SECOND MAY DAY OF WAR
AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST WAR - LONG LIVE THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION!

Tokio - Stalin Pact Blow At U.S.S.R.

As we go to press the bourgeois newspapers are filled with all sorts of speculations about the Russo-Japanese pact. Details concerning the pact are very scarce. In general, however, four factors stand out:

1. If carried out the Pact gives Japan a free hand to move against the allies in South Asia by withdrawing many of her troops in Manchukuo, and permits the Soviet Union to strengthen her western defenses against Germany by similarly eliminating the threat to Siberia — but that depends on how far the pact is implemented in real life.

2. The pact represents also a victory for Germany. Germany, of course, is not too happy about the fact that additional troops can be brought up from Siberia to face the German armies, but the fact is that Japan is free to help Yen, and, in the Pacific far outweighs this factor in importance.

A MOMENTARY ZIGZAG

3. The pact is an unwilling concession to the Axis powers; it does not necessarily mean a strengthening of the ties with Germany. It occurs during a transition move towards rapprochement with the United States and Britain. The pact is only an incident in that process.

4. While there are undoubtedly a number of secret articles in the pact, in all likelihood there are none concerning China. It would be exceedingly foolish for Stalin to give up aid to Chiang-Kai-Shek at this point. The Chinese nationalists are an important "weapon" that Stalin has for keeping up pressure against Japan and for keeping the treaty intact. To give up support for China would mean, in effect, to scrap the treaty as a paper agreement. Japan can always depend on the pressure of Germany's million soldiers on the Soviet front to keep Russia on the straight and narrow. But Stalin has only Chiang-Kai-Shek. It is doubtful if he gave this up.

But pacts and agreements are only surface phenomena. They have meaning only insofar as they reflect true MATERIAL conditions. The material factors in the war during the past month show:

1. A victory for American diplomacy in forcing Yugoslavia into the war. This diversion of men and forces from the Channel front is a victory for the allies.

2. Victories by the British in Ethiopia, but important losses in Libya and Egypt.

3. The rapidly increasing participation of America in the war, with the seizure of Greenland, the confiscation of "enemy" ships in American ports, and the sending of American boats to the Red Sea, where Axis raiders and mines will undoubtedly try to sink them.

UNUS SAM PLAYS DECISIVE ROLE

The speed or slowness of Russian moves towards Uncle Sam will depend on the outcome of all these military factors, and the pact can and will have meaning only as the result of large German successes and the role of American Imperialism. To the extent of German pressure against Russia, Stalin will move more and more be forced into the lap of Roosevelt.

TO THE WORKERS AND OPRESSED MASSES OF THE WORLD:

Our call to the workers and oppressed masses on this May Day in 1941 is a call to fight against the imperialist war. Our call is a call to stop the blood-bath, to bring PEACE to the world, to stop the exploiters' redivision and plunder of the earth.

SOCIAL SABOTAGE

In Europe the fury of the imperialist war has reached untold depths of misery, death and wholesale destruction, with worse to follow if the working class does not prepare actively and decisively to intervene on behalf of the needs of mankind as a whole. The destruction of men and materials, of SOCIAL WEALTH, has already reached astronomical figures. The vast over-production of capital is being swept in a world war that has reached only its first phase of destruction if it is to be brought to the desires and needs of Hitler and Roosevelt. But more ruthless is the maximine and killing of the men, women and children of the working class and the oppressed masses.

This imperialist war is the REAL SOCIAL SABOTAGE confronting mankind. Those who participate in, or give aid to either side of the imperialist war are the real enemies of the people. They are the destructive element that must be "controlled" by society before they wreck what progress has been accomplished.

CAPITALISM HAS OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS

The imperialist war now spreading beyond Europe is another proof in the long chain of social horrors that reveals that Capitalism (bourgeois - democratic and Fascist), has outlived its usefulness and is a BANE UPON THE FUTTER DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND. One imperialist war gives rise to more violence and kills more humans than a hundred slave revolts for freedom. A revolution (not the exploiters' fury of interference to crush the workers' new won freedom) is a mild tonic compared to the present war, which kills patriots and people in high places uphold.

COMMUNISM OR FASCISM

This May Day we are told by the socialist-patriots of the bourgeois-democratic imperialist countries that it is necessary to defend the Anglo-American interests to defeat Fascism. But history, since the March on Rome, is proving by the march of armies, that bourgeois democracy is in decline, because it was only the political reflection of expanding developing capitalism. The first world war revealed in all its ugliness that capitalism was in decay. The second world war is a mountain of proof of the advanced stage of this decay. This does not mean that Fascist Germany will win, any more than it means that history will repeat itself. It means that if the working class does not win — then whatever bloc of imperialists dominates what is left — be they the Anglo-American or Axis — they will dominate in the advanced nations, only upon the basis of the iron heel of the exploiters' dictatorship, only on the basis of Fascism. Regardless of the fact that the imperialist war revolved around an Anglo-Axis-American struggle, the real war will be the struggle between COMMUNISM AND FASCISM

And in such a struggle, in those countries where the workers class

THE MAIN ENEMY IS AT HOME
Strikes Bring Pay Boosts

New Taxes, Higher Prices Threaten These Gains

FIGHTING WORKER

Report on Building of Ft. Wood Army Camp

BOSS SABOTAGE PRODUCTIVE FORCES

May, 1941

Despite the United campaign of big business to keep wages frozen and at their present level; despite the budget-cutting efforts of the Office of Price Administration and Secretaries Knox and Stimson; despite the subtle but nevertheless powerful pressure of their own leadership in the CIO and the war policies of the AFL bureaucracy — despite all this, the American workers have won a strong partial victory in the first big round of the present strike wave. Increases of ten to cent an hour have been won in Steel, $1 a day in Coal, and in the very nature of industry is sure to follow.

To understand why the gains represent only a partial victory and why a total victory was not won, we have to dig through an intricate web of trade union politics.

OFFICIALS THROTTLE MILITANCY

Two conflicting currents participated side by side in the development of the present strikes: On the one hand the resurgent militancy of the workers, for control over their productive industries; and on the other hand the social-patriotic leadership of the trade unions. The CIO had it in its power to completely paralyze American war production. Yet the CIO was fighting at the front of the workers in coal, auto, steel, transport and many other basic industries. A United threat of militant action by all these forces at the same time, would have brought quick results.

But the Murray-Hillman-Lewis crowd chose instead to permit only one strike at a time, to disintegrate the energy of the masses in single isolated skirmishes. Furthermore — and the CIO leaders fought for only one objective: TO MAKE THE BOURGEOISIE RIGGINGS RESPECT THE I. O. U. OWN BRIGADE LAWS AND TO PERMIT LEWIS' MURRAY AND THE COMPANY THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE AN UNINTERRUPTED COLLECTION OF DUES.

The strikes at Bethlehem were settled when the company agreed to respect the "law" and not to recognize its own illegalized company union. The strike at Ford, affecting 135,000 workers, was settled when Ford agreed to recognize the right of the National Labor Relations Board to hold an election at the plant. Similar agreements were made at International Harvester and dozens of other places.

That the workers made any gains at all was the result of the gigantic pressure they exerted. The CIO, with its slogan "unite to smash this "scissors policy" to allay this pressure by a flank attack than by a frontal all out war. They made the small wage increase to cover the rise in the cost of living, and then, using their arbitration, mediation, and open dictatorial machinery, in order to stave off and channelize future strikes and the struggle for better living conditions.

Let us take a few specific examples.

The Ford company plant at River Rouge recently got a $10 an hour raise for all CIO workers when 8 of their brothers were fired for union activity. At the same time 400 coal miners were on strike. Workers of the U.S. Steel Company, General Electric and Bethlehem Steel were rapidly getting nowhere in their negotiations with the bosses. The big moguls of these big plants were undoubtedly working together in a concerted campaign against the whole labor movement. Yet the CIO leaders discouraged any attempt for united action on the part of close to one million workers.

The coal negotiations were class in their underhanded treachery. Lewis and Northern coal operators undoubtedly came to an agreement weeks before negotiations began. The operators were permitted to stock up a 45 day supply of coal. Then "negotiations" began. The aim of the negotiations was to:

1. Bring about a stalemate and a strike that would "increase the costs" — according to the operators — of coal production and thereby give them a good public cover for their increase in prices.

2. To force, if possible, the Southern operators to unfavorable competitive terms, by removing the wage differential which has made them strong in relation to the technically superior northern mines.

The one dollar a day increase represents a solid victory, but it is nothing compared to what they have obtained from what they needed. The security 200 day year was not granted; adequate safety provisions — are literally thousands of minor accidents a year in the mines — were not gained, etc.

LEADING TO MISLED

In one case after another it is the same story. The CIO leaders find themselves on top of a stormy militancy of the membership. The leadership wants major concessions that would affect Roosevelt’s war effort. The leadership disintegrate this energy in one strike or one movement at a time; and it channels the effort to AWAY taking by the masses back into the long drawn out bourgeois crease.

Meanwhile the AFL leadership capitulated the Murray crowd by open strike-breaker tactics. Workers in picquet lines were unprincipled logrolling with the companies against the strikers.

(Continued on page 4)

Fort Leonard Wood, April 10, 1941.

Yesterday no more than a backwords of scruffy shut down and scattered, poverty-stricken farms in the Ozark foothills, Fort Leonard Wood is today becoming Missouri’s third largest city.

When completed by early summer, the fort will be one of the struc: a new city of 60,000 in 6 or 8 months. It will be a city of some 60,000 population.

It is impossible to convey in words the picture of the utter transformation taking place. One can see a stretch of miles of what used to be forest land. 24 hours later it has become a park. A little town is being plowed, ankle deep in mud, a across a freshly levelled area, you see a row of barracks and a graded road.

These almost daily changes occur in one small area, but over a whole vast expanse of 5,000 acres.

PRODUCTION FOR DESTRUCTION

Machinery, engineering skill, and many of some 25,000 workmen are the answer. It is a revelation of the possibilities of modern economy. Imperialism uses its forces of production for war purposes, for destruction. It can con: a new city of 60,000 in 6 or 8 months, complete with modern electricity and plumbing. But on: it its armed forces!

To eliminate the slum dwellings of working class families in even one city, or one part of one city — that is a 20 year project! A perfect illustration of this destructive character of American imperialism is the way it has dealt with the men at work in building the camp.

The 25,000 men clearing, building, putting in the ground tasks that go to create a city — must eat and sleep. Bit: cold, snow, sleet, mud, unhe: unavoidable overcrowding — mean health and disease problems.

But the engineers who could plan a military city had no orders to plan for even the minimum needs of the workmen who were to build the city. The army was not interested in that detail.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The towns, farmhouses and dwelling units of all sorts in all directions have swollen to 3 and 4 times their former sizes. Men travel 40, 60, & 80 miles each way to and from work.

Within the camp itself, the bar: electricity, constant water, houses at least 5 to 6 thousand won. As many as 80 men are provided in double bunks into each barrack.

Water facilities are not yet fin: finished. A minimum amount of drinking water and water for hands and face is hauled in — fulfilling the letter of the law of no water for or in the camp. Clothes may be washed. To get a bath requires a trip to town — 10 miles from camp.

Perhaps 75% of the workmen are ill — colds and flu. Medical facilities are pitiful.

Because of the working and living conditions, the labor turnover has been fearful. The majority have been on less than a month. Replacements run as high as 75,000 for the number of men who have been in the construction have been about 5 months ago.

In this sense, the callous disregard of the elementary needs of the workers has literally brought back on the army. Labor efficiency is greatly cut down with so many seriously ill men on the job, and with so many new men constantly being broken in.

But while this fact brings up operating expense, the construction contractors are pleased all the more. The job is on a cost plus a fixed fee basis. The more it costs, the less the contractors actually put out (in better facilities, medical aid, etc.), the more they make. The contractors, by their disregard of the needs of the men, are sabotaging the health of even every man on the job.

But their sabotage is only a small one compared to that of the the ruling capitalist class creating a vast army. For what is this whole project — and many others of the Army? Is it not sabotage and military misdirection of the needs of a whole people? The biggest sabotage of the American army — the efficacy of the capitalist class who is building for war and destruction, instead of for peace and plenty.

MAXIMILIAN OLAY

Last month in Chicago, Maximilian Olay, prominent Anarchist and revolutionist, 45 after an ex: extended illness. While comrade Olay was a great and late: among those who fought against the path of war, he was nevertheless a true revolutionary always willing to help in any fight for refo: and class war prisoners. Com: Olay played an important role in the Freedom of Oehler and Ne- hurt, leading com: of the R.W.F. from Spanish in the work of the S.A. for aiding inter: refugee.

"Although we never agreed with his polices and we often de: with him publicly on various subjects, the Revolutionary Workers League, on the base of Maximilian Olay as a sin: and devoted fighter for the working class."
DEFENSE OF SOVIET PRIMARILY A SOCIAL STRUGGLE

Even from the purely military point of view the matter should be obvious. So long as the workers everywhere can be kept in check then the war will go on and grow bloodier and bloodier — and in such a struggle, Russia, with her weaker productive apparatus, is bound to succumb. But should revolution break out anywhere on earth, then the bourgeoisie, on both sides of the war front will UNITE AND divert their forces to fight the main common enemy, proletarian revolution. From this very naked military approach the matter should be obvious. But the question is more involved. The only force that can bring peace into the world is the pen, the bat, and the proletarian revolution. A fight between the Workers State and the capitalist powers on a purely military scale is a decidedly uneven battle, with the Soviets in a sad second place. That is the fight Stalin is preparing to wage.

But a fight ON THE SOCIAL FRONT gives the Workers State the advantage. Actually, only in this sphere and only in this sense that the Soviet Union can be defended. A social struggle can be waged only despotically against Stalinism and as part of the struggle against the world bourgeoisie.

BOSS RIVALRY IS BOILING BEHIND WAR "UNITY"

The growing intervention of American imperialism in the world has served to sharpen rather than eliminate the bitter struggle between the various rival groups of American capitalists, a struggle at present the front of the struggle is concealed in "National Unity," and the Morgan-Rockefeller "Aid to Britain Bloc." But the basic struggle between Rockefeller and Morgan for domination is becoming more intense. A few points must serve to indicate the latest developments in the struggle.

The campaign waged by the New Deal against Morgan throughout the TNEC hearings has come to a head. In addition to the anti-Morgan hearings on the banking institutions, on Steel, etc., the total report by the TNEC shows its bias. This has just been supplemented by the SEC order requiring competitive bidding by investment bankers for participation in stock issues, bond fluctuations, etc. Great pains were taken to show how Morgan Stanley, J. P. Morgan's investment house, organized only after commercial banks were forbidden to handle investments) completely dominates the investment "industry." The order has the effect of largely involving Morgan's handling of control of key industries.

F. D. R. STRIKE POLICY

The fight is further revealed in the New Deal policy on strikes in war industry. The basic industries are admittedly Morgan-dominated. Roosevelt and his apparatus bend over backwards to avoid too quick a settlement. This of course is due primarily to fear of the working class, but the inter-imperialist struggle is also important. The coal situation, the Bethleham struggle, Allis-Chalmers, etc., clearly show the New Deal as not too hasty in cracking down, while the Knos-Knudsen outfit are openly strike-breaking. The latest U.S. Steel developments also show this trend. The government pushes Morgan toward a big concession to the workers — a concession which benefits little steel far more than U.S. Steel. Little steel does not have so much obsolete equipment as U.S. Steel and can better afford the 10c an hour raise without a price rise. And Henderson has made it clear that there can be no price rise of any consequence.

ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW

FOR WORKING CLASS UNITY; AGAINST NATIONAL UNITY!

FIGHT AGAINST THE MILITARY MOVES OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM!
May 4, 1941

BosSES USE WHITES VS NEGROS TO CRUSH BOTH

The recent strike at Ford's River Rouge Plant was the bloody prelude to a war that is yet seen in the present wave of strikes sweeping the country. This was the case because, as a result of the insensibility of the class struggle between the Ford Company (America's first Open-Shop corporation) and the workers, and second, the forcible projection of the race issue into the strike, which almost changed the struggle from a struggle against Ford into an internecine race war of the wage-slaves exploited by Ford.

The split of the Negro and white workers, expressed by the Negro workers refusal to join the strike, in mass, is neither an accident nor an expression of the Negro workers for Ford. It is a result of several conditions, which the present in most of the strikes, was most outstanding here.

The Ford company has been making every effort to split the workers along racial line. Some months ago Ford browbeat many Negro leaders, ministers, etc., in Detroit into building him up as a friend of the Negro people, and pointed out the fact that he employed more Negroes in all capacities than any other plant in Detroit, while in those plants, ready organized, Negroes were still doing the most menial jobs.

The CIO leadership, by opposing a weak fight against Jim Crowism in industry, has helped Ford split the workers. Altho their policy of organizing workers (irrespective of color), is superior to the AFL policy of refusing Negro workers, the CIO leadership policy of not fighting vigorously to compel the Negro workers to end their present condition is a great evil to the Negroes and the Negroes. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People helped the bosses by a fake neutrality, which under the conditions actually meant partiality toward the Negroes.

"We of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP, are impartial toward all of the parties involved in the Ford strike situation. Our only purpose in this matter is to avoid race riots and bloodshed." This was cowardly viewpoint, by putting the issue on a race basis, injures the Negro worker by blocking his understanding of the need of CLASS UNITY with the white workers as the only road to improving the conditions of the doubly-exploited Negro wage-slave.

The fact that Ford was defeated in his effort to create a large scale race riots, is due to the mass of the Negroes joining the strike, a definite set-back for the bosses. Everywhere, in the Bethlehem Steel, the International Harvester, and numerous other strikes where the Negroes played a role, the Negro workers were in the forefront of the struggle. It is necessary for the white worker to intensify his actions of solidarity with his Negro-class-brother. Not as it is necessary for the Negro worker to excuse and reject the attempts of those opportunists mong the Negro people who attack the white-class-brother on the basis of past mistakes.

In their drive towards war and lowering of the mass standard of living, the bosses are attempting to recreate the riots of 1919, to split the workers ranks for boss profits. The workers must answer by overcoming recent weaknesses, by intensified class unity. The workers must wear out the support of the unions, AFL and CIO, fight for equal opportunities for work for Negroes in all plants, not only equal pay, but social equality as committed by AFL leaders in the Ford and Harvester War meetings. The trade-scabbery as committed by CIO leaders in the Ford and Harvester War meetings, is the answer to the question of the workers.

DEBATE WITH S. U. P.

A successful debate was held last month in New York City on the Character of the Soviet Union between Jules Berman, representing the Revolutionary Workers League and Abraham Ziegler, National Secretary of the Socialist Union Party.

Notice

In the future we request all our friends and sympathizers, as well as fraternal organizations, to write to the Fighting Worker and International News at the address of our office, 831 N. Ashland Ave.

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