

WAR WITH MEXICO; WHAT IS THE NEGRO GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

By LINN A. E. GALE,

Again the American Negro is to be called upon to do the bloody, butcherous business of the world's worst brigands, the capitalists of the United States and England.

Will he be fool enough to obey when the summons comes? Will he once more consent to fill the wretched, brutal role that his masters have marked out for him? Is he still so stupid as to go forth and murder his fellow-men without cause, without incentive, without even profit for himself, and with the certain knowledge that after he has done the dirty work, he will be kicked about, spat upon, enslaved and burned to death with the same contemptuous cruelty that has always marked the attitude of the white race toward him?

We shall see. We shall see whether the fire of radicalism that is kindling in the hearts of this eternal victim on the altar of greedy tyranny will actually impel him to assert his liberty and refuse to be the tool of his exploiters longer.

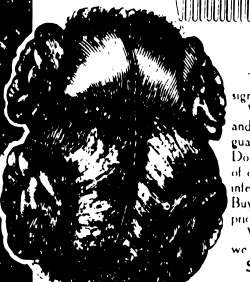
There are many indications that the limit has been nearly reached, that the *worm is about to turn*. Not a few soldiers who went to France to fight and suffer for the saving of democracy have come back with the gall of bitterness in their hearts and a glitter in their eyes that bodes ill for whoever tries to send them on such a hypocritical errand again. More than one of them has said that if he does any more shooting it will be to kill the "Huns" of America rather than to slaughter harm-

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less workers of other lands. And among the disillusioned and awakened veterans none has been brought to his senses so sharply and suddenly as the American Negro.

Just now an insidious propaganda is being conducted in the United States to pave the way for military intervention in Mexico, the overthrow of the elected government and the establishment of a "protectorate" under which the oil companies will really run the country. Ghastly tales of "atrocities" in Mexico are being published and circulated with assiduous care in the republic to the north. Pains are being taken to distract attention away from the fact that the real agitators for intervention are petroleum magnates and their agents, and to make it appear that the demand comes mainly from victims of robberies and relatives of murdered persons. Bandits are secretly supplied with funds and weapons so that they make rebellions against Obregon, terrorize people and furnish evidences of "disorder" that needs intervention to stop it. A campaign of "education" is quietly going on so that the opposition to intervention may be eliminated before the time of the actual declaration of war. A few months ago American soldiers crossed the border and entered Mexico to "chase bandits" who, it was alleged, had kidnapped two aviators. The aviators were returned with surprising rapidity, but it took a long time to find the bandits. During the search the Carranza soldiers captured most of the brigands and the Yankees made a poor showing. However, they stayed on Mexican soil as long as possible, probably in the hope that they could goad the Mexicans into attacking them and giving an excuse for immediate invasion of the country generally. The Mexicans did not attack them, however, and the attitude of the American people was decidedly cool toward intervention. So the troops were withdrawn and the oil magnates are now waiting a more opportune time. Meanwhile, the process of "education" is being attended to carefully.

It is safe to predict, then, that it will not be many months before a new attempt is made to wage war on the Mexicans. The only thing that can prevent it is such a manifestation of solidarity among the American working class generally that the men higher up will not dare to have their blood-feast.

They who fight the wars can refuse to fight further wars. They who make the in-

struments of destruction and death, can refuse to make more of them. They who run the mills and mines and railroads can refuse to run them any longer.

This is the only language that insensate and conscienceless capitalism will understand. It is the only language that is of any use to the workers. Petitions, resolutions, protests, meetings and the like have a certain agitational and educational value and are, therefore, useful in informing the public, but that is as far as they go. The same is true of votes. In the "democratic" United States people do not vote on wars, anyway. Wars are declared without consulting the voters. And even if pacifist legislators and officials are elected, the prospect of war profits easily induces them to break their promises. No pledge could be more emphatic than Wilson's to "keep us out of war," but he broke it with the cool callousness of an accomplished liar when Wall Street pressure grew strong enough.

The slogan of the *Radical Review* that "Right Without Might is Moonshine," is true as truth itself. Polite pleadings and respectful remonstrances won't amount to a damn if the capitalist government of the United States declares war with Mexico. The majority of the American people did not want war with Germany and could not see where Potsdam was any worse than London, but they had war just the same. The steam roller went smoothly on, flattening out most opposition. Those who wouldn't be steam rolled were put in prison, lynched or bullied into acquiescence by tarring and feathering and horse-

whipping or else managed to flee the country, as I did. The same thing will happen when war with Mexico is declared unless—

The workers use their economic power. DIRECT ACTION WILL PREVENT ANOTHER WAR. Nothing else will.

Let us be sensible and look the situation in the face. Wars, being a phase of capitalism, cannot be carried on without workers to run the industries and fighters to do the killing. The capitalists never do either the work or the killing. They wouldn't, anyway. But they couldn't if they would. They are too few. The workers outnumber them hundreds and thousands of times. *So if the workers won't work and the fighters won't fight there won't be any war.* That is all there is to it. It is as plain as the nose on your face.

From an economic standpoint the Negro and the white man have no differing interests. It is to the interests of the capitalists to make them think they have, but in reality they haven't. They are all fellow workers and they all ought to stand together. This is the fundamental, general reason why the Negro ought to get ready for the next war by organizing to refuse to participate in it. *But the Negro has the special, specific reason that he is a Negro.* Outrageous as it is to expect a white workingman to fight in the wars of capitalists, it is the acme of criminal absurdity to ask a Negro to do so. Some white workingmen get temporary benefits from wars—temporary, never permanent,

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mark you—but *no Negro gets anything out of any capitalist war*. A little palaver while the hellish affair is on, maybe, but the minute it is over he is abused, maltreated and murdered as usual. In most cases he doesn't even get the palaver after the fighting begins—only before, as verbal flypaper to lure him on.

Some Negroes entertained a certain amount of faith in the decency of their exploiters before the last war, but no Negro in his right mind can have any faith left in them now. Therefore, there is no excuse for any Negro taking part in war with Mexico if war is declared. Any Negro who does is a downright, unadulterated idiot—nothing else. But I have so much confidence in the growing intelligence of the race that I do not feel that I need to elaborate on this point. I think the day of the conservative Negro has passed and that with the coming of the radical Negro the mass of colored people will be ready to resist the next conspiracy of international capitalism.

The only question for the Negro, then, is *how* shall he act to prevent war with Mexico? That has already been answered—*Economic power and direct action*.

Organize industrially if you work in a factory. Join the I. W. W., the only red-blooded labor organization functioning on a nation-wide scale and with a clear vision of economic realities. Join as a member-at-large if you have no local union, but try to start a local union. Organize your fellow Negroes. Drive into their minds the fact that war is imminent, and they will be called on to fight as usual, and that this time they must have sense enough to refuse and to resist, if necessary. If you work on a plantation, organize your fellow workers the same as if you were in a factory. Keep quiet about your organization. Your exploiters will begin to prepare, too, when they know you are preparing, so *prepare first*, but do so secretly as long as possible. This gives you so much time ahead of the other fellow.

Don't confine your work to factory and farm employees. Get in touch with Negro soldiers. They are "workers," too. Tell them to *get ready to strike, also, if they are summoned to do any more of the kind of "work" that they did in France*. The Boston policemen set a good example lately. So did the American boys in Russia who mutinied and refused to fight the Bolsheviks. You will be further examples before long. You won't be alone. You will

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find more co-operation than you expect.

If capitalism really believes that labor will neither work nor fight in the event of another war, capitalism will hesitate not a little before declaring such a war. It probably won't dare to declare one. If it does and uses force to try to break labor's general strike, *let labor act in self-defense*.

All American workers should get ready for direct action in order to avert another hideous hell of war. They may not need to use it, but let them *get ready*.

The American Negroes, being the most oppressed and miserable element among the American workers, have racial reasons, as well as economic reasons, for immediate preparedness.

Organize now! Tomorrow may be too late!

(Signature deleted.)

New York City, Sept. 18, 1920.

Editor The Crusader.

Dear Sir:—That notorious sycophant and race traitor, Charles W. Anderson, opposes the return of the Negro to Africa for purposes of government of the Negro by the Negro and in the interests of the Negro in place of the present pernicious system of government of the Negro by the white man and in the interests of the white man and his few servile tools like Charles W. Anderson.

The Crusader seemingly anticipated this opposition to African redemption upon the part of our Negro Serviles when, in its last issue, it remarked that, "It may be expected, too, that the old-time, truckling, lick-spittle politicians and editor-politicians of the Negro race would be opposed to any movement out of this country of the suffering Negro masses. That would be robbing them of their bread and butter since depriving them of the privilege of selling their brothers for insignificant political jobs and profitable political advertising. It is not likely that in a Negro State, with degrees of merit and not degrees of servility ruling, that these half-baked intellects would escape the necessity of turning to honest manual labor for a livelihood. No wonder the creatures are opposed to a plan that would cut short their posing, on an ounce of brain and less of training, as editors and leaders of the race!"

Of course, it would deprive Mr. Anderson of his livelihood. But we should worry. Let him starve.

Yours, a regular reader,

C. JONES.

P. S.—Moreover he doesn't have to go.
C. J.

If it weren't for those devilish Russian Soviets putting "propaganda" into Negroes' heads, they'd think it were perfectly all right to be burned alive.—*New York Call*.

That seems to be the idea to a T.