

# Bourgeois Women Pacifists Screen Imperialist War Preparations

By ANNA DAMON.

THE 7th National Conference on the Cause and Cure of War was held in Washington, D. C., January 18-22. At this conference 11 National Women's Organizations were represented by 527 delegates. While most of the delegates represented bourgeois women's societies, two important groups of delegates came from the Women's Trade Union League and from the Young Women's Christian Association, whose membership is composed chiefly of women workers.

Ardent support of the Geneva Disarmament Conference was the keynote of the Women's Pacifist Conference in Washington. The "fine ladies" did their share to fool the women to believe that peace is possible under capitalism. According to the official statements and propaganda of these pacifists all that is necessary is to create universal sentiment against war, gather enough signatures for disarmament and peace and presto—war will be no more.

To show that they mean business the pacifists organized parades, held demonstrations and in the interest of "peace" sent over several trunk-loads of signatures of those that were misled into believing that the Geneva war mongers' conference can actually disarm by being appealed to. Along with the trunks of signatures there were also sent four delegates chosen by the pacifists at the Washington conference on the Cause and Cure of War, and Dr. Mary Wooley, who is the first woman ever chosen to an international disarmament conference.

**Dr. Wooley Conscious Agent of U. S. Imperialism.**

The women pacifists and the feminists hail the election of Dr. Wooley as a delegate to the Disarmament Conference at Geneva as a victory.

They rejoice at the fact that at last a woman has been selected to participate in an International Conference, and as such will represent the interests of women. They would have the women of the working class believe that the interests of the women are separate and apart from the interests of the working class as a whole. The working class women should not be taken in by this. We should recognize that Dr. Wooley has been chosen and is representing the interests of the capitalist ruling class in the U. S. and is a direct agent of U. S. imperialists in a pacifist garb. We may be sure that she will follow the lead of the delegation of U. S. imperialists, which will play a very aggressive role at the conference.

It is most important for the working class women to recognize the nature of the coming Geneva disarmament conference and the role of the bourgeois pacifists, in furthering the war plans of Wall Street. Out of this conference there will come new imperialist alignments, a further common understanding against the Soviet Union and increased armament building.

**Soviet Union Peace Proposals Rejected.**

The Soviet Union is now successfully completing its first Five Year Plan, and is preparing for the next Five Year Plan—rapidly building industries and constantly improving the conditions of the workers—forging ahead to Socialism. It is the only country really interested in peace. The delegation of the Soviet Union brought forth a real program for total disarmament at the League of Nations conferences. This proposal was modified and presented 3 times, but each time was rejected by the imperialist powers who do not want peace, whose very existence is based on war, and who are only using the disarmament conferences as smoke screens to hide the real war preparations.

The Hoover Government had a definite purpose in selecting Dr. Wooley, and that was to play her up as a woman who is supposed to represent the interests of the women, knowing fully that she represents the interests of the capitalists. Dr. Wooley herself is a conscious enemy of the workers, belonging to the most reactionary and despicable strike-breaking, patriotic women's organization—the Daughters of the American Revolution—the organization which has gone on record time and time again for deportation of foreign born, in support of the Fish Committee to outlaw the Communist Party, and that is energetically organizing the sentiment of women through their organizations for war against the Soviet Union.

**Hypocritical Role of Pacifists Unmasked.**

Working class women must recognize the despicable role that the leaders of the pacifist movement are playing. Certainly Mrs. Carrie

Chapman Catt and her cohorts do not foster any illusions themselves about the possibilities of peace and the success of disarmament conferences.

Mrs. Catt, organizer of the committee and chairman of the conference on the Cause and Cure of War, voiced her opinion on the usefulness of disarmament conferences in an article on the "Outlawry of War" in the "Annals" of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences for July, 1928.

"It is doubtful if disarmament conferences will make much progress through direct discussion of disarmament itself." She stated further along in the article, "I am not trying to make out a case against war, but to show that when men meet to reduce the power of an institution so securely established in law and tradition and so completely bound up with the profits of business, they are met by resistance too emphatic to be easily overcome."

The above statement clearly shows her hypocritical role as the leader of a "peace" movement. This venerable lady has a black record of betrayal for the ideal which she is supposed to represent. She, as well as the other bourgeois pacifists and the so-called "Socialists," Rose Schneiderman, and the labor pacifists, Agnes Nestor of the Women's Trade Union League are only pacifists between wars. As soon as the U. S. declares war they will endorse and subscribe to the bloody war program of the

## THE CRISIS WIDENS THE GAP BETWEEN CLASSES

By GRACE HUTCHINS.

HOW the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer is vividly shown in a new pamphlet *Profits and Wages*, by Anna Rochester, prepared by Labor Research Association and published by International Pamphlets.

While thousands of workers are barely existing on bread-line slops and while small capitalists are shaken down into the ranks of the proletariat, "more bonds, more stock, more real estate are gobbled up by the bigger capitalists whose incomes are always large enough to allow the increase of accumulation, which is their chief end and aim of existence."

Citing the fact that a group of the larger companies (representing roughly two-thirds of the total corporation capital) paid interest and dividends that totalled 8.3 per cent larger in 1930 than in 1929, the pamphlet predicts that when full income tax returns are available for 1930 and 1931, they will show that an increasing share of rents, interest, and dividends are going to the wealthiest capitalists at the top.

In the nine years from 1920 to 1929 the number of supermillionaires, each admitting a yearly cash income of \$1,000,000 and over, had increased from 33 to 513 who "had together an income more than equalling the wages paid to 1,000,000 wage earners having steady work at the average American wage." These super-profiters at the top had together increased their share of the cash income from 1 per cent to 7 per cent of the total.

A comparison of budgets for the workers and for the employers goes on to point out the greatest social contrasts the world has ever seen. Even during so-called "prosperity", wages have always been far below the minimum standards theoretically set forth by agencies of the capitalist class. The pamphlet quotes the employers' estimate that even before the crisis "at least 7,000,000 (including workers and their families) were living at a poverty level so low that the slightest emergency meant a choice between charity and literal starvation."

How the workers have resisted wage cuts and unemployment in strikes and hunger marches is briefly described, and the pamphlet ends with a section on the Soviet Union, the workers' republic, as the only country in the world where there are no capitalist profiteers and no unemployment, and where wages are going not down, but up.

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\**Profits and Wages*, by Anna Rochester. International Pamphlets, price 10 cents.

government.

During the world war Mrs. Catt was appointed by the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense as the chairman of the Committee of Education, whose purpose was to promote "Patriotic Education" especially among immigrant women. Thousands of mass meetings of working class women were organized through this committee to mobilize the women and direct their energies for support of a war, which was definitely against their interests.

That Mrs. Catt represents and is a member of the ruling class, working in the interests of the capitalists, and against the interests of the workers, is proven by her actions and statements which she made during the war. She said: "The first message we want to send to the women now is that whether the nation likes it or does not like it, we are in war, and that whether the sacrifices necessary to win it are made willingly or unwillingly (our emphasis) they must be made."

**W.T.U.L. Supports U. S. Imperialist War Policy.**

The Women's Trade Union League which is affiliated with the Committee on Cause and Cure of War and which is supposed to represent the interests of wage earning women in the U. S. follows consistently the treacherous strike-breaking policy of the American Federation of Labor. Through pacts of "industrial peace" with the U. S. Government, their stand against Unemployment Insurance and for war against the Soviet Union, they are directly helping the government prepare for war.

In the last world war the Women's Trade Union League fully subscribed to the war policies of the U. S. Miss Agnes Nestor, vice president of the W. T. U. L., acted as fellow-member with Mrs. Catt and served as chairman of Women in Industry of the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense. She had full opportunity in this post to endorse the increased exploitation, speed-up and misery imposed upon women workers through the emergency war measures. These emergency war measures wiped out such meagre labor legislation as then existed for women in shops and factories.

The war records of the so-called socialists and pacifists, and their present strike-breaking role in all of the militant struggles of the working class against exploitation, wage cuts and unemployment, their campaign of slander against the Soviet Union, are ample proof as to which class they belong to, and whose interests they represent. As can be seen from the above they definitely represent the interests of the capitalist class, and are the enemies of the workers who must recognize them as such.

In the face of all the brutal, obvious and indisputable facts of militarization in all the capitalist countries, especially in the U. S., the petty bourgeois pacifists would have the working masses put their faith in disarmament conferences, one of the imperialist weapons that existed prior to the last world war.

In the face of all of the imperialist war preparations of the U. S., directed especially against the Soviet Union, it certainly is timely to remember what Comrade Lenin said about imperialist wars and the stand that class conscious women must take.

**How We Must Fight Against Imperialist War.**

"Militarization is now penetrating the whole of social life. Imperialism is in an embittered struggle of the big powers for the division and redivision of the world. It must therefore, inevitably lead to further militarization in all countries, including the neutral and small countries. What will the proletarian women do against this? Will they only curse every war, and everything pertaining to war, only demand disarmament? Never will women of an oppressed class reconcile themselves to such a shameful role. They will say to their sons:

"You will soon grow big. They will put a gun in your hand. Take it and study thoroughly the art of war. This knowledge is essential for proletarians—not in order to fire on their brothers, the workers of other countries, as is being done in the present war and as the traitors to socialism will counsel you to do—but in order to fight against the bourgeoisie of their own country, in order to put an end to exploitation, poverty and wars, not by means of pious wishes but by means of victory over the bourgeoisie and by disarming it."