

THE WAR DANGER AND THE YOUTH

By GIL GREEN.

The present economic crisis appearing in the general crisis of world capitalism has intensified and sharpened all contradictions leading to a new war. In the scramble of the imperialist powers for new markets, and for the redistribution and redistribution of the world, war becomes the only forcible "solution" to the crisis.

Capitalism vs. Socialism.

While world capitalism struggles to overcome its ever sharpening contradictions, the victorious proletariat of the Soviet Union march steadily forward towards Socialism. In direct contrast to the decreased production, the growing unemployment, the aggravated crisis of agriculture, and the constant worsening of the conditions of the workers in capitalist countries, we find the Soviet Union increasing production at a previously unheard of tempo, building collective farming, abolishing unemployment, and constantly bettering the conditions of the toiling masses.

This growing Socialist economy, within the womb of decaying world capitalism, is the major contradiction leading to a new war. Imperialism wants to crush the workers republic which has become the inspiration and guide for the millions of exploited masses the world over. Imperialism as its contradictions sharpen, see in the crescent of the world of the land of Soviets, a means of all so solving their need for foreign markets.

America Leads Attack.

Decaying British imperialism for a long time led the world offensive against the Soviet Union. With the sharpening of the contradictions of American imperialism, we find that Wall Street and Washington have taken over the leadership in the struggle against the Soviet Union. The Stimson note, during the Chinese Eastern Railway grab, by Chinese tools of world imperialism, was the first open provocative act on the part of U. S. imperialism since the days

of the civil war and the blockade. This has since been followed up with the "holy war," the Whalen forgeries, the refusal to grant any more credit to Soviet industry, the refusal to manufacture airplanes, and the present Fish investigation which has as one of its aims an attack upon the Soviet Union thru its trade representatives in America, the Amtorg Trading Corporation.

Imperialist Contradictions.

In the center of the contradictions between the imperialist giants, stands the conflict between the U. S. and Great Britain. Bourgeois economists and journalists openly speak about war for world hegemony between these two giants. In all continents of the world, in nearly all important industries, we find the struggle for control between the U. S. and Britain. The conflict between the Dutch

Shell Oil and the Standard Oil, the struggle to break the monopoly of Great Britain on the production of rubber, the ever further economic inroads of the U. S. in Canada, the struggle between these two powers in Latin America and Asia, are all evidence of the inevitability of an armed conflict between these two powers. There are also many contradictions between other imperialist powers, but all of these are subordinated to this major struggle.

The colonies are the center of the struggle for world redistribution. In China, the imperialist powers are carrying on an armed struggle at the present moment, thru various militarist factions, for the right to exploit the Chinese masses. At the same time, the growing rebellion on the part of the colonial peoples in China, India, Africa, Indo-China and Haiti, are the

source of rapacious wars against the revolutionary colonial masses.

Growth of Armaments.

As a means of preparing for the coming imperialist war, we find the imperialist powers militarizing at an unheard of tempo. This growing militarism is covered with pacifist phrases. The Kegoll Pact, the London Naval Conference, etc., while talking peace, in actuality prepared for war. Pacifism is only sand to blind the workers as to what is really happening.

The United States leads all other nations in militarization. The U. S. has the largest military budget in the world. More than \$30 out of every dollar spent by the U. S. government, goes for war. While England, France, Italy, Germany and Japan have increased their military expenditures 70 per cent since before the war, the U. S.

has increased its more than 400 per cent.

Militarizing Youth.

Militarism has become widespread over the United States. The National Guard and the reserves have become huge armies that can be mobilized at any moment for war. In 1920 the National Guard numbered 56,580. In 1926 they reached 174,569. The Citizens Military Training Camps started in 1921 and has to date graduated more than 250,000. In the schools, military training thru the R. O. T. C. has become a regular feature.

This training has reached the point where in some colleges special training in arms is given even to the girls. Together with the above, there has been organized in the past few years military organizations of a looser character. The Junior Naval Reserve Corps, the Freshing Guards, Rifle Clubs, etc.

Among the children we find military organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts with over a million children in their ranks. Besides these we find the Camp Fire Girls, The Rangers, and other semi-military organizations for the children.

One of the especially recent developments in militarizing the youth, has been the transformation of the bourgeois sport organizations into reservoirs for militarism. The A. A. U. is part of the state apparatus and is openly fascist and military in character.

It is this growing militarism and danger of war that must be explained to the young workers. Our League must reach the young workers and organize them for struggle against militarism and the war danger. We must especially concentrate on drawing the young workers into the streets to demonstrate against imperialist war and for the defense of the Soviet Union on August 1st. In our activity among the young workers who feel the militarism most, we must connect up the struggle against the war danger with the struggle for the immediate

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conditions of the young workers in the shops. We must especially connect up the struggle against war with the struggle for social insurance for the unemployed young workers. We must point out that while billions are used for militarism, not one cent is being used as insurance for the unemployed.

Because of this, it is essential that the center of the entire anti-war campaign, in connection especially with August 1st, be conducted in the shops. Anti-war shop committees of young workers must be formed wherever possible. The slogans of our League must be brought to the young workers by individual agitation in the shop, and by factory gate meetings, leaflets, the Young Worker, etc. Only if we connect up concretely the anti-war struggle with the immediate conditions and demands of the young workers, will we be able to get the most results on August 1st, and from our general anti-war struggle.

The second most important point of emphasis in connection with our anti-war activity and concretely with August 1st, must be work among the armed forces. The League must concentrate on drawing soldiers and sailors into the August 1st demonstrations, and establishment of permanent contacts with these young workers in the armed forces. Special meetings must be held on the waterfront for sailors and near military camps for soldiers. We must raise for the young workers in the armed forces not only our general slogans, but connect these up with concrete demands of struggle.

August 1st must be an answer of the toiling youth to the war preparations against the Soviet Union, to the growing danger of an imperialist war. The League must strain every nerve to make this answer a fitting blow of the young workers against the growing unemploy-

THE only permanent feature of war is—it is rotten. Discomfort, exhaustion, wounds, cold, wet, heat, bugs, hunger, thirst—for thousands of years these have been the constant of war.

Armies are made of divisions fifteen thousand men armed with an assortment of artillery, machine guns and rifles and equipped with trucks, wagons, water carts, ambulances. Four thousand horses and mules, 250 trucks and five hundred wagons are needed when a division is on the march.

Twenty years ago war was much simpler. Each division had fifty or sixty cannon and thirty or forty machine guns . . . The world war turned all industry into war industry and being fought at the end of railroad lines the transport problem was easy. At the end of the war Germany had 95,000 machine guns, 8,000 heavy cannon and 13,000 field guns, 2,500 tanks and 5,000 airplanes. That collection alone cost \$1,000,000,000! Add to it the cost of feeding and clothing Germany's 6,000,000 troops for four years and it is clear what a terrible price the workers pay the capitalists for allowing them to rule.

It is impossible to estimate developments since the war. Airplanes can fly twice as fast. An airplane bomb of 400 lbs. was heavy in 1918. The next war will bring bombs of 8,000 or even 12,000 pounds. (The Southern Cross started her last flight with 16,000 lbs. of gasoline). The gun that shelled Paris threw a 250 lb. projectile

ment, the wage-cuts, and intensive speed-up which is all part of the preparations for the coming imperialist war. We must let be known that a considerable portion of the working youth are ready to defend the Soviet Union; and that when the next war comes they will turn their guns against their only enemy—the boss class.