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their freedom they used it to pass the first progressive legislation that the South had seen. They began to pass legislation in the State legislatures, despite the reactionary attempts of the Northern carpetbaggers to hamstring them and the sabotage of the defeated slave owners, which was strikingly bold the division of the land and giving the land to the landless Negroes and poor whites. Anyone who wants some real information on Reconstruction and the Negro should read Du Bois' book on Reconstruction. The fault was not in excesses committed by the ex-slaves but that the Negroes did not completely wrest power from the reactionary aristocracy.

As a story of people the picture achieves a measure of success. Vivian Leigh is a total success as Scarlett. I found her acting quite intelligent and moving. Many individual scenes pack a genuine emotional punch. And the character she creates is a colorful, petulant, greedy, clever and entirely fascinating woman. Clark Gable, whom I have always found a rather boring smirk of a man, plays his part intelligently and is quite adequate. A host of other well known players, white and Negro, too numerous to mention, contribute capable and entertaining performances. Frankly, after two hours had gone by I found the love interest, the personal conflicts less and less interesting. But on the whole, I was interested in the characters.

#### ROUTINE HANDLING

As for the direction and general staging, very little can be said on the credit side. Despite the fact that they directly faced a mammoth problem, I think something other than routine situations, flat unoriginality in presentation could have been done. The battle scenes, the destruction of Atlanta, the sufferings of the people, and the intended highspots of the picture are boring and unexciting.

To illustrate the methods of the picture: the scene where thousands of wounded soldiers come pouring back into Atlanta. To show the suffering and despair, the audience is treated to five minutes of close-ups of mangled bodies, bleeding wounds, tattered uniforms, and the like. The scene

#### BOLSHEVIK YOUTH AT BERNE CONFERENCE:

## The Story of the Socialist Youth Movement During the Last War

By WILLI MUNZENBERG

The main question before the Berne Youth Conference was "The War and the Attitude of the Social Democratic Parties and youth organizations." The main report on this question was given by Robert Grimm, in the absence of the scheduled reporter, Wienkop. A resolution was presented on the question by Grimm, together with the Bureau and in collaboration with Comrade Angelica Balabanoff. Following a lively discussion that concerned itself most of all with the demand for total disarmament, the resolution was adopted unanimously in the absence of the Russian delegation.

The acceptance of this resolution was an important achievement for the Socialist youth movement.

For the first time in the history of the proletarian youth movement, representatives of the socialist youth came to an independent decision on a political question and recorded their views in documents.

#### Attack the War

The resolution of the Berne conference characterized the war as one of imperialist banditry and the result of capitalist politics and sharply attacked the lie of "defense of the fatherland." It condemned the policy of class collaboration and civil peace. The Berne conference demanded of the workingclass parties of all countries the execution of international resolutions that had pledged them to class struggle actions to bring an end to the war. The conference demanded of the socialist youth organizations an uncompromising struggle against war and militarism as the inevitable fruits of capitalist society.

At the beginning of the third session, a communication was read from the Russian comrades who

The Russian comrades accepted this arrangement and participated once more in the conference.

With the return of the Russian delegation, a new political discussion broke out between the conference majority and the Russian participants. The Russian comrades had worked out their own resolution on "War and the Tasks of the Socialist Youth Organizations" and motivated it in several lengthy discourses. They sharply criticized the resolution presented by the Bureau and accepted by the Conference on the previous day and demanded a decisive stand against the revisionists. "It is not enough to take a position against only this war, but rather against all wars of an imperialist character. Our resolution must state what means are to be used."

#### Lenin's Resolution

After a long and exhaustive discussion, the resolution of the Russian delegates was rejected by a vote of 13 to 3. Amendments to the resolution adopted on the previous day which were presented by the Russian delegates were likewise

defeated by a 13 to 3 vote.

The resolution adopted by the conference majority had many inadequacies and weaknesses. It was, however, characteristic of Lenin's keen political insight and wise tactics that he refused to withdraw the delegates of the Russian central committee from the conference despite the rejection of the Russian resolution and permitted them to continue in attendance and work along with the majority. Lenin correctly declared that the adopted resolution, despite all errors and shortcomings, still signified an essentially progressive step in comparison to previously adopted resolutions in the youth movement. The further development of the youth movement justified this view. A few months later, the leaders of the centrist group who held sway at the Berne Conference, Robert Grimm and Angelica Balabanoff, were completely defeated in the Youth International and the whole International continued the spirited struggle under the banner of Lenin.

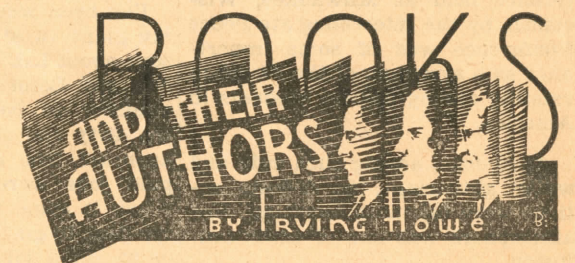
## ADVICE TO YOUTH—FROM HENRY FORD AND MCGUFFY'S READER

From the lips of Henry Ford, open-shop advocate and union-buster No. 1, have come another string of political pearls—this time on the youth question.

Henry Ford once boasted that all he knew he had gotten from McGuffy's Third Term Reader . . . and when one reads some of the things he says one is inclined to believe him. For he is either an awful liar or he's awful dumb. Not much

problem! Very easy! What's wrong with youth today is that they haven't got the old door bell ringing spirit, he said. They want things soft, "a desk where they can push a pencil."

We want to ask Henry Ford: Don't you read any newspapers? Don't you know that American youth is desperately in search for any kind of work and can't find it? Don't you read the reports of rural



VERDUN (Vol. 8 of Men of Good Will) by Jules Romains. Published by Alfred Knopf.

Guest Review by H. Jensen

To publish *Verdun* today is as grim a mockery as putting up a monument to peace in the middle of No-Man's Land. This is the finest volume of Romains' gigantic and unfinished novel, *Men of Good Will*. It also stands by itself as perhaps the finest anti-war novel of our generation. That is why publishing it today in the beginning of the new World War is a mockery and almost indecent.

The first half of the book, the *Prelude*, opens in the beginning of 1915 when the peoples of Europe have given up their hope for a quick victory and a near peace, when the generals have given up hope for a decisive "knockout blow," when the French methods of offensives and attacks are proven ineffective, and the war has settled down into a war of "attrition." And what content Romains gives to this word "attrition"! In the trenches the enemy army must be regarded as a solid layer of millions of men to be patiently filed down, thinned out so that some attack may be made in the future. This means daily blood-letting, your own army filling up its own gaps, slogging through corpsy puddings, shoveling under 5000 men a day.

At home the war of attrition means the ever-deepening corruption of war economy and society; everything, turned into cash to produce still more guns and still more shells. All economy, all life is swallowed up in the inferno of war.

The workers grow poor and the profiteers rich and the problem is reduced to: Which warring economy will soonest be exhausted. At General Headquarters, no one can clearly see the line of battle. The generals issue orders, read reports, take mild exercise. Perhaps an ambitious Brigadier sends a division over the top so that his name will be mentioned in the communique.

#### BOMBARDMENT BEGINS

So the *Prelude* to the Battle. On February 21, 1916, the unbelievably severe bombardment of Verdun begins. Part II of the book, the *Battle*,