

FASCISM on the RAMPAGE

by Jay Lovestone

LESS work, less bread, lower wages, no rights! This is the fate decreed for the German toiling masses by the master class of the Reich thru the "Hunger Regime", the Bruening government. This is what "Deutschland Ueber Alles" means today. How long will the German workers stand it? What will they do next? That's what's worrying the governments of England, France and the United States. In 1924 the Dawes Plan "saved" Germany from proletarian revolution. In 1929 the Young Plan was put over to "help" Germany once more. It is this very sort of help that is driving Germany deeper into the throes of hunger and anguish. How symptomatic and symbolic of the hopeless contradictions of capitalism! If only the world bourgeoisie would be sure that Fascism would come out of this miserable mess, then they wouldn't worry. Indeed, many would celebrate. But the logic of class war, is not determined by hopes or prayers—even of the mightiest moneyed overlords. The German proletariat has yet to be reckoned with.

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A BLACK WINTER AHEAD

A dreary winter is in store for the workers. More than four millions are today jobless and hungry. There is no sign of a let-up as the cold become more bitter. Soon many workers will be laid off in the building trades. Spring holds no hope. By then, the battalions of the unemployed working masses may mount to five millions. Actually from thirteen to fifteen million human beings will be buried still deeper in poverty, suffering, hunger, and misery. And the agricultural crisis has in store for the great mass of the German peasantry, a bumper crop of anxiety and destitution.

Inch by inch, step by step, the German ruling class has been driving back the German workers. Wage cut piles upon wage cut. The tax burden become evermore crushing. The political and social rights of the workers are being taken from them. The hard-won gains won thru years of costly struggle are being wiped away. The notorious "Notverordnung" legislation of December first was the milestone along the path of reckless trampling on all rights and interests of the workers. In the eight weeks from December first to February first six million workers (inclusive

of government employees) have had their wages cut from six to eight percent. Among the millions of workers whose wages have been cut to the marrow are 500,000 coal miners, 800,000 metal workers, 450,000 textile workers, 300,000 carpenters and woodworkers, and 300,000 railway workers. The latter's wages were cut 16 percent.

But the Bruening government is not an ordinary capitalist coalition government. It is a prelude to Fascism. It is energetically and systematically preparing the ground for full open Fascist control of the government apparatus. This purpose is the underlying, driving force of all its political and economic policies at home and abroad. That's why the full force of the government was brought down on the workers to defeat the Berlin metal trades strike, to crush the miners in the Ruhr and to play the Fascist game at every turn.

Of course, the treachery of the Social-democrats is the cornerstone of this successful attack against the toiling masses. The adventurist, ultra-left and splitting policies of the new line of the Communist Party only fertilize the soil for the Fascist victory tomorrow. Split and split again were the red threads of the official Communist strategy in the Berlin metal trades and in the Ruhr mine strikes. Thus, in the Ruhr, as a result of this policy, no less than 3,000 of the best and most devoted Communist and militant fighters have been blacklisted in the pits, taken out of the miners' union, and paralyzed as effective leaders in the ranks.

Tho it is ridiculous to say, as the Communist Party officialdom says, that the German proletariat is already on the offensive, yet the workers are today ready to fight. This was clear in the splendid strike response of the 130,000 Berlin metal workers, more than half of whom were unorganized. But they lacked effective revolutionary leadership. This the Communist Party cannot supply today because of its false tactics. Such necessary leadership the Communist Party (Opposition) cannot yet adequately provide today because of its relative numerical weakness.

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FASCISM DRIVES ON

Here lies the source of the staggering Fascist success.
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cess in the last elections, when the "Nazi" (Fascist) vote rose from 800,000 to 6½ million. Let no one make the mistake. It is not so much from the inflamed, disgruntled, defeated war veterans that Hitler draws his support, as from the youth of Germany.

The youth, so full of energy and so anxious about its future, is being swept into the camp of Fascism. Worse than this. Fascism is winning a foothold in the ranks of the workers. This is the lesson of the Fascist victory in the industrial centers of Thuringia and Saxony. The workers are becoming disillusioned with the Social Democracy. The Communist Party sectarian

determinedly Fascism is marching on in Germany. Let me cite but a few of the latest events which are the handwriting on the wall. The "Notverordnung" of December (the legislation for new taxes on everyday needs of the workers) was only a further step towards the Fascist abyss. The very building of the Bruening government, the "Notverordnung" of last July, the September 14 election results and putting into force the Hindenburg dictatorship provisions of Article 48—all of these are only points of advance towards open Fascist rule.

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FASCISM AND WAR—AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION

In some circles—unfortunately especially in the highest official councils of the Communist International—there is the illusion that once German Fascism wins, a war between French and German imperialism will follow over the revision of the Versailles Treaty. This is a terrible and dangerous illusion. The Fascists may still use certain bombastic phrases against French imperialism. But the moment they win, that moment they will come to terms with France. The French bankers will buy them, remove them as a source of opposition, and make the Hitlerites the banner-bearers of a new unholy alliance against Bolshevism, against the Soviet Union. We must remember that in the event Fascism does win, it will not be without terrifically bitter protracted resistance from millions of class conscious workers in Germany. French money and military help will be badly needed by the Hitlerites. A deal will be made between the Hitlers and the Tardieus and Briands against the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. As evidence we need but cite the recent Hitler-Herve negotiations in which they pledged themselves to have France and Germany "save the world from Bolshevism". The articles of Jules Sauerwein, the noted French journalist, bearing an official mark, gave the same plan. And most important of all is the Paris report by *Informatus* (December 20th) to the *Bergwerkzeitung*, highly influential organ of the Rhine Westphalian industrialists, that the "Comite des Forges", the governing body of French heavy industry and really of France itself, is prepared to have France get together with Germany, give it credit, close a commercial agreement, and form an air-tight Franco-German military alliance.

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A WORLD MENACE

For the workers of the world, the German events are of inestimable importance. A German Fascist victory means a smashing of the powerful Communist Party of Germany, the destruction of the mighty trade union movement and labor organizations, and consequently the opening of the free road thru Germany for a united imperialist onslaught against the Soviet Union. For such a "concession" French and British

HITLER VICTORIOUS!



Adolph Hitler, leader of the German Fascists, leaves the Court triumphant after having given testimony in the case of the two young Fascists in the Reichswehr. Note the young worker giving the Fascist salute, the priest near Hitler, the smiling bourgeois on the other side and the working girl selling papers. This is typical of the class composition of the Fascist movement.

line and leadership do not inspire them. They despair. In such a hopeless mood they either drift to the "Nazis" or are swept in by the wave of enthusiasm in which the Hitlerites have been engulfed. There have even been cases when whole official Communist Party units—and not only individual Social Democratic workers—have gone over to the Fascist Party. Of course, the petty-bourgeois, nationalistic official policy of the Communist Party towards the Versailles Treaty and Young Plan have been only grist to the Fascist mill. It is such non-Communist tactics and principles, couched in left phrases, that have paved the way straight to Fascism for hundreds of thousands of workers.

German Fascism has skillfully and demagogically utilized certain workingclass shibboleths to attack and fool workers. "Bread and Freedom", "Against the Oppressors", "For the Exploited", often appear in the headlines of the Fascist press. The "Nazis" have even taken over some of our revolutionary melodies and given Fascist words to them. They are contesting all factory elections in order to win away the masses from the Social-democrats and the Communists. In the Berlin metal trades strike the "Nazis" put up their own pickets and pretended to fight against the wage cut.

The official Communist Party and many workers in other countries have been suffering from the illusion that German Fascism is only a bubble, which will soon break, is only a shadow which would soon disappear. Thus, the *Rote Fahne* declared on September 16: "September 14 was the high watermark of the NASDP (Fascist) movement in Germany. After this, only decline and disappearance from the scene will follow."

How dangerously wrong this analysis was is now only too painfully clear.

Since September 15 Fascism has been growing more aggressive and stronger day by day. Not a day passes even in Berlin, where the Communist Party got the biggest vote in the last elections, that the Fascists don't make a murderous attack on Communists or Social-democratic workers. In every local election held since September, the Fascists have made terrific gains. Look at the very recent Bremen municipal elections swept by the Fascists. The best brains of the old military machine are directing the Fascist operations. The most virile forces of the monarchists are their guiding hands. The heavily-laden gold sacks of the biggest trust capitalists fill their war chests. Planfully and

BRUENING IN THE TOILS!



The film, "All Quiet on the Western Front", which Chancellor Bruening recently banned at the behest of the Fascists, turns into the Fascist snake stifling the Chancellor.

imperialism are prepared tomorrow to make any revision of the Young Plan and the Versailles Pact. For this the workers of the world would more than pay for it with their lives, with their blood, with their money—perhaps with the greatest victory they have ever won—the victorious proletarian revolution in Russia!

The whole question of the world-wide significance of the menace of German Fascism is forcefully and correctly placed by *Gegen den Strom*, organ of the Communist Party of Germany (Opposition) when it says:

"The question whether the German labor movement will be trampled by Fascism, or march on, strengthened by the flames of the revolutionary mass struggles, is of the most far-reaching international significance. A victory for Fascist reaction in Germany would be a gigantic triumph for world reaction, would be an unheard of defeat for the whole fighting world proletariat, and above all an immeasurable menace to the victorious struggle of the heroic working class of the Soviet Union. A victorious struggle of the German working class movement against Fascism would lend new momentum, new spirit and confidence, new energy, to the entire international labor movement."