

# RED RELIEF

## The World-Wide Significance of the International Red Relief.

By I. Amter.

White reaction holds the working masses of the world in its bloody grip. In Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, Roumania, Lettland, Esthonia and Finland, in Java, India, China and Japan, in Spain and France, in the United States, Canada and South America — tens of thousands of the best workers are languishing in prison. They have been sent to these hell-holes for daring to fight in the front ranks of the workers against the brutal exploiters. In the interests of the workers they have defied the authority of the capitalist State, and today are paying the penalty of their heroism.

The World War filled the international bourgeoisie with great pride. They had won the war; they were well armed, the working class was split into warring camps. Despite the fact that they had accumulated billions of debts; that created values running into more billions had been shot to pieces; and despite the fact that the workers and peasants of Soviet Russia had taken from them one of the most fertile lands for exploitation, they felt strong. Many capitalist governments were on the verge of ruin and collapse; many shuddered before the menace of the working class. The international bourgeoisie felt safe; they would not allow the proletariat of another country to seize power. Together they would drown the workers in blood.

In Hungary, the workers might attempt to establish their Soviet power; in Finland they might declare parliament their own; in Italy they might seize the factories and fight for State control; in Germany they might overthrow the Kaiser and proclaim the country a republic — the bourgeoisie did not fear. The war taught them the necessity of standing together. However much they may fight among themselves for the spoils of war and for the right of exploitation — **against the working class and the militant peasants they are a unit.**

Hence the workers of Hungary, Italy, Finland and Roumania did not fight against their bourgeoisie alone. Behind the bourgeoisie of these countries stood the mighty capitalist governments of France and England, aiding them with guns and ammunition, with millions of gold. Just as they had tried to throttle the Soviet Government with guns and aeroplanes from England, France and the United States; just as they sent American, English and French boys to shoot down Russian workers and peasants who threw the bourgeoisie out of their land for ever — so, too, they aid the bourgeoisie of every other country in beating down and crushing the working class.

The capitalist system of production is truly anarchic. But the capitalist mind is clear. The capitalists very well understand their mutual interests and they are **organised to protect their interests.** Armies are not created by one capitalist government only to beat another capitalist government in the race for profits, for sources of raw material and fields for investment. Armies are created in order to shoot down rebellious workmen and militant peasants. They are to help other capitalist governments in subduing their workers. We have returned to "peace", yet

the standing armies of the world are larger than before the war. The capitalist world is preparing not only for another world war, but also to curb the Revolution.

The capitalists have operated well to befuddle the minds of the workers regarding the meaning of Revolution. They have held up to them the "blessings of democracy", the "splendours of civilisation". They have calumniated the Revolutionists, the "Reds", the Communists. They have pictured them as bloodthirsty ruffians bent upon destroying the world. Under the pressure of the press, the school and the church, the workers have yielded to the influence. But the spirit of revolt cannot be curbed in this manner. Capitalist exploitation and capitalist government — upon which the power of the bourgeoisie rests — are teaching the workers a better lesson. The struggle for existence against the pillage of the capitalist class and the brutality of all capitalist governments are pounding into the head of even the most stupid worker the fact that as long as there is a capitalist class there will be a capitalist government, and its function is to crush the working class and keep it in subjection.

The shrewd-minded capitalists have succeeded in keeping the workers apart. They are well organised, but in every country they have carried on vicious campaigns to destroy the organisations of the working class. Trade unions, cooperatives, peasants organisations — all of them have suffered under the blighting hands of the capitalists and the capitalist governments. In Italy, Mussolini, the idol of the international bourgeoisie, whose methods they are copying in all capitalist countries, has obliterated the unions and cooperatives and has turned them into organisations against the workers and peasants. In Germany, Stinnes, Thyssen and Wolff have carried on one vicious campaign after the other with the aim of destroying the unions. In France, Spain, Norway and Sweden, in England, the United States, Canada and Argentine, in Japan, India and Australia, — in all the countries of the globe, the capitalists, organised in their associations and leagues, have left no means unused in their campaigns to exterminate the last remnants of labour organisation.

In this brutal onslaught, they have been aided by the reactionary trade union leaders and the reformist politicians. These "labour leaders" and "representatives of the working class" — Ebert, Leipart, Turati, Modigliani, Jouhaux, MacDonald, Thomas, Gompers, Lewis — stand for "social peace", which means working class surrender. It means the acceptance of hunger and starvation, of wages that will not keep body and soul together, of prostitution and child labour, of hours and conditions of labour that crush the very life of the worker. And all for the sake of profits! This is the meaning of the "social peace" which is preached and practised by the reactionary, reformistic "leaders" of the working class.

The militant workers revolt against such conditions. In every country of the capitalist world, the workers are rebelling. For five years in Germany they have fought against the combined attack of the German bourgeoisie and French imperialism, which are aided by the upholders of social peace. Poincaré, Ebert and Stinnes — these form the bloody triumvirate which has strewn Germany with the corpses of German workers and filled the prisons with ten thousand workers who have dared to rebel. In Bulgaria, five thousand workers and peasants have been slaughtered, five thousand more languish in prison, five thousand have been sent into exile for fighting against the fascist government. In Italy and Poland, thousands of the bravest workers and peasants are rotting in the dungeons of capitalist prisons. In Spain, France, Holland, Finland, America, Canada, Japan, China, Java and Korea, the best fighters for the working class are tortured in the prisons; many are driven to madness and suicide, others are murdered. The largest number of the workers who were massacred and imprisoned are Communists. The masses of India have been told by the Labour Government of Great Britain that if they dare to fight for their freedom, the full force of the British Government will crush them. But the masses fight on, although their leaders and their best comrades are in prison.

Tens of thousands of the world's most courageous fighters will die in capitalist prisons. Tens of thousands more must face capitalist courts, to be sent to decay in the pest-holes of prison, others to be shot. Tens, yes, hundreds of thousands of women and children are doomed to hunger and death by the savage hand of capitalist "justice".

The international bourgeoisie could not succeed in its diabolical plans were the working class not disorganised and disunited. The capitalist class will succeed still further if the workers of the world do not unite in defending their fighters. The capitalists do not ask about colour and complexion. They are indifferent to race or faith; they do not ask about political affiliation. Militant workers are a menace and must be removed; prison torture and death are their reward.

President Wilson first heard of Tom Mooney when the workers of Petrograd demanded his release. Mateu and Nicolau were saved from capital punishment in Spain, after the workers of France had demonstrated. International solidarity is the strongest weapon of the working class in the fight against the bourgeoisie. The working class must learn to stand together as the internationalists capitalists stick together. With this weapon, the workers will free themselves from capitalist tyranny. They must stand solidly behind the militant revolutionary workers in prison. They must aid their families. They must help the imprisoned peasants who are paying the penalty for their heroism.

**International Red Relief is the Demand of the Hour!**

The White Terror in Europe and Asia demands that the workers of the whole world unite in defence of the imprisoned comrades and their families. It demands that the workers of countries, where the hand of reaction does not yet press so heavily, form their Red Relief organisations at once, before the guns of capitalist soldiery and gendarmerie mow down the best fighters of the working class. **Self Help and International Solidarity must be our Slogans!**

The barbarous torture of the White Terror caused the formation of the International Red Relief one year ago. The need of it is apparent. In this short period, the International Red Relief has sent tens of thousands of dollars to aid the fighting working class prisoners in Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, Hungary, France, Estonia, Lettland, Finland, Lithuania, Roumania, Java, China, Palestine.

Where has this money come from? Chiefly from the Russian workers and peasants. The Russian workers and peasants cannot forget the solidarity that the workers of the whole world manifested toward them when they fought against international reaction in defence of their Soviet Government. They cannot forget the aid that the workers and peasants gave them when famine threatened their land. They cannot forget how, in the times of the Tzars, their political refugees were aided by foreign workers. Russian workers have given of their earnings. They pledge themselves to aid their fighting comrades abroad, and their starving families. They know that the capitalist governments hate most of all the political prisoners, because they are their bitterest enemies in the cause of the working class. Russian peasants give of their grain; their last trinkets they contribute. Fighting workers and their families, no matter where, must be supported. There is no more glowing testimony of International Solidarity than that of the Russian workers and peasants!

Four hundred thousand Russian workers and peasants are in the organisations of the International Red Relief. Their slogan is **one million members by May 1**. The workers and peasants of other countries should take an example from these workers.

There is no more task than that of the International Red Relief. It is a powerful weapon against the White Reaction. March 18, the day of the abortive revolution, is the banner day of the International Red Relief. March 18 and the month of March should be the signal for intensified work in the name of the fighting workers against capitalism and world imperialism, of International Solidarity and of the Proletarian Revolution.

## The Tasks of the International Red Relief.

By Ehrenfried Wagner (Moscow).

For many years on the 18th March, workers in tense and earnest ranks have proceeded to the graves of the victims fallen in masses. On this day they think of all the heroic dead who have sacrificed their lives in the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat. These revolutionary victims have enormously increased in number since the world war. In all the countries of the world, thousands of valiant workers have perished in struggle. Thousands of others have been languishing in prisons for many years. The world proletariat remembers all these victims on the 18th of March. We think of them in order to celebrate their faith and their courage. On this occasion we shall give account to ourselves