

WAR.

The question of War is now overshadowing all other issues and problems. Even among those who have refused to listen to the repeated predictions of the Marxists, there is no longer room for doubt that war is at our doors.

The world was shocked when Hitler overnight revealed the secret which we Communists have known for the last two years, and concerning which we have uttered many grave warnings. The world is alarmed. Statesmen from different countries are running all over Europe, trying to patch things up, trying to postpone, at least for a while, the resort to arms which they well know is unavoidable in the Imperialists' wild scrambling for profits. The world is like the superstitious Russian peasant of old, of whom the proverb says that he would not cross himself until he heard the thunderbolt. Although the storm-clouds already darken the sky, yet nobody seems to believe that the storm is about to burst.

Another World War? Was it not but yesterday that the Great War ended? And it must be admitted that the idea is so monstrous to the man in the street that in less critical circumstances it would be possible to excuse his passivity and resignation. But it would be a crime on our part if we refrained from raising our voice in warning before it is too late. Are we to live again in that madhouse? Is the proletariat of all countries again to be slaughtered by inflaming the wage-slaves of one nation against the wage-slaves of the others for the benefit of the bourgeoisie? We say, No! This must not happen.

WHAT IS GOING ON?

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The question of war is not a matter for this or that country, but for every country, and especially for the oppressed and exploited in every country on the globe. In East and West, South and North, the military, naval, air, and chemical preparations for the future World Slaughter are reaching the maximum of intensity. Day and night without a break, without Sundays or holidays, in three shifts, the armament factories, the chemical factories, the ship-yards are turning out the innumerable weapons, the means for the blotting out of human life. The best brains of the world are busy in every country finding out the best ways by which more

ferociously, more destructively, to shoot, to blind, to explode, to burn, to poison, to exterminate; to destroy not noxious bacilli, tuberculosis, plague, cancer, not locusts, not ~~the~~ wild beasts, but men, women, children-- their own kith and kin. Already there have been accumulated tremendous quantities of dynamite, high explosive, deadly weapons, inflammable ~~gases~~ and poisonous gases, to destroy the human race. But still there is not enough. More and yet more must be produced, for not every bullet kills, and no risk must be taken!!

ALL WANT PEACE.

All this is being done for the sake of peace, to defend civilisation, to safeguard the welfare of the people. Each and every country is against war, each and every Government has repudiated war as an instrument of national policy. Every politician, every statesman is ^{trying} ~~doing~~ his best, sacrificing his health, even up to the point of losing his eyesight or straining his heart, in order to preserve peace. Every leading general and admiral (Von Bloomberg in Germany, Petain in France, Fuller and Hamilton in Great Britain,in Japan) proclaims that another World War would be sheer madness, would destroy civilisation. U.S.A. is going so far as to "tax the profits to be made out of the war"!! And who dare question the sincerity of Roosevelts, Baldwins, Flandins, Hitlers, Mussolinis, whom their respective nations have "entrusted with the management and destiny of their countries and peoples"?

Only the godless Russian Bolsheviks could dare to question this, when Lenin was alive, but even they have now come into line. They have found out that the only bulwarks of peace are ^{the} League of Nations, which they have therefore joined, and the British Empire, whose Colours they have honoured in the Kremlin ("Three cheers for King George!").

THE PLAIN MAN PUZZLED.

But the citizen, stupefied by his daily Capitalist Press, may ask: "If every Government wants peace, why all this feverish activity in armaments and other preparation? For defence against a possible aggressor? But didn't we outlaw war? And didn't every nation subscribe to the Kellogg Pact?" "Yes....that is true, but...."

Keenke Oberon
 P. Plumbhah - Poem

The poor devil doesn't realise that the League of Nations, and all those peace treaties and Disarmament Conferences are merely eye-wash. The humdrum pacifism of his newspaper, which is owned and paid by ~~monopoly~~^{finance} Capital, was necessary for the period of respite. But now this period is passed.

THE CHANGED PROPAGANDA.

No more anti-war books, articles, or cinema pictures. The "All Quiet", "The Case of Sergeant Grischa", "If Winter Comes", "Christ in Uniform", all belong to a past epoch. Every day now he can see in his newspaper at least two or three military snaps, soldiers marching, soldiers on parade, University students learning how to handle heavy guns, and twice a week the "Hood" or the "Rodney". The same with the Screen. The belabouring of public opinion is in full swing, and the last stage will soon be reached. The CULPRIT will be found. Then will follow the imputation of every vile crime and vice, succeeded by the "logical" conclusions: "O Lord, destroy Germany!"...."Hang the Fuehrer!" Or, "Gott straffe England!" Or, "Annihilation of this monstrous pest, this Antichrist!" And so on in rich variety. And we may be sure that the whole arsenal of cultural weapons, the most cunning subtleties of the most efficient, most up-to-date machinery of propaganda in the hands of the ruling classes will be brought into action to achieve the desired result. And the capitalists are evidently sure that poor Tommy has already forgotten the grim yesterday. They think that he will again, at their bidding, look around, outside his own land, to find his enemy somewhere else, that his hatred, his rage will again be worked up to a white heat, and that again he will say: "By gosh, this time I will be ruthless. This time I will make a clean job. This war will end war."

BUT THIS TIME THE TRICK WON'T WORK.

The Capitalists think that to-day the working class is the same as it was in 1914, as if nothing were changed. Had not the worker THEN been warned of the approaching war? Didn't the Basle Manifesto of the Second International in 1912 proclaim the solidarity of the working class against war? Read its own words: "The prole-

tariat is conscious of being at this moment the bearer of the ~~entire~~ entire future of mankind. The proletariat will exert all its energy to prevent the annihilation of the flower of all peoples, threatened by all the horrors of mass-murder, starvation, and pestilence. The Congress therefore appeals to you, proletarians, of all countries, to make your voice heard in this decisive hour. Proclaim your will in every form and in all places, raise the protest in your parliament with all your force; unite in great mass demonstrations; use every means that the organisation and the strength of the proletariat place at your disposal! See to it that the Governments are constantly kept aware of the vigilance and the passionate will for peace on the part of the proletariat! To the capitalist world of exploitation and mass-murder oppose in this way the proletarian world of peace and the fraternity of peoples!"

And yet, when war broke out, this was forgotten! The Second International betrayed the working class! "In one night the aspect of the world has changed. Everyone puts the blame on his neighbours; everyone claims to be on the defensive. Everyone defends his most sacred treasure, his fatherland. National vainglory and national aggressiveness triumph. Even the great International working class obeys national orders, workers are killing one another on the battlefields." And the Capitalists are now thinking: Why shouldn't the same happen to-day?

But the Capitalists are mistaken; this time it won't work. The position to-day is not the same as it was in ~~1914~~ 1914. As Marxists we know that nothing remains unchanged. "In such great development 20 years are but as one day, and then may come days which are the concentrated essence of 20 years," wrote Marx to Engels.

The working class has learnt something during these 21 years, and the fruit of these lessons may be revealed in one day. The worker was fooled and betrayed in 1914, but he remembers the terrific sufferings imposed by the war on himself, his wife and children. He learnt that defence of the fatherland means sacrificing his life and blood for the interests of the Krupps, Thesens, Basil Zakarovs, Vickers, Morgans, for the interests of the war-mongers,

who reaped their rich harvest of gold covered with blood. They were called comrades and brothers when they were led to the slaughter-house; but when they returned they were sent to the gutter. When the war veterans demanded their pay, they were met with machine guns. They had been promised liberty and improved conditions: What did they get? Want, privation, unemployment; labour camps and concentration camps. They fought for liberation of the oppressed nations and they have seen how the promise of independence, of Dominion Rights for India has gone unfulfilled, how the blood of her best sons and daughters has gone on flowing during these sixteen years. They fought for Democracy, and now they have the brutal Dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, that is, Fascism. The worker could not fail to see that the results of the war were epidemics, cultural devastation, chronic economic crises, unemployment, and political reaction. But on the other hand he saw something very different. He saw in Russia the fruits of the successful October Revolution and the establishment of a Workers' State — in Russia, where the working class was more resolute than he to put a stop to ~~Capitalism~~ exploitation by smashing Capitalism.

THE STRUGGLE GOES ON.

Therefore we do not despair. It may seem as though the ~~next~~ 20 past years are as one day, but the tomorrow may be equivalent to 20 years. We may have an uphill Struggle, we may suffer temporary defeats, but eventually the victory ^{will} be on our side. For we are fighting the battle of all the oppressed and exploited, we are fighting not for the enrichment and profits of an insignificant minority, but for the welfare, rights and liberty of all humanity, we are fighting for progress.

And now is more than ever the time to raise the banner of Revolutionary Marxism, to recall the voice of Lenin and Liebknecht. It is not enough that we don't want war, that we are against war. Pacifism of any kind can just as much stop war as prayers can ~~end~~ end a ~~drought~~ drought. "We can neither promise civil war nor decree it, but it is our duty to work in this direction, if need be for a very long time", said Lenin, *and Liebknecht added*

" DON'T LOOK FOR YOUR ENEMY ELSEWHERE, WORKERS. YOUR ENEMY IS IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY. "

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Collection Number: AG2722

WORKER'S PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1933-1935

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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