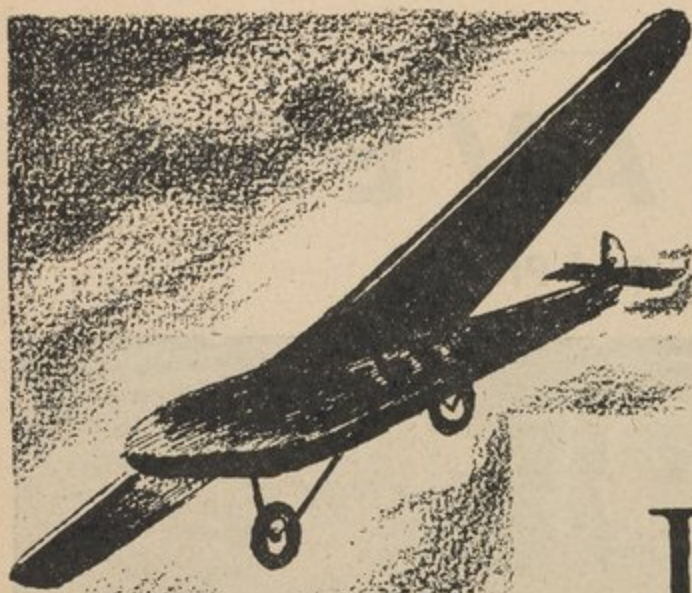


(Left)  
Death rather  
than Slavery



(Right)  
The Noose found  
on the Neck of a  
recently lynched Negro





**TO OUT**  
ANNOUNCING THE

**B**EGINNING with the next number (April issue), FIGHT will appear as a completely new magazine, new make-up, many more pages, different page size, many colors, new departments, new features—a big, colorful magazine chuck full of articles, stories, pictures—a magazine representative of the world we live in.

FIGHT is now twenty-nine months old. In this comparatively short period it has grown into a lusty young giant of a magazine with a paid circulation of almost 30,000. This is an unusual growth for a publication of such nature and we must also remember that this growth came without any subsidies, without any “angels,” without any funds with which we could publicize the magazine or carry through any circulation drives. Why this growth? Because the people in North Dakota, California, New York, Ohio, Minnesota and in hundreds of cities throughout the country are becoming more and more insistently aware that the dangers of war and the destruction of our democratic institutions are growing realities. These people—pioneers for a world without war, for a world without oppression—made FIGHT the living force that it is today.

As the American League Against War and Fascism and its official publication FIGHT grew, it became obvious that to continue the progress in the development of this struggle we must expand our magazine. We must be even better prepared to confront the war makers and that small minority who are threatening to destroy our liberties and to lower our standard of living.

The young magazine FIGHT has outgrown its clothes.

At the recent Congress Against War and Fascism in



# Readers

## of the new "FIGHT"

Cleveland it was decided, upon the recommendation of the National Bureau of the American League, to make the necessary changes.

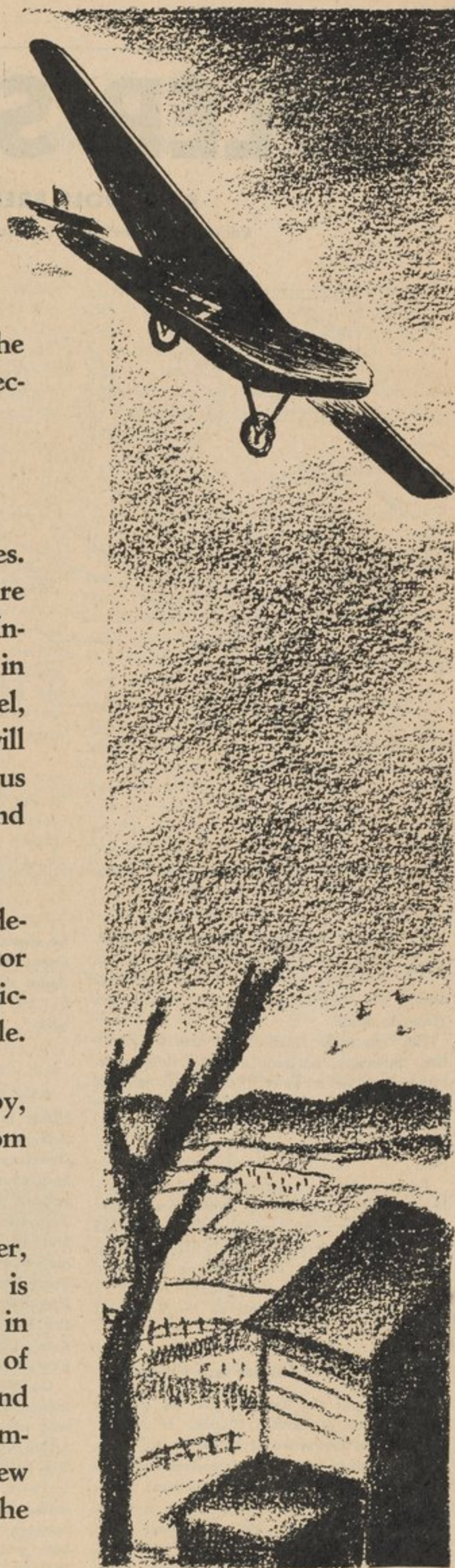
Here is a bird's-eye view of the new magazine.

Twice as many pages as the present FIGHT. Larger pages. Many colors, not only on the cover but throughout the entire magazine. Many illustrations, photographs and cartoons. Informative feature articles. One, two or three short stories in every issue. Many new departments: Movies and News Reel, Books, Radio, Wall Street, etc., etc. These departments will be conducted by men who are working daily in these various fields and have the information. There will be humorous and satirical drawings as regular features.

In short, the new magazine, with other features and departments not mentioned here, will strive to be a real reflector and prospector of America, telling in stories, articles and pictures of the lives, struggles and hopes of the common people.

The price of the new magazine will be ten cents a copy, one dollar a year. There will be considerable reduction from the retail price for bundle orders of ten copies or more.

FIGHT will be the magazine of all people, worker, professional, farmer, teacher, student, housewife. It is your magazine in the struggle against war and fascism, in the struggle to preserve our homes, our jobs and the lives of our children. The American League Against War and Fascism and the editorial staff of FIGHT pledge themselves to do their utmost in the building of this new magazine for our common struggle and feel secure in the support of all friends of peace and liberty.





# HITLER'S FIRE

By **RUDOLF BREDA**

Editor, "The Brown Book of Hitler Terror"



Drawing by Theodore Schell

"So you see, gentlemen, under fascism we'll have more room for expansion"

**A**T TEN O'CLOCK, February 27, 1933, forty-five minutes after the German Reichstag burned, National Socialism began the establishment of a totalitarian (fascist) state.

The true lords of Germany, the industrialists, financiers, Junkers, and the Reichswehr brought Hitler to power in order to prevent and repress the most powerful people's movement which had come through the country; and, also, in order to prepare a war of acquisition.

Fascism does not strive toward the establishment of a totalitarian state from a pure craze for power, but from the realization that Fascism can be accomplished only after crushing all opposition to it. The Reichstag fire paved the way for German Fascism toward a totalitarian state, as well as having paved the way for a new war.

## Stamping Out Justice and Freedom

In this sense the Reichstag fire was the first great war act of German Fascism. It was followed by the destruction of all democratic rights, by the crushing of all legal workers' organizations, by the annihilation of all political parties and trade unions, by the stamping out of justice and freedom. In the midst of apparent peace, martial law was declared in the heart of Europe. In the midst of so-called peace time, forty-eight hundred Germans fell, victims of the war

for acquisition which German Fascism is preparing. Over 200,000 Germans were placed in concentration camps by Nazi Germany. They were the first war prisoners of the new Nazi war for conquest.

## Hitler's Prisoners

Who are these men whom the Fascists throw into the hell of concentration camp? Among the first prisoners was Karl Von Ossietzky, publisher of the *Weltbuehne*—a man who took part in the war, and as a result of his participation became a pacifist. Von Ossietzky is the great German liberal and publicist. The Norwegian Parliament, majorities in the Swiss and Czecho-Slovakian Parliaments, representatives in France and England proposed Ossietzky as candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. In what other land than in Nazi Germany could such a man find himself in a concentration camp?

On March 3, 1933, the leader of the Communist Party of Germany, Ernst Thaelman, was imprisoned. (Thaelman had long been active in the German working class movement.) The accusation was that on October 31, 1932, in Paris, he declared himself against the Versailles Treaty, and wanted an understanding between the German and French people. The best minds in the world, including Romain Rolland and André Gide, demanded the freedom of Thaelman. Sixty-five members of the

English Parliament demanded freedom for Thaelman, in a lengthy letter to Hitler. Where else but in Nazi Germany could such a man be imprisoned?

## From All Walks of Life

Among the prisoners of war under the Germany of Hitler we find Ludwig Renn, a former German staff officer, who wrote against war in his book *War*. We find Karl Mierendorff, the Socialist deputy, who, because of his attacks on Hitler in the Reichstag, annoyed the German Reichswehr. We find—well, the list can go on and on. All these men, whom National Socialism holds under lock and key are, regardless of their political differences, united in one common aim: they are against Hitler, against war. Hitler knew that before he could carry through his war program, he had to make these men harmless. To Hitler's preparation for war can be ascribed the imprisonment of 200,000 war opponents, as well as the building of new war planes, new tanks, new cannons, new battle-ships.

But the thousands of anti-war fighters in Hitler Germany have not been silenced. In hundreds of mimeographed papers, prepared and spread under danger of their very lives, the underground work of Germany against war is carried on. Its voice may not be heard outside of Germany, but, in Germany itself the voice of the anti-war fighters is heard.

## To Remember

The opponents of war in this land, who lead a great and brave fight for mankind, must not forget that their fellow fighters are either languishing in the concentration camps of Nazi Germany or carrying on the underground fight for peace and liberty. The opponents of war in this country, who consider Hitler the greatest war danger, must not forget that the most determined opposition to Hitler's war threat is to be found in Germany. These men and women are carrying on a day to day struggle, and will not cease their work until Germany is made free—free from war and fascism which the present régime embodies.

**READ**  
the **NEW**  
**"FIGHT"**  
**NEXT**  
**MONTH**



# SECTION 213A

By MARGARET E. FORSYTH

Associate of Religious Education, Teachers' College, Columbia University

"SECTION 213A! READ THE DAILY HEADLINES OF THIS PAPER, THEN READ THIS STORY BEHIND THE HEADLINES." This is the announcement of a new serial appearing in the magazine section of the New York *Herald Tribune*. The serial is a story by Rupert Hughes of the troubles of a young couple who are prevented from marrying by the fact that Section 213A of the Economy Act prevents a wife from holding a job in the Civil Service if her husband is employed in the service.

The story behind the headlines could be matched by many real and much more tragic stories of the women who were discharged when Section 213A was adopted by Congress. But it is not the whole story. Pitiful as some of the individual cases are there are not enough of them to have caused the nation-

wide indignation that has grown up over the 213A clause. There are not enough to explain the joint action of the *Women's Party*, the *Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs*, the *League of Women Voters* and the *American Association of University Women*, to repeal the 213A clause and to support the Cellar Bill which provides no discrimination against employed persons because of marriage.

## Imported from Where?

The real story is that by the passage of the 213A clause the United States Congress set its stamp of approval on the discrimination against women workers that has already become part of the economic policy of the fascist states abroad. The 213A clause is almost an exact replica of the first steps of discriminatory legislation against women in Italy, in Austria and in Germany. It has been followed here, as discriminatory legislation was followed there, by greater discrimination throughout the country.

Immediately after the 213A clause had been adopted state legislatures, Chambers of Commerce, school boards and private industries proposed "economy measures" making women ineligible for work if their husbands had any sort of work, if their husbands were not incapacitated mentally or physically, and in some cases barring women from work if their fathers were working.

The assumption that these laws were based on was the old superstition that women, married women particularly, work for pin money, that is, that the money they make is net gain over and above the needs of the family. The superstition has been knocked in the head time and time again, but it still bobs up. Only recently Frances Perkins announced,

after a survey of employed married women, that in 95% of the cases studied the woman's wages were of absolute economic necessity to the family. By throwing these women out of work the standard of living of the entire nation is lowered and the effect is not alone on the woman but on the man, their children and dependents.

## When You Are Heard

It is probable that some of the gentlemen voting for the 213A clause knew these facts. Feminist organizations get down to Washington rather frequently. But they were in a spot. The clause was passed in the last days of the Hoover administration when the banks were closing, unemployment was increasing and the man in the street had started to howl. Something had to be done.

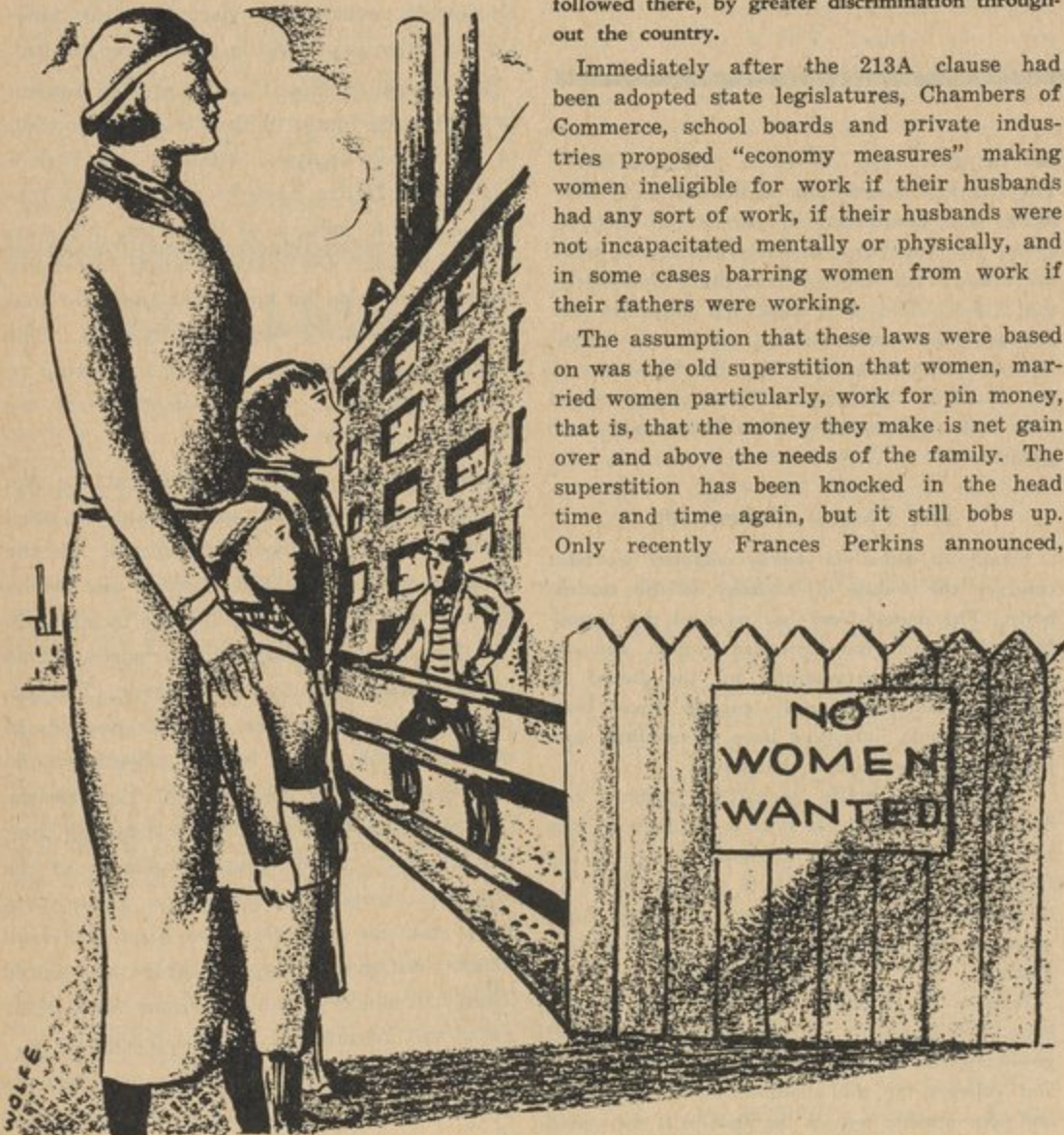
Southern communities were in the same fix the summer before when they started the campaign to give the white man a job. It was not that the Negro did not need his job but that there was already an attitude toward the black man that allowed such a discrimination to be successfully adopted. The white man was more articulate and his voice was heard at the polls. It was a juggling of jobs with the jobs going to the ones who could cause the most trouble.

The same thing took place with regard to women. It is the same situation that was the basis for the action against women in fascist countries. But the women in the United States have one advantage over their European sisters. They can benefit by the experience of the women in fascist countries. They can demand that the 213A clause be repealed. They can be on the lookout for further discriminatory legislation and stop it before it gets on the law books.

## The Right to Work

At the Women's Commission of the Third Congress Against War and Fascism in Cleveland, almost the entire session was spent in planning how to fight against fascism as it affects women. It was recognized that discrimination against women as workers was discrimination against all workers and that the 213A clause was as much a fascist move as the Tydings-McCormick Bill and should be resisted accordingly. The women called on all fighters against fascism to support the Cellar Bill as the most practical way to stop discrimination against married workers. This is not a feminist movement. It is a movement to insure to all the people of this country their right to work. It is a movement to check fascist legislation at the source.

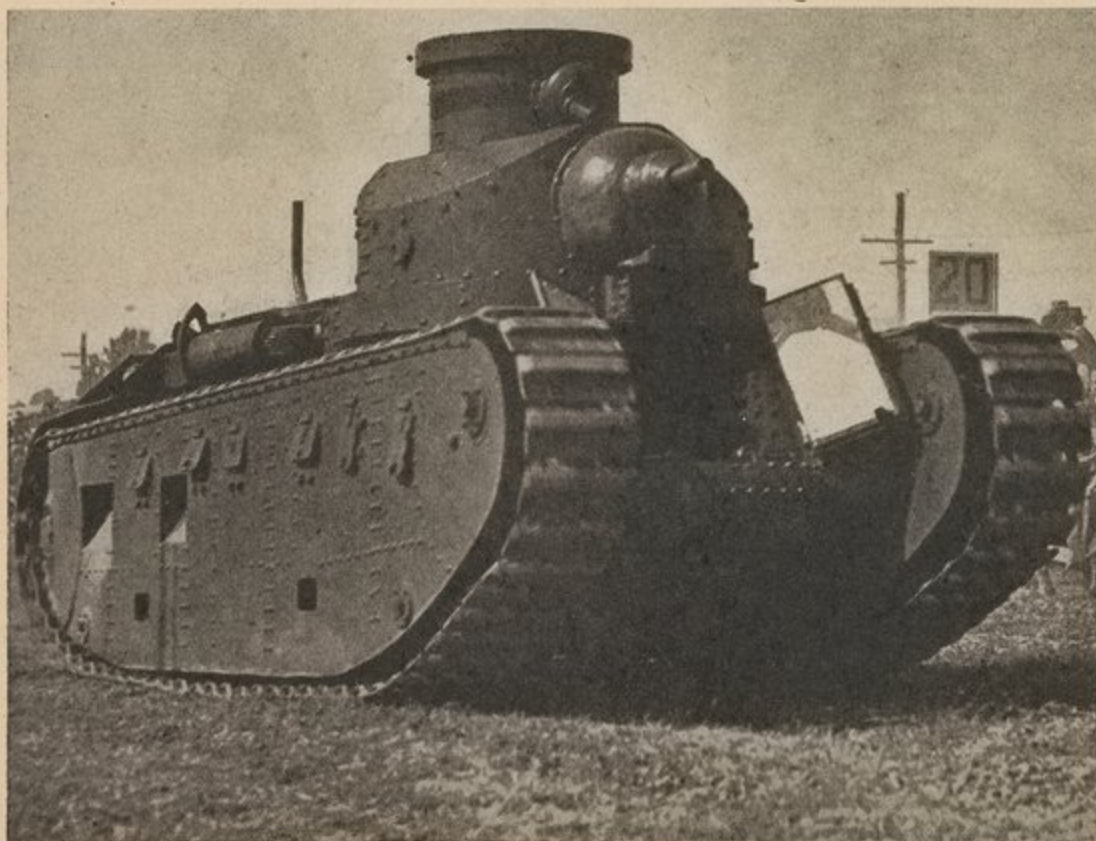
This is the story behind the headlines.



Drawing by Phil Wolfe

"By throwing these women out of work the standard of living of the entire nation is lowered and the effect is not alone on the woman but on the man, their children and other dependents in the family"





## Instead of Schools

*The recent war budget passed by Congress (largest peace time budget in history) will build these ten ton combat cars*

## STUDENT FRONT

*(Continued from page six)*

high finance, industry and politics which would regiment American education in order to keep it safe. It stands for the democratization of education and combats retrenchment. It opposes the system of keeping the Negro in servitude, a system which denies him equal educational opportunity and segregates him as an outcast. But above all it represents the desire of American students for unity on behalf of common needs. Peace, freedom and security are reasonable demands. By uniting in the *American Student Union*, students have found an effective, non-political agency for the prosecution of those demands.

Even while it was being established at Columbus, the A.S.U. was having repercussions throughout the student world. Three thousand Christian students met during Christmas week in the *Quadrennial Student Volunteer Convention*. The proceedings were dominated by conservative churchmen. Vital issues were ignored despite the efforts of many delegates to bring them up from the floor. Three hundred miles away the A.S.U. conference was being attacked by Hearst, the Legion and R.O.T.C. boys. But the delegates at Indianapolis were prevented from sending a telegram of solidarity. Because the leaders of the S.V.C. prevented discussion of vital issues, the proceedings were listless. When a collection was taken up among the 3,000 only \$400 was raised, while at Columbus among

427 delegates the collection produced \$900! The N.S.F.A. convention at Kansas City similarly was dominated by the A.S.U. conference. All the most heated discussions were concerned with issues raised most sharply by the A.S.U. The most repeated inquiries and requests for information concerned themselves with the A.S.U. The headquarters of the N.S.F.A. has, since Christmas, received over 100 inquiries about this new student organization.

### The Forces of Reaction

Finally to make our survey complete we must consider the forces of reaction in the student body. The united front has received the opposition of Hearst, the American Legion and the inner oligarchy represented by the Board of Trustees. But significantly enough these reactionary outside influences have found little support among the students themselves.

Their most fertile recruiting ground has been the R.O.T.C. It was a captain of the R.O.T.C. who stole the credentials lists at the Columbus conference. It is to the R.O.T.C. that administrations turn for recruiting vigilantes against the progressive students movement.

Because the R.O.T.C. is a center of reaction; because it represents the principle of educational goosetep, the demand has gone up in the schools and colleges for the abolition of the R.O.T.C., and point number one on the agenda of the united student front this spring is passage of the Nye-Kvale bill which will permanently cripple this arm of the inner oligarchy.

# COAST TO COAST

DR. HARRY F. WARD, National Chairman of the *American League*, returned on February 11 from a coast to coast tour. He met with *American League* officials and members of other groups in many cities all the way across the country. Mass meetings were held for him in Denver, Colorado; Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Oakland, California; Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington.

The further west one goes, he reports, there is a greater lack of awareness of the war dangers that our country faces. On the whole, the peace organizations have failed, both at Washington and across the country, to bring sufficient pressure to bear to stop war preparations. He noted that fascist developments had passed into another stage with the breakdown of the New Deal. The attack of the *Chicago Tribune* on the *Methodist Federation for Social Service* in that city, and of the Hearst press on *League* meetings in California and the Northwest revealed the part that the reactionary press is playing in developing fascism.

No natural emotional base exists for fascism in the United States at the present, according to Dr. Ward's analysis. There will be such a base in the future, however, if there is a further economic collapse or if we get into war. At the present, the fascist-tending forces are trying to develop an emotional basis for fascism by generating "anti-red" hysteria. The Hearst papers and other forces are trying to swing a powerful religious emotion into the "anti-red" fight.

On the west coast, he noted that the two major issues were social security and the preservation of the democratic process. In the breakup of the Epic and Utopian movements there is still left a strong demand to maintain our democratic traditions and to resist any kind of dictatorship, political or economic. The outcome of the whole critical situation depends on our being able to put enough organizers and propaganda in the field to stop the fascists. The reactionary groups are now directing their fire at such united front movements as the *American League*, the *American Youth Congress* and the new *American Student Union*. These reactionary groups recognize such united front movements as a most serious bar to their plans and intentions to form a fascist state.

Dr. Ward urged the stopping of shipments of oil to Italy and the prevention of the formation of fascist organizations as the two most immediate and important issues before us.

—Paul Reid





Helene Madison, world famous American girl and greatest Olympic woman champion swimmer in history, who wired recently to the Committee on Fair Play in Sports, that "fair competition for every eligible athlete in the world, regardless of color or creed or nationality is what the Olympic Games stand for. I think America as a leading nation should refuse to compete where sportsmanship is threatened by prejudice."

## GAG LAWS

(Continued from page three)

to dare voice even the mildest opposition to the war, and to the forces that brought us into it. The most innocent remarks were misconstrued and perverted into seditious utterances. "It became criminal to advocate heavier taxation instead of bond issues; to say that conscription was unconstitutional, although the Supreme Court had not yet held it valid; to say that the sinking of merchant vessels was illegal; to urge that a referendum should have preceded our declaration of war; to say that the war was contrary to the teachings of Christ. Men were punished for criticizing the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A., while under the Minnesota Espionage Act it was held a crime to discourage women from knitting by the remark "No soldier will ever receive those socks." From those cases what would happen under the Tydings-McCormack Bill, should it be enacted, is only too apparent. Innocent persons with no other purpose than the expression of their own honest opinions would be subject to immediate prosecution and conviction, regardless of their intention. But as long as it could be found that the language used might have a bad effect upon the Army and the Navy, the language would be criminal whether a soldier or sailor heard it or not.

# In Farm Country

By KATHARINE HARRIS

THE CONVICTION that wars are wrong, terribly wrong, lies deep in the hearts of farm mothers, and they are passing it on to their children. Farm mothers find it very hard to see what wrong has been done to them by an "enemy" who is miles, thousands of miles from their peaceful, green fields of waving grain. Here is a typical North Dakota mother who writes:

*The young man who stayed with us before Christmas was told to take military training at the North Dakota agricultural college or "get out." After attending two "classes" of that he came back to tell us about it. "Just tall enough," he said, "to carry a gun." (5 ft. 2 in.) 22 years old. He was told "how to knife the enemy so he'd be sure to die,"—how to "shoot in a vital spot to save ammunition"! O gosh, it makes me sick to talk about it! That "other man" they are talking about never hurt me! The whole thing is crazy!*

### Gold and Sheep

Fascism too is beginning to be understood out on the prairies. The biggest gold mine in the country controlled by William Randolph Hearst is located in South Dakota, only a few miles from the sheep ranches of the prairies. Hearst's influence on the legislature, on the schools, on the new Department of "Justice" has been keenly felt.

Proposals for the building of about forty armories on the prairies of North and South Dakota are being advanced by the Works Progress Administration. Few people can see why armories should be placed in these thinly populated states. But the farm organizations understand why the armories are proposed. They know that these armories are aimed at the growing farm organizations who have stopped evictions, foreclosures and who insist upon their rights, as Americans, as hard-working pioneers.

### Arms Against the Farmer

The State Conventions of both the Farmers Holiday Associations and the North Dakota Farmers Unions went on record opposing these armories. The proposals at present hang fire. No armories are as yet being built. Denials are issued periodically by the Works Progress Administration. Meanwhile Governor Welford of North Dakota wields his pen to write to his constituency, suggesting that armories would make excellent meeting-halls.

Nebraska has recently established a state police. An attempt was made to bring about Federal patrolling of the highways of North Dakota. At the last State Convention of the Farmers Union of North Dakota a resolution was introduced on the floor of the convention calling for Federal highway patrols in North Dakota. A farmer rose from the audience and said: "Mr. Chairman, I introduced that resolution and I thought that it was a good idea, but since this woman here spoke

about fascism, I want to withdraw that resolution."

There is less conscious knowledge in these regions on what to do about war and fascism. The rural communities are isolated from the strong, growing anti-war movements in the cities. But gradually the anti-war spirit, anti-fascist spirit, is transforming itself into concrete activity.

### A Beginning

Literally thousands of farm women signed the disarmament petitions circulated by the American League. They are putting on anti-war plays in their farm organizations, in their ladies' aids, their Parent-Teachers Associations, their mothers' clubs. They are busy and anxious to form anti-war clubs in their communities. The youth, men and women, are discussing war—discussing the American League, discussing the 10 point program now in their farm organizations. They are writing to their local papers, to thousands of farmer-owned papers throughout the Northwest. They are talking over the radio about it on Farmers Union time. They are bringing pressure to bear on their Congressmen, on their Senators to vote against war preparations, for the continuance of the Nye investigations, for civil liberties and peace.

For the first time these organizations recognize in the American League the principle of organization which can and will stop war and fascism in this country. When they hear of the joint cooperative action that has been encouraged and developed by the League—farmers, farm women, and farm youth—have the look of those who have been pondering for a long time what to do—and now they know. They are at last learning their power.

☸

American National Labor Party

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Nationalism in the U. S. A.

*Anton Haegle*  
The Future of our Party

*Franklin Thompson*  
Sovietising American Institutions

---

HUDSON COUNTY LOCAL

A handbill advertising a Nazi meeting in New York City



# PROGRAM of the AMERICAN LEAGUE

*The American League Against War and Fascism invites all organizations and persons who desire to defeat these two allied enemies of mankind — War and Fascism — to unite in carrying out the following program:*

1. To work toward the stopping of the manufacture and transport of munitions in time of peace or war, and in time of war the transport of all other materials essential to the conduct of war, through mass demonstrations, picketing and strikes; and to enlist the professional classes in educational propaganda against war and for participation with workers and farmers in anti-war actions.
2. To expose at every point the extensive preparations for war being carried on by the government of the United States (a) under the guise of "national defense" and (b) by diversion to war preparations funds for relief projects and public works; to demand that relief funds be spent only in constructive work or for adequate relief, and that the huge additional budgets now being spent in preparation for war be transferred to the extension of health and education.
3. To resist the increasing militarization of youth in schools, CCC and CMTC camps and the use of their dependence upon relief to get them into the armed forces.
4. To demand total and universal disarmament, as proposed by the Soviet Union to the League of Nations, and to support all measures that move clearly toward that goal.
5. To demand that neutrality legislation effectively cover all war supplies, loans and credits, and permit no discretion to the President; more particularly, to promote and support refusal of workers to handle all materials of war; to organize and support public condemnation of those who seek profit from the sale of war materials and war loans; to organize mass support for every effort, national or international, which in our judgment as occasion arises, is directed toward postponing, restricting, or shortening war.
6. To oppose the policies of American imperialism in Latin America, the Far East and throughout the world; to give the support of our protests and demands to all peoples who are resisting exploitation, aggression and suppression by imperialist powers, to those in all lands who struggle against the war measures and fascist policies of their own governments, and to all who suffer under the fascist state.
7. To demonstrate constantly the relationship between war and fascism; to expose and counteract fascist propaganda, both foreign and native; to prevent the formation of fascist forces in this country.
8. To oppose all developments leading to Fascism, particularly the increasingly widespread use of armed forces and vigilante terrorism against workers, unemployed, farmers, Negroes and other racial minorities, who are exercising their constitutional rights to protest against unbearable conditions and to organize for their own advancement.
9. To resist the attempts of our American fascists to destroy by legislation, executive order, judicial decree, or lawless action, our guaranteed civil rights of free speech, free press, free assembly, the right to organize, strike, picket and demonstrate; and further to resist all forms of discrimination against foreign-born based on their political or labor activities.
10. To oppose all legislation or orders denying citizens in the armed forces their constitutional right to receive printed matter or personal appeals in behalf of this or any other program designed to secure peace, freedom and justice; and to defend their right to join organizations on the same basis as other citizens.

## WAR MACHINE

*(Continued from page two)*

Looks as though we were on the "friendliest" terms with Japan!

### A Medal

And, while you are digesting these obviously military activities of the United States government, you might bear in mind that the Army is also very busy with such "peacetime" activities as: Flood control, beach erosion, stream pollution, inland waterways, the great Passamaquoddy Power project in Maine, Insular Affairs (meaning our colonies), the Panama Canal—and is even a major factor in the TVA developments.

Maybe you begin to understand now why War and Fascism are so closely related. They are, in fact, two sides of one and the same medal. That medal (which is of solid gold) carries the inscription, "International Finance Capital."



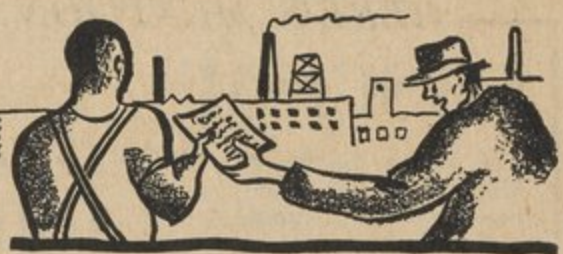
*As Japan invades Manchukuo, "White Russians," remnants of the czar's supporters, greet the incoming troops*





By PAUL REID  
Executive Secretary

# BUILDING the LEAGUE



YOUTH SPARKS

FOR SOME weeks the *Baltimore League* has been pressing Senator Tydings with protests against the Tydings-McCormack "military disaffection" bill. Hundreds of postcards, numerous personal letters and resolutions adopted by 30 affiliated organizations were utilized in this drive. Now Senator Tydings has announced that he has withdrawn his support from the bill. National and local pressure by the *League* and other organizations is responsible for this action.

**CALIFORNIA** *League* activities in this state have increased to such an extent that Bert Leech, our Western organizer, has been assigned to work in California only. In *Fresno* a branch of the *League* is being organized in the form of a study group. Trade union, professional and religious leaders have been recruited for activity in this enterprise. The *Bakersfield* branch is growing and promises soon to develop into a Central Council with the support of trade unionists, ministers, Negroes, and members of several *Epic* groups. *Los Angeles* held a mass meeting with Dr. Ward as speaker on January 28. Over 2,000 people attended. The *American Civil Liberties Union* and the *League* jointly sponsored this rally. *Oakland* also held a public meeting with Dr. Ward as speaker and 500 people in attendance. Members of trade unions, the *Interprofessional Association* and the *Socialist Party* participated in this meeting. *Santa Barbara* benefited from Dr. Ward's meeting in the Methodist Church and has set up a District Council to further the *League*.

The Third Congress has greatly intensified and broadened the work of the *League* in the Chicago area. Contact with the organizations represented by delegates at Cleveland has resulted in a number of meetings and the formation of new branches as well as the enlistment of several new affiliates. A new Youth Branch has taken up active opposition to the Berlin Olympics and is planning a neighborhood symposium on civil rights. A mass meeting on the gag bills and a week-end school will take place.

**NEW ENGLAND** *Springfield, Massachusetts*, held a very successful report meeting on the Third Congress. The *League* has been asked to send speakers to four different organizations to give further reports on the Cleveland Congress. An active fight against the notorious Massachusetts Teachers' Oath bill is getting under way, with the emphasis at the moment on opposition to the appointment of a new state commissioner of education who supports this repressive legislation. *Springfield* has also sent letters and resolutions to Washington protesting the gag bills. *Boston* was visited by the Executive Secretary on February 1 and 2. He spoke at a meeting of delegates from all branches in greater Boston and also addressed a meeting at Old South Church. Labor, religious and Negro speakers took part in the rally. The *New England Regional Committee* met in Boston on February 2 and made plans to raise the additional funds needed for the support of an organizer in this area. Professor Oliver Larkin of Northampton has taken charge of this work. Harry T. Pinkham of Milton, Massachusetts, will serve as organizer as soon as the funds are available.

The return of the New Orleans delegates from the Congress has resulted in the reorganization of the *League* work in this city. A provisional committee has been organized with a membership made up of trade union, professional, religious, educational and student leaders. Committees on organization, affiliations, finance and literature were set up.

**NEW JERSEY** *Perth Amboy* had the secretary of the State Federation of Labor, Mr. Marcianite, for its chief speaker at a trade-union meeting. A dinner in his honor preceded this event. *Paterson* has been active in getting up resolutions against the Tydings-McCormack and Kramer bills adopted by a number of labor unions. The local Central Trades and Labor Council voted to send protests to Washington. A report meeting on the Congress took place on February 2. *Englewood* held a meeting in the Episcopal parish house on January 28, with Paul Reid as speaker, and an anti-war play as part of the program.

**NEW YORK** A *Capitol District Conference* was held on February 9, with delegates from Schenectady, Utica, Syracuse, and Gloversville present. John Franklin from the National Office addressed the meeting. Reports on the Third Congress were given and plans laid for extending the *League* in this region. *Syracuse* has developed a branch and held its first public meeting on January 23. Along with other New York state Leagues they have been fighting the Nunan Flag bill in the state legislature. *Schenectady* has secured the affiliation of the *Electrical Industry Employees Union*.

*New York City* has planned a mass labor meeting to be held at the historic Cooper Union on February 19. Dr. Ward will report on his coast to coast tour on this occasion. Trade union and Negro leaders will also speak. The Trade Union Committee has been very successful since the Congress. A number of new affiliations has been secured. This Committee organized a strong labor protest against the movie, "Riff Raff," a vicious anti-labor film. Fifteen trade union leaders carried their opposition to the district manager. They have secured the postponement of the showing of this picture, and are continuing their fight to eliminate it in the New York area. The new executive board of the *New York City League* contains three trade union leaders. Several trade union branches and anti-war committees have been organized.

As a result of the report of the Philadelphia delegate to the Third Congress, local 192 of the *American Federation of Teachers* is cooperating extensively with the *League* of this city. The *League* work has been divided into three residential sections, with the objective of securing 200 members and 500 new FIGHT subscribers and readers in the next three months.

**NEW BRANCHES** As a result of the Third Congress and the activity of the delegates, new branches are springing up at many points across the country. Organizations are being formed in Little Rock, Arkansas; Jacksonville, Florida; Louisville, Kentucky; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Butte, Montana; Centerport, Long Island, New York; Binghamton, New York; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Houston, Texas; Wheeling, West Virginia, and Superior, Wisconsin.

**B**REAKING through the snows and blizzard of the mid-west we get encouraging reports from the young people of the growth of the *League*. Willard Chase, delegate to the Cleveland Congress, writes: "Our peace work in North Dakota, through the anti-war committee of the Holiday Association, is merely at the beginning but has made a fair start with a big victory in stopping the building of Armories within the state." If this is but a beginning what will it be later on, North Dakota?

Frieda Ludwig, Chicago organization secretary of the *League* ventured to attend the meeting of a newly organized youth branch in weather of 8 below zero and found 62 young people present. Their first activity was centered around the Olympic Games. It was decided to initiate a protest campaign against the Chicago Tribune's sponsorship of Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament in order to raise money for the American Olympic team. They are also planning a symposium on civil rights and a social. Miss Ludwig writes: "Would that some of our 'adult' branches had the same spirit." And would that many more of our adult organizers were as ready to organize youth branches.

New Jersey is coming through. In Perth Amboy the *League* City Executive Committee recently discussed the building of a youth section. The first group has already been got together. Permission to have a *League* organizer address the youth group at the Magyar Reformed Church has been granted.

In Hackensack, besides giving reports on the Youth Commission of the Congress to a number of youth organizations, the Youth Branch is pushing a fight against the erection of an armory in Teaneck, N. J. Secretary Rose Richman writes: "We are contacting teachers, a settlement group, youth groups throughout the country." As the alternative to an armory, the Hackensack branch demands a vocational school.

Down in Baltimore the Youth Commission for Peace and Freedom has initiated a committee on the Nye-Kvale Bill. When the groups got together they were very anxious to work on the Tydings-McCormack Bill and the local teachers' oath bill as well. Now they have a live, extensive united front on these vital issues. Meanwhile the Commission informs us that the heat turned on Mr. Tydings, who is of Baltimore, has caused him to drop sponsorship of the gag bill.

The first meeting of the National Youth Committee in New York set as the job of the Youth Committees and branches for the next few months the campaign for the passage of the Nye-Kvale Bill and the revival of the Anti-Olympic fight. Besides we have a new bill against American youth. Rep. McSwain has introduced H. R. 10662, calling for the establishment of an Air Reserve Training Corps for youth between the ages of 17-24. Then they hope to introduce similar training in CCC Camps. The bill, it is reported, has administration backing. Write or wire protests.

On Feb. 29-March 1 there will be held in Brussels, Belgium, an International Youth Conference. Here plans will be developed for a World Congress of Youth to be held in Geneva in August. The Conference is to discuss peace.—J. L.



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# REPUBLIC'S

book department, under the successive editorship of such critics as Francis Hackett, Robert Morss Lovett, Robert Littell, Edmund Wilson and Malcolm Cowley, has played a central role in the development of American writing during the past twenty years.

The aim of the book department is not to describe every book that is published, on the day of publication, but to select the important books in every field and cover them in reviews that are well written and authoritative.

In addition to Malcolm Cowley, who writes the leading book review, the following are some of the writers who contribute regularly to the book section:

- JOHN DEWEY (*philosophy*)
- ROBERT MORSS LOVETT (*biography*)
- EDMUND WILSON (*literature*)
- NEWTON ARVIN (*American literature*)
- ROBERT CANTWELL (*fiction*)
- HAMILTON BASSO (*the South*)
- LEWIS MUMFORD (*history of culture*)
- KENNETH BURKE (*esthetics*)
- HAROLD LASKI (*international affairs*)
- MATTHEW JOSEPHSON (*business and politics*)

Forthcoming material includes a long review by George Soule of "Soviet Communism," by Sidney and Beatrice Webb, a work which in England was discussed as "not a book, but an event"; a review by Professor L. C. Dunn of Columbia University of "We Europeans," by Julian Huxley, A. C. Haddon and A. M. Carr-Saunders, a book which discusses the scientific basis of the Nazi myth of racial superiority. A feature of coming weeks will be a **SERIES OF LITERARY PORTRAITS**, revaluations of the work of outstanding American writers.

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