

"Shoot to Kill"

By I. Amler.

A state of war exists in one of the United States. The State of Oklahoma is "split wide open" by the acts of the Ku Klux Klan and the suppression of constitutional law by the governor of the State, Governor Walton. Martial law has been declared, papers are censored, the chief of police, three jury commissioners and the sheriff of a county have been removed from office. *Six thousand soldiers have been called to arms.* Machine guns have been planted round the important buildings in Oklahoma City, the principal city of the state. Strict regulations have been issued for the conduct of the people of the city. The governor of the State has given orders to "shoot to kill", in case an extra session of the legislature, which has been called by "underground channels" by the Ku Klux Klan is held.

The state is in an uproar. A war against the Ku Klux Klan, the "invisible empire" is under way. Claiming that the "cyclops" (the division commander) of the "empire" has usurped governmental power, that the Ku Klux Klan is guilty of innumerable floggings, beatings, tar and featherings, that a state of terror exists throughout the state of Oklahoma, and determined to uproot the organization, the governor has established martial law, despite the threats against his life.

Behind this condition of affairs is a story. Walton was elected governor of the State as a so-called "labor" candidate, and had the support of the Socialists. After his election, he repudiated the platform on which he was elected and lost the support of the Socialists, who look back upon this treachery as something unusual in American political life. Peace was not destined to reign in Oklahoma, however, for the fight against the Ku Klux Klan began and took on a formidable shape. For nearly two months a conflict has been gathering, and finally reached a climax in the abrogation of civil power.

The whole state is lined up on one side or the other. The Tulsa (an important city of Oklahoma) Chamber of Commerce has refused to support the call of the president of the Chamber, who asked the Ku Klux Klan to disband. The American Legion sides with the K.K.K. The deposed officials are accused of being members of the K.K.K. The Secretary of War of the United States has been appealed to, but has not yet responded. The Secretary of War will not answer: the United States government has no intention of suppressing the Ku Klux Klan. On the contrary, it is very much interested in the furtherance of this organization. It is not interested in constitutional law, it is not interested in the claims of the governor of the State. The Ku Klux Klan has defied the State of Oklahoma, the governor has replied with troops. The K.K.K. refuses to disband, it declares that the legislature will meet, whether the governor allows it or not, and it will impeach him. The governor has ordered all male citizens between the ages of 21 and 45 years of age to hold themselves in readiness for military service. But the K.K.K. claim that they control 90 per cent of the militia.

The Ku Klux Klan, as the American Fascist, is today the distinct menace of the country. Not that the governor of Oklahoma is the person to fight it. Behind the K.K.K. stand the chamber of commerce, the American Legion, part of the press and of the clergy. The K.K.K. is growing rapidly. In the State of Indiana, they claim 400,000 members, many of them having been enrolled from among the farmers. In the State of Oregon they recently succeeded in getting the adoption of a city management plan by the voters of the State. In Georgia, members of the organization, accused of floggings, could not be convicted. City officials are charged with breaking the very laws they have sworn to uphold. The result is that the governor of Oklahoma has declared that he will pardon any man who "Shoots down any member of a masked mob attempting to molest a citizen".

"There is no use looking for justice in Texas, as every official who has been elected in the last two years is a member of the Ku Klux Klan" says a citizen of the State. "Any one who is in any kind of business in Texas is compelled to join the Klan or be starved out. That is why I am in it. I have a small business and they were about to ruin me, so I joined to save myself. There are thousands in Texas in the same fix as I am in. Several hundred people have been murdered in this state for fighting the Klan, and the officials make no attempt to find the murderers as they know they are brother klansmen." A klansman who hires a Negro is not supposed to pay him unless he wishes to. If a Negro asks one of these farmers for his wages, he threatens him with the K.K.K. and the Negro leaves. "I am surprised that they did not murder the I.W.W. members in jail. That is what they generally do, under the pretence that they resisted an officer of the law or were trying to escape. Most of the ministers here are organizers, and if a member of a church does not join he is not wanted. . . People do not know the conditions in the South, as our papers dare not publish anything against the Klan. One Texas paper tried it and was blown up with dynamite."

In Ohio, New-York, Pennsylvania (Pittsburg) and New Jersey, there have been armed fights between the K.K.K. and the people. In some of the agricultural sections of Ohio, more than 90 per cent of the adult men are members of the Klan. In fact it is a dominating force in Ohio outside of the industrial centers. The female organization of the K.K.K., the Kamelia, is growing in numbers. The two to three million members now comprising the K.K.K. represent a formidable Fascist organization in the United States.

Another organization has been formed—the "Knights of the Flaming Circle"—in which color and creed are supposed to be no test for eligibility for membership. It is also a 100 per cent

American organization and is likewise sworn to "uphold the law".

"Shoot to kill" is a motto for the United States, a motto underlying the activities of the K.K.K. and its opponents. Gary, steel magnate, Barnes, President of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and Childs, ambassador to Rome, are keen admirers of Mussolini. "Shoot to kill" is also Mussolini's watchword. Constitutional law? "To hell with the constitution", as a colonel of the United States army aptly said. The days of "democracy" are coming to a close. The rifle and the machine gun are the spokesmen of the capitalist State.

THE WHITE TERROR

To the Working Masses of the Whole World!

After the temporary suppression of the armed revolt of the working people in Bulgaria against the militarist and banking cliques who held power in their hands, a great portion of the revolutionary workers and peasants, pursued by the blood-thirsty revenge of the white guardist bands, were compelled to seek refuge in the neighbouring countries.

In Yugoslavia there are already about a thousand refugees, and their number is continually being added to. A great number of the refugees have gone over into Turkish and Greek territory. It is probable that some have succeeded in reaching Roumania and more distant countries. The refugees who have fled abroad, who do not feel themselves to be defeated—for the Cause of the Working People, in defence of which they took up arms, can never be defeated—and who from their places of exile will continue to serve the Common Cause, are exposed to two great dangers, which will be clear to every fighter for freedom, for the avoidance of which they look to the aid of their brothers, the workers and peasants of other countries, but in the first place to the neighbouring people in the Balkan countries. The first and greatest danger threatens from the international solidarity of the ruling classes. When the bourgeoisie see eye to eye with regard to the revolting masses, then they scorn all the rules of International Law, they forget their century-old liberal traditions and become the accomplices of the blood-thirsty hangmen of the people. Are not the Bulgarian refugees abroad threatened with the fearful danger of being delivered into the hands of their hangmen?

We do not know how the Bulgarian refugees will be received in Turkey and Greece.

With regard to the Roumanian Government we know that it has closed its frontiers to the Bulgarian revolutionaries. If, however, in spite of this some refugees have succeeded in reaching Roumanian territory, are they not then in continual danger of their lives? The Right of Asylum, which is sanctioned by law as well as by tradition in all civilized countries, can only be assured to the Bulgarian refugees if they are taken under the protection of the working masses of the other countries. The Bulgarian emigrants, in appealing expressly to you for brotherly support, hope to have on their side in this hour of trial the public opinion represented by the democratic and labor organizations. Their appeal goes yet further: the whole civilized world must know that in Bulgaria their rules a white-guardist and Fascist government, which has steeped its hands in the blood of countless victims and which, in its lust for vengeance, will not permit its opponents in foreign countries to remain in peace.

This government, after the 9th June, caused Stambulisky and a number of other peasants' leaders held in prison to be treacherously murdered. It had the communist leader, Kalatscheff, brutally slaughtered in Plevna, and afterwards had the cynicism to pronounce the death sentence on his corpse. It sent abroad hired assassins in order to murder the peasants leaders who had fled, of whom the Ex-Minister Daskalos (in Prague) and the member of parliament Matoff (in Constantinople) have already fallen victims. After the government, following on the suppression of the September uprising, had organized a tremendous blood-bath among the thousands of prisoners and wounded, after it had practised and continues to practise indescribable bestialities and cruelties on thousands of others held under arrest, it is sending out fresh hired murderers in order to murder the handful of leaders of the revolutionary movement, communists and peasants' leaders. According to positive information which we have, such bravos have already set out from Sofia.

At the moment, when certain governments, inspired by their egotistic imperialist aims, afford support to the Zankoff government, when they shut their eyes to the bloody suppression of the workers of Bulgaria, at this moment the sons of Bulgaria