

The Race With Death

Anthrax Bombs - Science Enlists With the Germ - The Journey's End - Dollars Versus the Human Race

by Bertram D. Wolfe

The most sinister aspect of the war preparations is the experimentation with bacteriological warfare. This is being done absolutely in secret, without publicity, but every great capitalist power is working on the problem. The evidence that this is so is meager, but definite.

by the explosions liberating them; but that glass globes filled with germs dropped from airplanes would "present a certain danger". Professor Cannon emphasized "the possibility of airplanes disseminating over wide areas parasites capable of ravaging crops".

acity of man to combat disease, and the fecund and billion-multiplying bacteria will have the upper hand again. Hitherto, man has at least not seriously relaxed. Science has fought earnestly, steadily and persistently, to check the spread of bacteria. What will happen when science turns its knowledge, its skill and its resources on the other side, on the side of the bacteria, and gives them favorable breeding ground, a chance to spread, aid in their dispersion over front lines and industrial cities?

Where is this capitalist "civilization" leading us to, that puts dollars above human lives, that puts the destinies of mankind in the hands of a few money-mad maniacs that will not stop short of the destruction of the bulk of the human race in their insane passion for profits and power?

The Journey's End

Once more we will let the other side speak. Here is Dr. Eckhardt, Vice President of the Hungarian Frontier Readjustment League, on September 1, 1930, predicting a world war by 1937 which "will cause the destruction of our 2,000-year-old Christian Civilization."

Here is ex-Premier Cailleaux writing in August 1930:

"In 1914-18 the combatants perished in millions. In the year X which I hope will never get into the calendar, the civil population will be annihilated."

And the only solution M. Cailleaux can think of, aside from his pious "hope", is for mankind voluntarily to destroy science, the arts, human progress, without waiting for war to do it. "If mankind wishes to exist," is his startling conclusion, "it must fetter the new Prometheus, science." And this from the spokesman of a class that boasts it creates and pro-

THE END!



Captain Ferdinand Tuohy, of the "Intelligence" Department of the British Army is authority for the statement that, in the late war, the Germans had a "bacteriological section" at Nurnberg. This was used by the British as an "excuse" for creating their own bacteriological section. Will Irwin, American war reporter, gives

A Blighting Epidemic
"Experiment has proceeded fast since the armistice," wrote Irwin in 1921, "... No branch of modern military science seems more fruitful in eventual possibilities for wholesale killing than this. As germ warfare is at present conceived, it would

What's To Be Done?

"The master class will put us in charge of artillery and tanks and planes and ships. They will put machine guns and gas grenades and bayonets in our hands. And they will bid us use them to slaughter our fellow workers, to destroy factories, wipe out cities, ruin farm lands, annihilate the physical basis, of modern production and culture, and murder each other by millions and tens of millions...."

"We must take the guns and gas grenades and bayonets, and use them, not on each other to wipe out mankind, but we must use them upon the greedy madmen who drive us into war, use them to destroy the profit-hunting man-slaying, unemployment and war-breeding capitalist system, and build a decent human world where human lives are valued higher than dollars and unemployment, exploitation and war are unknown."

—From the forthcoming and concluding article in the series "THE NEXT WAR"

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the explanation of Tuohy as follows:

"The British, informed of this, began loading air-bombs with anthrax bacilli, and notified Germans that they had prepared a 'reprisal'" (Irwin: "The Next War", Dutton, 1921, p. 61.)

That the Germans also cultivated the deadly anthrax bacillus during the world war, was proved during the 1930 hearings of the Mixed War Claims Commission when the American representatives claimed and proved that German agents in America had injected boat loads of horses with anthrax germs before the horses were shipped across for the use of the Allies, and that whole shipments died as a result. But anthrax is not only a disease affecting horses and other animals; it is communicable to human beings as well, as any furrier can tell you—a disease horrible in its ravages and highly infectious.

The Professors Report

In 1924 a Commission of the League of Nations, made up of Viscount Cecil, Admiral Segrave, General de Marinis and Colonel Requin investigated the question of bacteriological warfare. They gathered information principally from Professor Pfeiffer of Breslau, Professor Bordet of the Pasteur Institute of Brussels, Professor Cannon of the Harvard School of Medicine, and Professor Madsen of Copenhagen. Here are the "high spots" of their report.

Methods of bacteriological war considered include "the pollution of drinking water by cultures of typhus or cholera germs"; propagation of plague by pest-infested rats; "the poisoning of weapons with streptococci or staphylococci, anthrax spores, glanders bacilli, etc; dissemination of germs or bacteria affecting man, animal or crops from airplanes.

Professors Pfeiffer, Bordet, and Madsen are of the opinion that typhus and cholera can be checked by vaccination; that rat-infection could not be used as it would spread to the armies of the users; that cultures on weapons and in shells would be likely to dry out quickly or be destroyed

previously existed.

I have no doubt that my own position in any war of imperialistic origin would be the same absolute unqualified resistance to it, particularly after the declaration of war. And what kind of war could we have today except an imperialistic one?

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be directed against armies alone. But anyone who followed the late war knows what human chains bind the troops in the trenches to the general population.... Armies simply could not be quarantined. Among the possibilities of the next war is a general, blighting epidemic, like the Black Plagues of the Middle Ages—a sudden, mysterious, indiscriminating rush of death from which a man can save himself only by fleeing his fellow man."

Professional military men accept the logic of their task quite coolly. Thus Major General Swinton speaking before the Royal United Service Institution in 1921 declared:

"The final form of human strife, as I regard it, is germ warfare. I think it will come to that; and so far as I can see there is no reason why it should not, if you mean to fight.... prepare now.... We must envisage these new forms of warfare, and as far as possible expend energy, time and money in encouraging our inventors and scientists to study the waging of war on a wholesale scale instead of... thinking so much about methods which will kill only a few individuals at a time."

"Science" Enlists With the Germs

Then there are the easily cultivated, easily spread diseases of plants alluded to by Professor Cannon—wheat rust, plant fungi and bacteria, invading armies of plant parasites—plant diseases that spread like wildfire, blight out whole crops, destroy the "enemy's" food supply, and starve him out. But like human epidemics, plant epidemics are far easier to start than to stop.

Man carries on a constant warfare against plant, animal and human disease—a collective warfare against certain aspects of nature which are for him malignant and deadly. That warfare is by no means ended. Epidemiology is far from an exact science. Man has won many victories, but a moment's neglect, a bit of weakening of the lines, and the most horrible epidemics of human and animal and plant disease ravage the earth. Just as a city a few years abandoned, sprouts grass in its streets and the walls of its buildings, and the forest creeps in again where once was the clearing; so with clearing up of centers and sources of infection, a momentary weakening, a bit of neglect, a little let down in the collective cap-

serve culture and progress!

Here is the International Convention of the Red Cross in October 1930 declaring that it "sees no immunity for any in the next war" and no way of protecting the civil population from extermination in the big industrial centers.

And here is the organ of finance capital, the *New York Times* apropos of the war play, "Journey's End", editorializing on the next war under the title, "The Journey's Beginning" (October 5, 1930):

"The prayer of the whole earth is that the nations may never set out on that journey again, for its end may be the end of a civilization that has been ages in the building, and the survival of a remnant of peoples that cannot even bury their dead, much less build memorials in the fields where they lie unburied."

Dollars Versus The Human Race

Such are the prospects for the coming decade! Such is the outlook for humanity if the present ruling class continues in power, if the world continues to be ruled by people who let millions starve when it means more profit, people who live by the exploitation of their fellow men, people who would buy and sell anything so long as "there is money in it", people who are insane enough in their chase for dollars and pounds and francs to spend five billions in war preparations, to hire the best brains and the most advanced engines of annihilation, who are taking steps to bring about the mass destruction of humanity in order to further their own insignificant interests.

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