Rear Admirals and Russian Recognition

By Earl R. Browder

SOME one has said:  "What fools think is important because there are so many fools."

What are the fools thinking—the rotarians, the kiwanises, the clubwomen, the little cockroach business men of the commercial clubs, the labor leaders and the ministers of the gospel—the socially articulate who get their opinions ready made from the Saturday Evening Post and the Sunday supplements and pass them on to their underlings?

What are the opinions of the middle class groups, who still mold to too large an extent the thoughts of the working masses of the United States, on British-American rivalry, recognition of Soviet Russia, American imperialist policy in the Far East, the need for a larger navy and more aircraft?

These are the issues which are featured by the press and once we determine its attitude on them we have a good idea of the direction in which the ruling class of the United States wants the current of thought to flow.

When we take a good look at the questions treated by the capitalist press we notice something that gives us a start if we remember that isolation from world affairs was traditional for the United States just a few short years ago.

Every one of the burning issues of the day deals directly or is intimately connected with matters of foreign policy. Until 1914 the job of Secretary of State was a place to pension off some deserving political supporter. Today it is the most important post in the cabinet. Until the war for democracy began to make Europe a slaughter house the Secretary of State did not have work enough for one amateur stenographer. Today he has an army of attaches who keep their fingers on the pulses of every capital in the world.

One more thing the headlined news has in common—not one of these questions can be divorced from the rest or any solution arrived at independently. American foreign policy no longer is confined to securing indemnity for the what was probably justifiable extinction of a photograph salesman in Costa Rica or the release of bibulous sailors from some one of the port jails of the seven seas; it is a world policy with the United States playing a dominant role in finance, diplomacy and in war—as in 1917.

Let us look for a moment at the international alignments.

Three great nations hold the center of the stage; around them, or rather within overlapping circles which they form, revolve the satellites.

Great Britain is the center of a world system. So is America.

Great Britain and America have but one mutual bond—they are capitalist nations and hate Soviet Russia with all the bitterness that fear of their loss of power can arouse in them. At every other point they meet as enemies—in the field of finance, in the race for oil, in the contest for the power to rob China, in shipping and in the world markets.

There are two great wars being fought before our eyes—the war for world supremacy between Great Britain and America and the war for world supremacy between these two great capitalist nations and Soviet Russia.

It is well to say here that Soviet Russia merely symbolizes the force that contests with capitalism for power. It is the Communist International and the millions of workers and farmers of all races and nations who accept its leadership that British-American imperialism fears. It is an enemy within the gates which leaves capitalism without that primary military necessity—a strong rear.

America is in far better position in both the imperialist war and the class war than Great Britain. The working class of America has not tasted the bitter crust of mass starvation and hopeless unemployment.
that is the daily food of the British workers. The trade union and political movement here is years be-

hind that of GGreat Britain. The American workers are still obsessed for the most part with the fallacy that this is a land of equal freedom.

America still feels herself.

American imperialism moves into the conflict for world hegemony with a steady step. Her limitless resources that no foreign power can capture assure her of the material backing for markets and war. Her capitalists can devote all of their attention to creating the necessary mass psychological background for con-

quest.

For the present she does not fear Soviet Russia to the same extent as does Great Britain. America has no India along whose northern frontier are peasant and pastoral masses who see in Soviet Russia their

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quest.
Fifth, she is a danger to the American merchant marine.

and in a minor degree.

clash with England, but England is the enemy against whom defaulting debtors. Fourth, she is our chief trade rival.

point of time, for we may have war with Japan before we

the motherland.

wilful men" exhausted their vocabularies in denunciation of

italist press correspondents who have been surfeited for

Rear Admirals and Russian

sibly do so on whatever policies will seem to them calculated to break our favorable balance of trade."

Evidently Admiral Phelps had obeyed orders and said what he was supposed, serves as a warning to America, that by refraining from concluding a treaty with us, it is only worsening its own position. For Japan the agreement has at present a still greater importance than for us. The threat of isolation which characterizes the present situation of Japan, is removed by the existence of a power on the Asiatic continent friendly to Japan . . . We look forward to extensive economic co-operation in Japan, which will offer us the possibility of developing our productive forces and of supplying Japan with those raw materials without which she is completely dependent upon America and England. . . reports received from America go to prove that America is beginning to perceive all the disadvantages of the existence of relations with us. It is true that these reports express the fear that negotiations with America will be equally prolonged and difficult as we have with Japan. But I consider this to be incorrect. As a matter of fact, there are fewer disputed questions separating us from America than was the case in the negotiations with Japan."

This is a plain statement that the driving force of her imperialist policy in the far East forces America to recognize Soviet Russia.

Let us quote one more Russian. Perutz, writing from Moscow, is even more specific than Karakhan. Speaking of the removal of recognition following the signature of Hughes, he says:

"The key to the solution of this very interesting event is to be found in the continued activity of the American policy of non-intervention on the part of America, and the policy of America is closely connected with the world economic interests of Standard Oil."

As Standard Oil is one of the largest undertakings in existence dealing with mineral oil, it has to pursue its world interests of Standard Oil.

The oil interests, are drawing it into the affairs of the Balkans and the Far East. As Standard Oil has for a long time favored boycott and intervention against Soviet Russia and staked all its cards upon counter-revolution. But times have changed. Standard Oil is now looking towards the Soviet Union. The Standard Oil has undergone a complete alteration. More and more is Standard Oil becoming a big purchaser of more products of the Soviet Union. As Standard Oil is one of the largest undertakings in existence dealing with mineral oil, it has to pursue its world interests of Standard Oil.

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Great Britain is not going to get the oil from the only remaining source of supply open to American imperialism abroad if our patriots can help it.

The Communist International has said over and over again that the imperialist rivalry within capitalism are the greatest factors making for revolution. The diplomacy of the workers and peasants government of Russia, which is Communist diplomacy, has been based on the irresistible conflicts within capitalism. Has it met the final test? Has it worked?

Let the capitalist press and the more despicable enemies of Soviet Russia and the Communist International—the "socialist" hangmen of the revolution—answer this question.

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