

FIGHT

VOL. 2 No. 6
APRIL
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AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM



Drawings by Franklin Sime

Pioneers, Builders—Slaves?

THE PIONEERS of America crossed the plains and mountains of a barren traversing thousands of miles of barren country. They opened a new world.

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

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

In 1864 Abraham Lincoln said: "... corporations have been established and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the republic is destroyed. If not, in this moment, more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war."

These "corporations" industrialists, bankers—the rulers of America—in order to "prolong" their "reign" are attempting to rush through Congress bills to suppress the rights and liberties fought for by the people of America. Various sedition and alien bills—H.R. 3113, 3645, 3839, 3909, H.R. 1, 57, 2897, 3056, 2866, 3046—are bills to suppress whatever rights are now ours.

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

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

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

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DEFENSIVE WARS

By LeROY E. BOWMAN
 Chief Development Institute, Teachers' College, Columbia University

IN NO recent instance has the faculty of mere liberalization of point of view as against a thoroughgoing analysis of social causes been so clearly demonstrated as in the student poll on War conducted by the *Literary Digest*.

As announced in this periodical, 65,000 students voted on their attitude toward War as follows: 68% believed the United States could stay out of war, 82% would not invade the borders of another country, 63% did not believe in a navy and air force second to none as a way of keeping out of another War, 90% wanted government control of munitions, 82% favored universal conscription of all resources of capital and labor in time of War. All this show of liberalized thinking caused Army, navy and various Fascist groups too much concern. They should have understood one other question the students voted on, and found that 84% said they would fight if this country were invaded.

All Wars Are "Defensive"

If those who favor peace or profit by War would do the difficult thing the opponents in large measure had failed to do, that is to think, for a moment, they would have that for 84% of these 65,000 students all the demoralization of society and the barbarism of men that accompanies War is still a matter merely of pushing a few propaganda buttons and of fighting a few fairs of War in a controlled press.

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

cause of War). So, on the most significant question, 64,000 students, who are supposed to be leaning to think, gave vent to all their old effete loyalties and their traditional passions, and covered them over with a new layer of academic progressiveness.

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

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

Who Places Chips on Your Shoulder?

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

Editorial Announcement

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

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

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

JOSEPH PASS

Who Is Invading?

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

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Mussolini dispatches Fascist army to War against Abyssinia. Netive of Abyssinia—the only Negro Republic in the world.

WHEAT, HOGS and FERTILIZER

By JOHN STRACHEY

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

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

WHY IS it that the whole world today, is so leading towards War? It is not until we can understand this question that we can really get any grasp of the inter-fused jingism that accompanies Fascism. We believe that capitalism, in the fine phase of that old French working class leader, Jean Jaures, brought War as naturally as the clouds bring rain, because it produces a situation in which the ruling elements in capitalist state after capitalist state see absolutely no other way out of their difficulties than a resort to War.

World Capitalism Today

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

Over in Europe there is, as you know, an arm of the sea running into the country of Holland; it is called the Zuider Zee. It is very shallow, and for a very long time the Dutch have looked on it as a possible field for reclamation. Very wonderful reclamation projects have been undertaken in Holland century after century, and the Dutch thought to crown them by reclaiming the Zuider Zee itself. A few years ago this great project actually got started. The Dutch, a highly capable people, with first-rate engineers, set themselves to this huge task. They undertook it with great skill and perseverance. And their efforts soon began to be rewarded with success. In a surprisingly short time a considerable area of the sea had been reclaimed.

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

Too Much Wheat

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

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

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

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

Mire Difficulties

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

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 PUBLICATIONS: JOSEPH PASS
 WOMEN: DOROTHY MCCONNELL
 YOUTH: JAMES LENNER

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WHO BENEFITED?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Young college students watching the criminal syndicalist trials at Sacramento, Cal. During these two sittings of the Alton defendants.

Press came to the rescue. Every day its captions, its highly colored words, and its choice of what to omit leads to a labor and more vicious picture. Capions in the newspapers in the course of the trial have become a dumb joke. Reds are charged with rape, with murder, kidnaping, threats, intimidation and gangster violence. A striking college boy representing the Sacramento Red run around with McAllister and reports that gentlemen's ignorant prejudices more than the trial. (He doubtless hopes to win the prize of his vocal boxes for it.) Capitalist reporters have dragged the craft of journalism into the mud. The reading of a page from Ogilvi's pamphlet "Why Communism Means for the Red a 'PLOT TO KIDNAP' PRESIDENT"—a plot hatched in Sacramento today! The reports on propaganda among the CCG became "ORDERS TO CCG WORKERS TO MURDER THEIR OFFICERS," while, possibly to lay the basis for further provocation and as a smoke screen for vigilante action, the issue of Feb. 26th came out: "PARTY DEMANDS REVENGE ON WITNESSES HERE!" The news story states that Communist party members in Sacramento had received orders from central headquarters in New York to "concentrate on reviling themselves against witnesses who gave damaging testimony. For this report Leo Gallagher asked to have the Editor of the Red closed, but Judge Lennon consented with letters by the thousands he had received from many sources. In the San Francisco Examiner the thousands of letters and telegrams which indignant workers and liberals, professors and students, were sending in every day became an eight column barren headline:

HEADLINES in CALIFORNIA

By ELEANORE ESTES

"THOUSANDS BEING MURDERED IN IMPERIALIST WARS NOW RAGING." "WORKERS DEMAND THE RIGHT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES!" "It is our belief that a starving and demoralized working class cannot build a new society."

"What is this? A Communist meeting in Union Square? Why, no. The witness stand in the Criminal Syndicalism trials in Sacramento. Every five minutes the bull-necked or neckless prosecutors—given to a humor that would make Charley Chase seem cultured and dignified—try to stop the testimony on the ground that it is irrelevant, immaterial. 'Objected sustained,' says the judge, 'stick to the question, Mr. Darcy,—the methods by which you advocate the overthrow of the government by force and violence...'"

"Object! Object! Object!" "But we don't, your Honor, and if you will let me finish my explanation of how we try to win over the masses..." Prosecution necks turn purple. McAllister holds out a long arm in an unbecomingly Hitler salute—"I object, your Honor..." "Irrelevant, immaterial, hearsay, not the best evidence..."

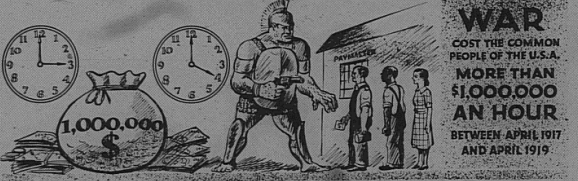
They argue one hour, two hours, as to whether the witness may continue to give his Party's program, the scientific analysis of society which led Marx and his followers to formulate their teachings... or whether they don't know themselves what. Anything but to keep out the startling truths of American

The Press Comes to the Rescue
Well, they couldn't do it by court procedure and legal methods, the prosecution, they couldn't make the workers and their leaders come clean and confess what was nothing but attempts to ruin California industries, and the red flag snatching, but a symbol of bloodshed and anarchy, so the

Press came to the rescue. Every day its captions, its highly colored words, and its choice of what to omit leads to a labor and more vicious picture. Capions in the newspapers in the course of the trial have become a dumb joke. Reds are charged with rape, with murder, kidnaping, threats, intimidation and gangster violence. A striking college boy representing the Sacramento Red run around with McAllister and reports that gentlemen's ignorant prejudices more than the trial. (He doubtless hopes to win the prize of his vocal boxes for it.) Capitalist reporters have dragged the craft of journalism into the mud. The reading of a page from Ogilvi's pamphlet "Why Communism Means for the Red a 'PLOT TO KIDNAP' PRESIDENT"—a plot hatched in Sacramento today! The reports on propaganda among the CCG became "ORDERS TO CCG WORKERS TO MURDER THEIR OFFICERS," while, possibly to lay the basis for further provocation and as a smoke screen for vigilante action, the issue of Feb. 26th came out: "PARTY DEMANDS REVENGE ON WITNESSES HERE!" The news story states that Communist party members in Sacramento had received orders from central headquarters in New York to "concentrate on reviling themselves against witnesses who gave damaging testimony. For this report Leo Gallagher asked to have the Editor of the Red closed, but Judge Lennon consented with letters by the thousands he had received from many sources. In the San Francisco Examiner the thousands of letters and telegrams which indignant workers and liberals, professors and students, were sending in every day became an eight column barren headline:

"GOVERNOR MERRIAM GETS RED THREATS" and "TRIAL JUDGE ALSO SENT WARNING!" The news story referred to an "ominous overtone of violence" and "vengeful plots," and "diabolical" that the State stoop-pigeons had been placed under the armed protection of the District Attorney's office.

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



Drawing by Charles Diller

CLASH in FAR EAST

By VICTOR A. YAKHONTOFF

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



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

Recent developments in the Far East once again intensify the War danger. FIGHT-ardent General Yakhontoff, an outstanding authority on the Far East, in writing on this subject, General Yakhontoff was Assistant Secretary of War under Kerevaly and has edited a weekly dealing with the Far East. He is the author of a number of monographs and articles on Japan, China and Asiatic Russia. For a number of years, General Yakhontoff has been a resident in the U. S. A. and since 1926 has been active in the work of the Institute of Politics at Williamsport, Mass. In 1925 he conducted a Round Table at the Institute of International Relations, University of Southern California, on "China in the Far East," and since 1925 has lectured at many American universities and colleges.—Editor.

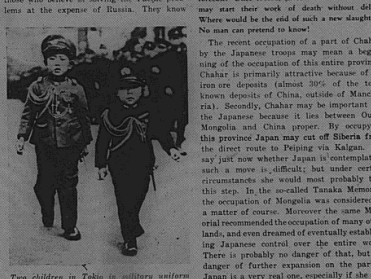
can influence Tokyo in rather the "direct" quarters of Japan who are even less reasonable and less national than such American "patriots" as the ridiculous King of Yellow Journalism and his cohorts.

Official Washington undoubtedly knows how desirable it is for the United States not to neglect Russia in the Far Eastern plans. Official Washington can hardly sympathize with those who believe in solving the Far East problems at the expense of Russia. They know where would be the end of such a new danger? No man can pretend to know!

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

The hopes of the War-mongers were strengthened very materially when it became known that the State Department had recalled the naval attaché and the air attaché from the American Embassy at Moscow. The natural implication was that by so doing Washington wanted Tokyo to be reassured that no military clause existed in the Soviet-American understanding reached in November, 1925. This was most probably true. But certain people went so far as to assert that there was a demonstration which, being timed with the renewed advance of Japan in Mongolia, was tantamount to an encouragement for Japan to strike on the USSR. We do not accept such an interpretation; it is too ugly to be true. But no one can deny that all this occurred at a time when such unscrupulous factors as William Randolph Hearst and his ilk were busily engaged in a new anti-Russian campaign more vicious than any which we had experienced before.

Considering conditions under which all this is taking place one may well be alarmed, although believing that these exaggerated hopes of the unbalanced minds, irritated by fear and hatred, and advocating War, have little chance to materialize just now. The danger lies not in what is going on in USSR, but in how this unbalancing movement



Two children in Tokyo in military uniforms.

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

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

A War Means World War

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

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

FIGHT

Cracking Down on Labor

By LOUIS COLMAN
Author of "Limbo"

The writer of this article, whose novel "Limbo" was based on his experiences in the lumber camps of the Northwest, has tried to convey certain ideas and seen various representative measures in operation. He is at present, Publicity Director for the International Labor Union—LITHIA

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

Criminal syndicate, criminal, anarchist, criminal syndicates laws were crowded into the statute books to defeat the demands of the demobilized soldiers, of labor, and to safeguard the swollen moneybags for the War producers. Under these laws remaining to this day on the statute books of thirty states and two territories, hundreds of militant labor leaders and workers in general were persecuted. Jail and prison sentences totaling hundreds of years were meted out. Right now, in eleven states under these and related laws, prosecutions are going on and cases are pending.

Something is now going on that is to a certain extent parallel, but this time preparatory to huge War-profits and in order to punish "traitors" without making an overt act necessary. In Georgia, where the text for

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

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

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

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

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

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

These bills as well as the federal bills are backed by the Heart, passed by the bill leaders of the American Legion, the Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Associations, the R.I.S., and, in the South especially, by the Ku Klux Klan, the Red Klan, the Men of Justice, the Order of the Green Dragon, the White Legion, and the vari-colored "Shirts."

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

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

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

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



Drawing by Schreiber

NEWS ITEM: "The Nazi executioners wears a black tunic, top hat and white gloves"

these bills (against the purpose it to strengthen the old slave-time "insurrection" law under which Angelo Hendon was sentenced to from 18 to 20 years on the chain-gang.

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

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

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

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

(Continued on page twelve)

CCC NOTES...

By JOSEPH MILLER

Illustrations by Phil Boyd

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

When the scheduled hour arrived a shrill whistle sounded. The members of the company turned out en masse. Quietly established, the Captain spoke. "You are not in the Army... Every man must obey his officers." Following them the squad and section leaders were pointed out. A call for corks, typists, and coats, and the session was over.

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

Daily reports reached the Personnel Office. One company reported 22 A.W.O.L. (Absent without leave). The following day the same company listed another section as missing. Rinking Army officers began an investigation. The men were brought back for questioning. The complaints were unanimous: "The food is lousy." The officers promised better food.

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

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

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

After the two performances several of the boys commented, "Thank 'U for the Army." The officers were pleased with the results.

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

The first orders for company to entertain for the forest reached the camp. At the last minute one company had its orders countermanded. It was a Negro company. They were to be broken up and distributed among the remaining groups. The reason given was "The Governor don't want a sold Negro company in their state." Rebellion broke out. The officers acted with a snap. Several scores of the men were discharged.

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

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

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

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

"What's wrong with him?"
"Don't know. Just keeps shaking his head and talking goofy talk."
"Keep an eye on him. I'll be over in a few minutes."

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

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

Several hours later one of the officers dropped in. "Anything doing?"
"One of the boys was taken to the hospital in a delirious condition."
"Who gave the order for his removal?"
"I did."

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

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

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



"One company reported 22 A.W.O.L. (Absent without leave). The following day the same company listed another section as missing."

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

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

shoot any parrot that I catch in this camp."

July Fourth, The clerk visited some friends outside of camp. The next day he was called into the office. A newspaper had a front-page story on the parrot slaying that it was a Communist meeting under Young People's Socialist League auspices. A brief profile of the clerk, who slipped out without trans-

portation home. What papers the clerk had were stolen by the officers.
Back home, the discharge papers mailed to him read:
"Acknowledged agitator. Criticized the government. Planned to foment trouble."
A letter to the CCC director regarding his treatment brought the response, "The officers were justified."

MOVIES to ARMS

By CARL DREHER

OF LATE, the movies have exhibited a startling increase in their output of military pictures. *Warrior-First National* led the way with a trilogy of service films, *Here Comes the Navy*, followed by *Flirtation Trail*, and, currently released, *Devil Dogs of the Air*. These pictures differ in setting, but the formula is the same.

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

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

Correcting Dangerous Ideas

In *Flirtation Trail* Dick Powell, the manly currier's delight, as the juvenile, instead of Cagney; Pat O'Brien gets another hand-bowled role as a sergeant. The romance is between Powell and Ruby Keeler. Al Johnson's mummy in private life. The scene shifts from the West Coast to Hawaii, thence to West Point, where Powell becomes a cadet. The larval soldiers are shown marching and counter-marching, mildly hazing one another, singing in chorus, and saluting intemperately with their hats off. In a moment of rancor O'Brien delivers himself of the dangerous doctrine that the Army will let the officers, but the private and non-coms be soundly corrected himself, however, to the effect that really the Army needs officers, who have the brains to give orders and lead the dumb clucks in the ranks. The picture ends on a note of romance, without any fighting or unpleasantness like men's intentions hanging on barbed wire.

Devil Dogs of the Air

Devil Dogs of the Air is a repeat on *Here Comes the Navy*, with Cagney and O'Brien cast as flying marines instead of sailors. It contains the same conflict over a girl, the same humiliations on the traditions of the service, the same artillery display, drilling, and saluting, the same fast-tempo action, and the same waxy brand of dialogue. This picture starts with some of the crassest flying ever contrived, I regret to say, but by Messieurs the

Maynes, but by a Hollywood stand they named Clark. Among other antics he twice jumps a plane over an ambulance by parascending with great force in front of the director, bounding over it with a few feet of clearance to another lamp post landing on the other side, which takes him into the air again. This *Maynes*, in other formation flying, show much more regard for their own necks and the taxpayer's money.

These pictures have been successful at the box office, and a number of more are being scheduled for production. Warners are planning an *Annapolis* picture to parallel *Flirtation Trail*, a Coast Guard picture, and perhaps one written around the naval medical service. *Metropolitan-Meier* has previewed *Devil Dogs of the Air*, an Army flying picture with William Hays. The latter is also in *Met's Boat to Fight*. Devy's first uniform picture in this year's releases will be *Professional Soldier*, for which he is being lent to Harry Zanduk. Shirley Temple, in fact, yet carrying a gun, but she is an honorary soldier in five stars.

Approved. Edited by Washington

All service pictures are made from scripts prepared by the appropriate arm, carry a technical advice stamp by the same, and may be approved in edited form by the general staff in Washington before the picture can be even previewed. The service without war film because the public is valuable in promoting appropriations, and they tend to focus public attention on what General Carg calls "the pleasant business of war." At the *Devil Dogs* opening in New York two Rear Admirals lent their presence, besides numerous cap-



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

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

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

Organized Protest

I see no effective remedy as long as the

FASCIST COURT

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

Next, a prisoner from Colonel Fehér was read.

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

Proceeding Fehér (sharply): Answer my question. Were or were not proceedings taken against Szamony on account of those clashes?

Rakosi: I did not know that this protocol existed.

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

STRACHEY

(Continued from page three)

fascist went back just exactly where it came from.

The Road to War

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

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

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

Rakosi: I did not say that.

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

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

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

Rakosi: Then I shall make no further statements.

Judge: For that piece of insolence I impose three more days dark cell confinement.

Rakosi: Six days is the maximum permitted.

Judge: Don't argue with me.

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

Rakosi was sentenced to life imprisonment.

FLASH

NEWS DISPATCH . . . Hitler proclaims universal military service for every able bodied man in Nazi Germany. 100,000 will be conscripted immediately. Within twenty-four hours of the proclamation of conscription Germans were shown examples of the monstrous army that is being forced upon them. Full War equipped troops paraded down *Unter den Linden*, in Berlin.

WIRELESS TO A NEW YORK NEWSPAPER . . . Hundreds, perhaps thousands of Protestant pastors were held prisoners in their homes today (March 17) by Adolph Hitler's secret political police. . . . Some 5,000 pastors are affected by orders to the secret police to suppress the Protestant protest (against Nazi suppression of the church).

. . . It can be said with certainty that at least 700 were arrested in Berlin.

MR. PRESIDENT!

By M. B. SCHNAPPER

"There is no ground for apprehension that our relations with any nation will be obstructed this year!"—President Roosevelt.

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

Then why, Mr. President, are you plunging the United States into the largest peacetime expenditures which will probably exceed by at least \$400,000,000 the military appropriations of any other country?

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

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

Eager for Bloodshed

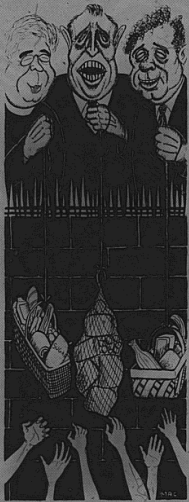
Surely, Mr. President, you would admit, are Senators Robinson, Lewis, Copeland, et al, among your white-haired boys in Congress. Surely they wouldn't say anything contrary to your wishes or contrary to the wishes of the interests which you and they represent. (It may interest you to know, incidentally,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

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

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

Demagogy and Lies

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



Drawing by Marbury

APRIL FOOL!

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

chamber today, giving me the patent action of their consideration, Japan will soon make her gesture to Russia on the theory that the United States is now in doubt as to the wisdom of having received Russia into the family of nations. . . . The proposition will be made squarely to Russia: 'You furnish the army; we, Japan, can furnish the navy.' With the Army of Russia and the Navy of Japan . . . it can be said with certainty that at least 700 were arrested in Berlin.

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

Trouble at Home?

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

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

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

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

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

How About Workers and Farmers?

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

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

AN ARMY MAN'S STORY

By WILLIAM H. O'DONNELL

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

I Become a Police Officer

Then I came to Vineland, New Jersey, where, after a rigid examination, I enlisted in the New Jersey State Police. After three months' intensive training I went on the road as a non-commissioned officer. I served with the State Police for four years, during which time I found that an honest officer is not a permanent fixture in any police department. I had sustained a certain injury while serving in the Police Department; and was discharged in 1923 for "disability." I never received any compensation for injuries and was forced to civil life, and thence to unemployment. This occurs after twenty years of service.

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

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

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

Agricultural Workers Fight

We made things so hot for the authorities that they had to give me a hearing. For the first time in South Jersey not only was the City Hall packed but the roads were so congested that traffic was virtually stopped. The going of three months, because the paper had on January 20 published a letter from a Brazilian convict, containing the following passages: "Here blacks and whites, yellow men and red men all get on well together; certainly we shall in time send colored missionaries from Brazil to Germany to convert you modern heathens."



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

CRACKING DOWN

(Continued from page seven)

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

They Can Be Defeated!

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

We Mean Business

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

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



Two Pan-Celtic forces in Greece are fighting for dominion of the country. (Above) Greek soldiers

BATTLESHIPS OF SCHOOLS?

By JOSEPH COHEN

National Secretary, National Student League

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

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

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

Militarizing the Student Body

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

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

"Our Lives Are at Stake"

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

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

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

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

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

New, eighteen years after the entrance of the United States into the World War, the students of America, joined by their brothers in Cuba, Mexico and other countries of Latin America, have given a free hand in suppressing every civil right of the people. The general strike of 30,000 students was followed by that of the teachers, and the labor unions joining in made it complete. One of the demands made is the ousting of the American ambassador who, in spite of Roosevelt's "good neighbor" policy, has followed imperialistic precedent in his Cuban efforts. Hand-drops are reported to have been killed. All unions have been outlawed.



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

VETS BETRAYED

By WALTER WILSON
Author of "Forced Labor in the United States"

STRONG was the hatred of militarism and War among ex-soldiers in the immediate post-World War period that a convention of the American Legion, despite the wishes of Legion officials, went on record against compulsory military training. One of the chief reasons the veterans hated the War was the fact that they were drafted to serve in the army at the front and at home at 21 a day while the government held the business men at home to literally coin gold. Soon after the World War demands grew to "draft the Dollar" and to "Equalize the Burden" in the next War.

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

Forced Labor

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

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

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

Legion Officials—What They Say

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

Perhaps the best statement of what the Universal Draft means to the Legion appeared in the *Evening Post* on January 11, 1931. Hanford McNider, former National commander of the Legion, on the editorial board of this paper, in explanation of an essay contest sponsored by the Legion on the subject of War profits and world peace, the editors said:

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

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

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

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

Betrayed by Leaders

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

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

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

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

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



Drawing by Adolf Dahn



By IDA DALES
Administration Secretary

TACOMA, Wash., held its first conference with 47 delegates, including five A. E. of L. unions. It is part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, two Veterans of the World War, two Veterans of the Socialist Party, six unemployed groups, two church youth groups, the Young Communist League, etc. A confirmation committee of seventeen was elected for the conference, and is working to get representation from many organizations to the Northwest Congress Against War and Fascism to be held in April.

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

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

Baltimore chapter reports distribution of 4,000 anti-Hearst stickers, sale of 100 postcards against the alien and sedition bills, and good showing of the petitions. Through the League's efforts these organizations not yet affiliated are pressing and sending in resolutions against the alien and sedition bills. This chapter is carrying on research on chemical industries in Baltimore, and a chemist who is a member of their Speakers' Bureau is giving talks on the situation to a number of churches. An active campaign is being carried on against a bill now before the Maryland Legislature, which would bar the ballot candidates who advocate any change in the form of government so long as they belong to an organization which does.

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

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

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

A very good meeting with Rev. Elmer Compe of Milwaukee was held in the Farmington community around Ashby, Minn. Several members were obtained, and the people from neighboring communities who attended the meeting were deeply interested.

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

YOUTH SPARKS

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

An inter-democratic youth conference at St. Louis endorsed the student strike. The May 10 demonstration against War which the Youth Section will sponsor, as well as other proposals of the local Youth Committee. The *American League* was endorsed. The Peace Committee of the Inter-democratic youth conference in New York followed St. Louis in adopting the resolutions sponsored by the Youth Section including the student strike, condemnation of Hearst and attempts to infiltrate CCC Camps.

Some of the notes in this column reflect the developing spirit of our program among church groups. Endorsement of the entire program of specific points should be followed by the sale of literature and drawing members of these groups into our activities, otherwise endorsement will lose its value. For example, all affiliated summaries are receiving similar copies of 100 copies of petitions, and student strike calls. Every summary is being urged to set up a revival group which will be a link between the student body and the national organizations. We have yet to hear of St. Louis doing this. How about it?

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

As this is being written the student strike loses as the biggest student action ever seen in this country. Besides the six national organizations which have signed the call, the student Youth I.M.F.A. of the Middle Atlantic area as well as numerous church conferences have endorsed the strike. We are daily receiving inquiries about the strike from remote corners of the country. The administrations, frightened by the proportions the strike will take, have begun to propose "substitutes" which are just as good. In some places they propose peace assemblies instead of the strike; in other places they want to change the hour set by the national strike committee. The committee says: "NO Substitutes! Fight the strike!" The effectiveness will be lost if administrations break the national front. — L.

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UP! UP! UP!

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

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

FIGHT

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