

Foster Returns From Soviet Union



WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

Veteran Working Class Leader Stresses Labor Party and Anti-Fascist Fight Facing the American People—Tells of War Scenes

William Z. Foster, revered veteran American working class fighter and leader of the Communist Party, yesterday arrived in New York from the Soviet Union, where he was a delegate to the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International.

Traveling through the war zone in the Mediterranean, on his way from Odessa to the United States, Foster passed through the tinder box of the world. Arriving on the day of elections, Foster had something to say about the burning immediate problems confronting the American working class.

"It doesn't require more than a glance over the daily press to see the sharpening of the struggle between the Liberty Leaguers and the Roosevelt regime," Foster said. "It is clear that the Roosevelt outfit is not solving the problem. The New Deal is following the policy of bankruptcy that the Communist Party pointed out at the very inception

of the Roosevelt schemes. Ten million still unemployed is officially admitted."

Outlines Labor Party Tasks

Looking hale and energetic, Foster with his characteristic enthusiasm then discussed in detail the trade union and Labor Party tasks confronting the Communist Party and the American workers.

"It is all the more necessary," he emphasized, "in the present situation to strengthen the economic and political organizations of the workers. We must step out now in the building of the trade unions, broadening them out.

"We cannot too often stress the need of the workers building their own mass party, the Farmer-Labor Party." In this connection Foster expressed himself as highly pleased to hear that definite progress has been achieved in this direction. He spoke with approval of the begin-

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nings of tendencies in the Socialist Party towards the united front.

Tells of War Concentration

Referring to his trip through the Mediterranean war zone, Foster said:

"I came back from the Soviet Union, by way of Odessa, Piraeus, Greece, through the Mediterranean, and past Gibraltar. All along we saw mighty fleets of war planes. The sky in some places was black with them. There were dirigibles and warships maneuvering at every vital spot.

"Our boat arrived in Greece," Foster added, "just about the time of the Kondylis coup d'etat to bring back King George. The people expressed themselves boldly and freely against the move. The people we spoke to on the streets told us what a dirty business this was, the King's return. There was open dissatisfaction.

Destroyers in Port

"In Piraeus, the port of Athens, the British had two big destroyers stationed. They were lying there almost in the path of the Italian ships going to Ethiopia.

"At Gibraltar, as we passed, we could see the fort bristling with cannons. They had one big gun jutting up at the very peak. It was an enormous monster. Behind that rock was a harbor, jammed with British cruisers and all kinds of war vessels."

Foster pointed out that for thousands of miles one could see in this area palpable evidence of the danger of a new imperialist slaughter.

Stresses Anti-Fascist Fight

In the face of this war actually being conducted by Italian Fascism, and the danger of the whole world being plunged into war by Fascism in other countries, Foster declared, it was necessary for the American workers to strengthen their fight against war and Fascism.

Foster spoke of the tremendous interest in the discussions and decisions of the Seventh World Congress that he found wherever he went. People asked him about the Congress. The growing world movement for the united front and the people's anti-fascist front since the close of the Congress, Foster said, was one of the most important political factors he had ever seen.

Foster became particularly animated and enthusiastic when speaking of the Socialist victories in the Soviet Union. "You know I have been to the Soviet Union many times," he said. When asked to state how often, he said so often that he had almost lost count. Foster, in fact, has been to the Soviet Union regularly since the period following the establishment of Soviet Power. He had followed at first hand, and at every important stage, the development of the Workers' Fatherland.

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"Never in all my visits," Foster said, "have I noted with such confidence the amazing progress which one can see in all phases of Soviet life. It is astounding! Socialist industries have advanced with tremendous strides. Socialist agriculture is sweeping ahead. Even on the streets, any casual visitor can see the tremendous developments of Socialism. The people are happier than ever before. Joy and enthusiasm are visible in the Soviet population who face the future of the greater achievements of the Socialist land with the certainty and confidence that only a victorious proletariat can have.

"The very victories of Socialism confront us more sharply with the question of the defense of the Soviet Union. Capitalism facing war, and fascism bringing the masses to starvation, will not rest inactive in the face of the advance of the U.S.S.R. The danger of war against the Soviet Union, I notice in daily reports even, are becoming more acute. We must do everything to fight against, and to keep the imperialist snouts out of the flourishing Soviet garden."