

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SOCIAL-FASCISTS

By WM. Z. FOSTER.

THE victorious building of socialism by the Russian workers constitutes a revolutionary threat to the decaying world capitalist system. The capitalists meet this threat by intensifying their war preparations against the Soviet Government. In this their loyal aides are the social fascists of the Second International.

As a capitalist party pretending to represent the workers, the socialists support every major move made by the employers against the workers. But especially the attack against the Soviet Government, a government which they, no less than the employers, consider a mortal enemy which must be destroyed at all costs.

Socialism Triumphant.

The great progress of the Soviet Union creates a serious crisis for the parties of the Second International. For the past 16 years these parties have been increasingly exposing themselves as an anti-working class movement by their great betrayal during the world war, their armed crushing of the revolutionary upheavals in Germany and elsewhere following the war, their persistent collaboration with the capitalists to re-establish tottering capitalism at the expense of the workers, their counter-revolutionary attacks against the Soviet Union, etc.

The Five-Year Plan.

This long record of treachery has greatly undermined the vast influence which the social democracy once had upon the working class. And now the tremendous advance of the Soviet Union, with the brilliant success of the Five-Year Plan of socialist construction under the leadership of the Communist Party, occurring as it does in the midst of the deepening world crisis of capitalism and of the utter failure of the socialist parties to make any progress whatever towards socialism, throws violently into bolder relief than ever the complete bankruptcy of the Second International as a working class organization and deals its declining prestige a mortal blow.

A Manifesto.

Keenly conscious of this, the social fascists try to solve their difficulties by destroying the Soviet Union by force. Hence they have become active leaders in the growing capitalist war offensive against the Soviet Union. The recent manifesto of the Second International on the Soviet Union was practically a call for war against the victorious Russian workers and peasants.

This manifesto, raising the slogan of "Save the Russian Revolution" calls upon the workers not only of the Soviet Union, but of other countries to defeat the Soviet government. The last war was fought under the hypocritical slogan of "Make the World Safe for Democracy."

The social fascists are outdoing even this duplicity by trying, in the capitalist war against the Soviet Union, to demoralize the world's workers with the program of "Make the World Safe for Socialism."

Lies!

To carry out this program the social fascists intensify their campaign of lying about events and conditions in the Soviet Union. The more the Russian workers advance, the more the social fascists deny it. At all costs they must hide the truth from the working masses. The above mentioned manifesto of the Second International reiterates the line for this systematic falsification. It says not a single word about the great socialist construction now going on, even though the capitalist press of the

world is full of wonderment at the tremendous progress.

The social fascists, to delude the workers paint a picture of the Soviet Union as a scene of hunger, intense exploitation and terrorism. They outdo even the capitalists themselves with such slanders.

How aggressively the socialist parties, following the lead of the Second International, carry on this attack against the Soviet Union, is well exemplified by the fact that the Fish Committee, whose role is to violently stir up war sentiment against the Soviet Union and to make the Communist Party illegal, takes its principal propaganda material from the columns of the "Daily Forward" the lies of the counter-revolutionary Bessedowsky. And no less significantly, the Fish Committee, clearly recognizes its blood relationship with the social fascists, categorically refuses in its hearings, to permit any criticism whatever, to be made against the socialist party.

An open attack upon the Soviet Union is the main line of the policy of the social fascists everywhere. But the so-called "lefts" among the socialists are still more insidious. While pretending to be supporters of the Soviet Union they play the game of the capitalists by denying the existence of the war danger, by misconstruing the lessons of the Russian Revolution, and by giving practical support, under cover of radical phraseology, to every hostile step of the Second International against the Soviet Union. They are the most dangerous elements among the social fascists.

Discredited.

The rise of the Soviet Union enormously discredits the social fascists. Nor can the latter, with all their lies and all their war maneuverings, escape the logic of its revolutionary lessons. The growth of the great socialized industries, the collectivization of the land, the rapid rise in the cultural level of the working masses, cannot long be hidden from the toilers of other countries. And as this knowledge spreads among the workers it renders the position of the social fascists more and more untenable and loosens their hold upon the working class.

Hiding the Truth.

The bosses, like their lackey social-fascists, fully understand the great importance of deceiving the workers regarding real developments in the Soviet Union. Thus the Fish Committee poured out a flood of lying statistics and statements, misrepresenting the working and living conditions of the Russian workers. In this way they hope not only to make war propaganda against the Soviet Union, but what is equally important for them, to discredit our whole program in this country.

Popularize the Successes.

From all this it should be clear to us the imperative necessity to carry on the widest possible popularization among the masses, of the successes of the Five-Year Plan. This is a powerful means for defeating the social-fascists. It also arouses the workers and makes them more receptive to our entire program. But most important of all, it is fundamentally necessary to offset the war propaganda of the bosses and the socialists and A. F. of L. tools and to rally the workers in defense of the Soviet Union. Above all we must make the August First anti-war demonstration a gigantic success.

To bring to the masses the true lessons of what is now happening in the Soviet Union is our most elementary revolutionary task. All our mass campaigns—the coming elections, our strikes against wage-cuts, our work among the unemployed, the Negroes, etc., must be saturated with this.