

# Working Women and Next War

(Continued)

Not the least important of the activities of the Women's Committee was a "patriotic education" campaign carried on chiefly among foreign-born women. In this the Women's Committee cooperated with the Division of Immigration Education in a gigantic nation-wide "America First" campaign begun on Sept. 1, 1917. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt was the chairman of the women's committee on education.

"We propose," she stated, "to begin a vast educational movement with lantern slides, movies, lectures and literature which will carry to the women of the nation the graphic story of the war. When the women understand, all will be fervently enlisted to push the war to victory as rapidly as possible."

## Women's Bodies' Special Work.

Besides the national apparatus built up by the Women's Committee of the National Council of Defense, there were other organizations of women created especially for the war. In January, 1917 (three months before war was declared), there took place in Washington a Congress for Constructive Patriots. A women's session was held in which 500 women from all parts of the country took part. Here was organized the National League for Women's Service with the jingoistic slogan, "For God, for Country, for Home." This organization became a part of the general women's war apparatus, its president being a member of the National Women's Committee. The Red Cross had its Women's Bureau organized in July, 1917, with Miss Florence Marshall as its director. This Women's Bureau divided the country for work into 13 fields, with a 14th field for the American Red Cross in China, South America, Alaska and Persia. The Red Cross mobilized the women so well for its work that in six weeks in the fall of 1917 women furnished 3,681,895 surgical dressings, 1,517,076 pieces of hospital linen, 424,550 articles of patients' clothing, 301,563 articles of miscellaneous supplies and 240,621 knitted articles. The American Red Cross also formed a Women's War Relief Corps in France. In April, 1917, was organized the National Congress of Mothers to do work among the soldiers in camps, later the Women's Auxiliary of the Army and Navy League, which established a service school, and the Women's Naval Auxiliary of the Red Cross.

## Bourgeois Women's Activities.

The apparatus of the Women's Committee was a federated one, based chiefly on the existing women's organizations, and also drawing into its local activities the unorganized women. The bourgeois women's organizations were also active on their own account through special war-time committees or bureaus. Their activities were all directed by the central clearing house of the Women's Committee. In June, 1917, the Women's Committee called a conference, inviting heads of 200 women's organizations. Over 50 responded to the call and took part in the conference. These organizations had already been active in relief work for the war in Europe and were now drawn into work for the American imperialists. The General Federation of Women's Clubs (claiming a membership of 3,000,000) opened a Service Office in Washington and flung itself full force into the war. The Daughters of the American Revolution (claiming 1,000,000 members) had their War Relief Service Commission, the YMCA had its War Work Council, the National Women's Christian Temperance Union had its Committee on Patriotic Service, the League of American Pen Women had its National Aid and Defense Committee, the Woodcraft Girls had their "Potato Clubs" with the motto "The Hoe Behind the Flag," the Associate Collegiate Alumnae had their War Service Commission and so on. Besides all these organizations, there were relief organizations too numerous to mention, formed for different sorts of relief, many of them directed by women and all of them depending upon women for their chief support.

## Drew In Working Women.

Let us be clear just how the working women were drawn into all these organized activities. The members of the Women's Committee and most of the membership of the women's organizations mentioned above are wealthy or lower middle class women. But they drew in with them also the fraternal and religious orders which have a working class as well as a middle class membership. Besides, all propaganda

## Must Fight Jingoist Women's Plan to Mobilize Them for Imperialism

was carried to the working class women in the shops and in the homes. They were drawn into work in the village, ward and town committees. To put the thing in a nutshell, the government used the bourgeois women to rally the working class women.

Let us be clear also, that the bourgeois women's organizations by no means finished their activities with the close of the last war, but are, on the contrary, a permanent means for winning the working class women for the support of imperialism. These organizations have actively supported the government within recent years in its war preparations. They have been lined up either for preparedness, that is, for direct support of war, or for pacifism, the disguised and even more dangerous means by which the war policy is being developed. The pacifist groups include ten important women's organizations with a membership of millions, among them the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Board of the YWCA, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the National

League of Women Voters, and the National Women's Trade Union League, and others. These have banded themselves together in a federation called the National Committee for the Cause and Cure of War. This group has just held its fourth annual conference in Washington, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, and this year it endorsed the Kellogg Peace Pact.

## Jingo Groups.

The preparedness groups including thirty or more national women's organizations are united in the Women's Patriotic Conference, also holding its annual conference in Washington this January. This group is supporting the twin brother in disguise of the Kellogg Pact, namely the Cruiser Bill. This conference consists of the rankest jingoistic, ultra-patriotic outfits such as the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion, the Ladies of the GAR, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Auxiliaries of the Spanish War Veterans, of the Sons of Veterans of the Civil War, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Society of Founders

## HIT CYPRUS OPPRESSION

### Cypriotes Denounce Vicious Penal Code

At a meeting in Bryant Hall addressed by George Powers, D. Benjamin, Adamides, Comodikes and Pappas, the Cypriotes of New York City, assembled under the auspices of the All-America Anti-Imperialist League, unanimously passed a resolution denouncing the vicious statutes passed against the inhabitants of Cyprus by the British imperialist government. In the resolution, the facts are recognized:

1. "That English imperialism, in passing its last stage and in its struggle to compete with American imperialism, exploits and oppresses its colonies more systematically in order to hold back its coming dissolution.

2. "That, in line with the feverish preparations of the imperialist nations for the coming world war, British imperialism seeks by its imposition upon the colonies of such laws and royal decrees, to secure itself against the indignance and the uprising of the native people that groan beneath its cruel yoke in order to insure its sources for the materials necessary for its war preparations.

3. "That Cyprus, aside from its value to British imperialism as a field of exploitation, is a valuable strategic position from a naval point of view, and is destined to play an important role in the Mediterranean in the coming world conflict between England and America or between the Soviet Union on the one hand and all the imperialist powers on the other.

4. "That Cyprus for a period of fifty years has been groaning under the yoke of British imperialism, whose agents have been forging a Penal Code that abolishes the liberties of the people, and we demand its immediate repeal. We express our indignation against and demand the immediate cessation of the white terror let loose upon the workers and peasants of Cyprus to whom we pledge our unflinching support in their struggles.

"We send our warmest anti-imperialist greetings to the labor organizations of Lemessus that took the initiative in holding the demonstrations at Cyprus in protest against the cruel imperialist yoke of the English lords and to the entire Cypriote people whom we caution not to entrust their struggle to deceitful traitors, but to take it up themselves and to place its direction in the hands of honest and courageous leaders who represent the interests of the working people and who will lead them to the overthrow of the foreign and imperialist yoke and to the securing of the full and qualified independence for Cyprus.

"Down with the brutal Penal Code! Down with British imperialism!

"Long live the Autonomy of Cyprus!"

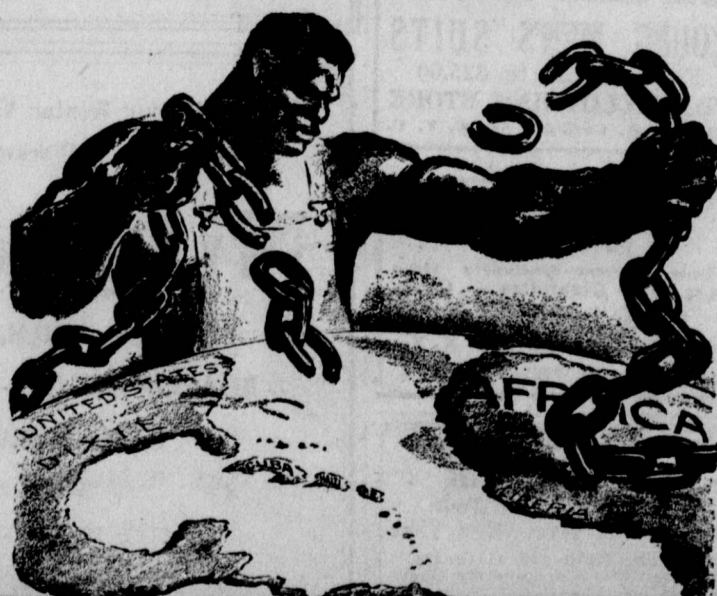
## Young Worker League Will Hold Liebknecht Memorial Next Friday

The struggle against the danger of a new imperialist war will be the main theme running thru the entire program of the big Liebknecht demonstration organized by the Young Workers (Communist) League for Friday, Feb. 8, at Manhattan Lyceum, 66 East 4th St. The great traditions of Liebknecht in his struggle against capitalist militarism and imperialist war will be recalled, and made the inspiration of the revolutionary struggle of today.

The program of the Liebknecht Demonstration will contain a number of well known speakers, dramatics, singing, etc. Every revolutionary young worker is expected to be present at this demonstration.

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.—Karl Marx (Communist Manifesto).

## Breaking His Chains!



and Patriots and many others of similar character.

By means of these annual conferences, the national federated apparatus of the bourgeois women's organizations is kept closely together and in good working order, so that when war is again declared, they will be ready with all speed to jump into the fray. In fact, we can say that for all practical purposes these conferences constitute a continuation of the apparatus created during the last war for mobilizing the women. Certainly we can feel sure that when the next war breaks out these organizations will be used again in a very similar way to that of 1917.

We are interested in the attitude and the activities of these organizations because they are linked up with the working class through a part of their membership and still more through the daily activities which they carry out in the shape of social and charitable work among the "poor"—that is, among the workers—and through persistent "Americanization" work. We are interested because it is of the greatest importance for the working class to combat their influence on the working class women through its own propaganda and its own organizations.

In the last war, the working class was organizationally unprepared to stem the tide. Of opposition to the war there was plenty, both in instinctive proletarian revolt against the imperialist slaughter and in Marxian understanding of the true character of the war. But insofar as the women were concerned there was little if any effectual organizational resistance. Such organizations as supposedly represented the working women in reality betrayed them. The Women's Trade Union League participated with the bourgeois women's organizations in support of the war. Not a peep of protest came from them; they were content merely with raising a few feeble whining pleas directed at the government to protect the working women's conditions. The jingoes in the last war had a clean sweep. So little stood in their way that they were able to mop up the whole country in one hysterical patriotic landslide.

## Advance of Proletarian Women.

Since then, the working class has greatly advanced. New factors are to be met with today. The strength of the Soviet Union, the broad radicalization of the European masses, the beginnings of radicalization among the American workers, are significant developments.

The existence of Communist Parties, some of them very strong, in all important capitalist countries is an organizational factor of the highest importance. There is an increased understanding and appreciation of the role and importance of the women in all working class movements. There is in addition, even in America, the beginning of a working class women's movement. There are women's organizations of working class aims and character which certainly are going to put up a resistance to the next world war. Very significant was the protest organized in Washington the week of January 14 by representatives of ten working women's organizations, with a membership totaling nearly 100,000, directed particularly against the Conference on the Cause and Cure of War. So well was this protest conducted that two of the women workers there very nearly broke up entirely the first meeting of this conference.

## Present Tasks.

It must be fully realized, however, that the organized forces of the American working class are yet small. All the greater is the need for maximum energy and exertion on the part of those who have to combat the war danger. All the more necessary for each and every working women's organization, whether union, federation or club, to throw itself into the most active campaign, protesting by mass meeting and demonstration each new step in the imperialist war program. Especially must agitation be carried on among factory women by means of delegate meetings and factory circles so that the campaign will reach the masses of unorganized women upon whom the ruling class will depend to produce the materials of war.

The coming celebration of International Women's Day must be used this year as the focus of the fight against the war danger to rally the working women on a national scale. The Workers (Communist) Party and all working women's organizations must realize the need for this fight and must prepare themselves for this major task of today.