

CHINA STRIKES SPREAD

Workers in Struggle Against War Lords

(Ed. Note:—This, the third installment of Sou Chao-jen's report, describes the economic and political struggle of the Chinese workers and peasants against the war lords in northern and southern China. Sou Chao-jen's report was delivered at the second meeting of the Pan-Pacific Secretariat in Shanghai, February 4, 1928.)

Can the Chinese ruling classes stabilize their position even by such methods? Our answer is, "No." As imperialism cannot stabilize itself, even more so cannot the Chinese bourgeoisie, who are the lackeys of imperialism. They cannot even come to terms among themselves; like the rival imperialists, they can agree only to suppress the revolution.

Struggle for Booty.

Formerly when the working class movement was strongly leading the nationalist revolution, before the treachery of the Kuomintang, the imperialists were being driven back, concessions were being taken over; then the imperialists could unite for a moment to smash the revolution; but now, with the militarists in power in the Kuomintang, the revolutionary struggle against imperialism is set back, and all the imperialists are rushing in again, intriguing among all the squabbling militarists, grabbing all they can from one another, the Japanese from the British and the American from both, their unity to suppress the revolution gives way to bitter struggle to divide the booty.

Each is trying to win over the various militarys; the militarists, in turn, have nothing in common except their greed for money and power, and degenerate to desperately struggling groups of mercenaries. Therefore, the wars will not stop. Therefore, there is no consolidation, no stabilization. They form all sorts of combinations and associations, which shift from day to day, but they cannot consolidate.

Financial Crisis.

Look further at economics and finance. The bank notes of the militarist governments continue to decline. In Hankow the notes are no longer accepted by anyone. In Canton the notes are quoted at 30 cents to the dollar, and still going down precipitately. Even in the north, the Fengtien notes of Chang Tso-ling are so rapidly becoming worthless as to completely disorganize economic life.

The constant wars are destroying all transportation, trade is declining everywhere, factories are closing down, foreign trade is curtailed. As for the militarists under the flag of the Kuomintang, each fights for his own individual interests; the first aim of each is how to get more money into his own hands, more territory, more troops, more arms. There is a limit to what they can squeeze out of taxation, but that limit is far short of their appetites. They rob the populace, and they turn to rob each other. One day they are all on good terms; the next day they are disarming one another. The armed forces are enlarging all the time, to such an extent that the most extreme exploitation of the suffering people is not enough to finance them; one militarist must destroy the other to make room for himself to live. Therefore, cliques, alliances, constant sifting, constant struggles, constant war. For these reasons also there is and can be no stabilization.

Wages Cut.

Conditions of the workers and peasants constantly grow worse. In Shanghai the average wage of the employed workers is \$5.50 per month. In the factories still running, the workers are being speeded up; in the textile mills, since the crushing of the trade unions, every third worker has been eliminated, and the remaining two do the same amount of work formerly done by all three; the eating time has been reduced; workers are forbidden to sit while at work; all former trade union agreements are cancelled; hours are being lengthened, wages decreased. The Seamen's Union agreement won in the big strike has been cancelled; the mechanics in Hongkong who won an increase in 1921, are now reduced to their former rates. The same thing goes on everywhere. In such a situation the workers must continue to struggle.

Workers Struggle.

The workers have continued to struggle energetically. In Shanghai there were 50 strikes in December alone, including the big strikes of shop assistants, textile workers, and tramwaymen. In Hankow the railway workers surrounded the stationmaster demanding wage payments; more than ten thousand textile workers gathered in public demonstration demanding restoration of their old agreement and payment of the annual bonus; when the so-called "reorganization committee" tried to stop the demonstration seven of them were killed; the ricksha coolies struck against an increased rental of rickshas from 80 to 140 coppers per day. In Honan the railwaymen, who had not been paid for from 9 to 11 months, seized the money from the station and distributed it among themselves, because they knew the revenue was being taken by Feng Yu-hsiang for military purposes. Textile workers in Honan recently struck against a wage cut. In Hunan,

Fight China Terror

KANTON



Poster issued by the International Red Aid, urging funds for the assistance of the victims of the white terror in China.

NICARAGUA CANAL IS UP IN SENATE

Imperialist Measure Urged by McKellar

WASHINGTON, March 27. — The much discussed Nicaraguan canal, linking the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean Sea through the Latin-American republic now occupied by American marines, would be built at once under a bill introduced in the senate this afternoon by Senator McKellar (D) of Tennessee.

McKellar urged immediate construction of the canal.

McKellar's bill would appropriate \$10,000,000 to begin work and authorize a \$200,000,000 bond issue to cover the cost of the canal.

A bill providing for an investigation to determine the best route for a canal thru Nicaragua was introduced by Senator Edge of New Jersey several days ago. The bill had the approval of the state and war departments, he said.

the railwaymen, when refused payment of their wages, gathered and took possession of the town, although they only had one revolver amongst them.

In Amoy the chauffeurs recently struck for an increase in wages. In Manchuria a serious strike of miners took place, while the workers on the Pecking-Seuyan railway engaged in a movement for wages. In Hongkong the dockyard workers demanded payment in notes, because silver had depreciated 5 per cent. The rubber workers in Hongkong struck; four leaders were arrested, but the workers, by demonstrating before the governor's office, secured their release. Not only such struggles as these given for example, led by the Red Trade Unions, have occurred, but even workers who have been under the control of the reactionary Mechanics Union in Kwangtung, have engaged in movements led by us. In the machine shops of Canton they have been striking for 5 months under our leadership; the Mechanics Union has not helped its own members, but on the contrary to "reconcile" the strikers, so that they are now entirely under our influence. Formerly the Hongkong dockworkers were led by the Mechanics' Union, but their recent movement was led by us.

(To Be Continued.)

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