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**NO WAR
ON
SOVIET RUSSIA!**

By R. DIXON

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NO WAR ON SOVIET RUSSIA

by R. Dixon

Last September we were plunged into war. Our politicians, our radio, our newspapers told us that Hitlerism was the enemy of mankind. That was six months ago. Today, in the minds of many people—rich people chiefly—Socialist Russia has become enemy No. 1. A bitter anti-Soviet campaign is being waged. In the millionaire press there is a growing call for the Allied powers to wage war on the Soviet Union. Young Australians who enlisted, as they thought, to fight against fascism may find themselves fighting against socialism. What an amazing change!

The reasons usually given for this change of front, are that Soviet Russia is Germany's ally; it supplies Germany with oil and sooner or later will enter the war on Hitler's side.

We will examine those reasons and show their lack of sincerity later. Here let us say that behind those arguments is something else—an insane desire to destroy Soviet Russia, the land of Socialism. The capitalist classes are inspired by class hatred and the fear that the war may end in a revolution that will bring the working class to power. They are determined to turn the war into a war of capitalism against Socialism and, if possible, to secure the lining up of all the capitalist powers against Soviet Russia.

There is nothing really new in all this. Soviet Russia has been subjected to attack after attack ever since the working class in October 1917 overthrew the capitalists, destroyed the rule of the bankers, industrialists and landowners, and took over all power in the interests of the people.

For an understanding of the present situation it is necessary to re-state some of the earlier history of the relations between Soviet Russia and the capitalist powers.

SWITCHING A WAR

Immediately following the October revolution, attempts were made by the former Russian capitalists and landlords to overthrow, by mili-

tary force, the Soviet government with the assistance of the Allied Powers—Britain, France and America and of German imperialism.

It is a very interesting point that though the capitalists of different nations may make war between themselves, should the working class in one or other of the countries involved overthrow, or attempt to overthrow, their ruling class, immediately attempts are made to patch up the differences between the capitalists, in order to wage a joint fight against the working class. There are numerous examples of this but perhaps one of the best is Finland.

During the last war Baron Mannerheim, the Finnish general, so much admired by the capitalist press today was a general in the Tsar's army fighting against Germany. When, at the beginning of 1918, the Finnish workers established a Soviet Republic, Mannerheim approached the German militarists and proposed that they send troops against the Finnish workers and peasants. A German army was sent and with the Finnish Whiteguards under the leadership of the traitor, Mannerheim, destroyed the newly established Finnish-Soviet republic, and murdered tens of thousands of workers.

A British army was also employed against the Bolsheviks in Northern Russia operating from Murmansk and Archangel. It co-operated with the Finnish Whiteguards against Soviet Russia.

INTERVENTION IN 1918-20

In the first days of the Russian Revolution British and German forces were both employed to destroy the Soviet government. After the defeat of Germany the British, French, American and Japanese governments continued the intervention.

During the years of 1918-19-20, Soviet Russia was attacked from all sides by the capitalist powers.

The British government, headed by Lloyd George and Churchill, the same Churchill who is today attacking Soviet Russia, spent more than £100,000,000 financing intervention. They were obsessed with the fear that the revolution would spread to other countries in Europe, and that even the British working class would become infected with socialist ideas and seize power.

The Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland, were one of the main jumping-off grounds for the wars against the Soviet.

In December, 1920, a remarkable statement was made by Lenin on the role of Britain and Finland.

Lenin said:

"Churchill, who is pursuing a similar policy to that pursued by Tsar Nicholas Romanoff, wants to fight and is fighting, and is completely ignoring parliament; he boasted that he would mobilise 14 states against Russia—this was in 1919—he would take Petrograd in September and Moscow in December.

"There was a time when they were a few weeks removed from complete victory.

"During Yudenich's advance, when he was not far from Petrograd, 'The Times,' the richest English newspaper, published a leading article—I myself read this leading article—in which it begged, ordered and demanded of Finland: Help Yudenich, the eyes of the whole world are turned upon you, you will save liberty, civilisation and culture throughout the world—march against the Bolsheviks!

"This was England speaking to Finland — England who has the whole of Finland in its pocket, England speaking to Finland who is up to her neck in debt, who does not even dare to squeak, because without England she has not enough bread to last her a week."

The wheel of history, it seems, has taken a full turn. Churchill is again a member of the War Cabinet. The British ruling classes, without consulting parliament, are sending arms and men to Finland to fight Soviet Russia. They are waging an undeclared war on the workers' fatherland. On Monday, February 19, 1940, "The Times," still England's richest newspaper, published an article calling for an anti-Soviet war and all the British millionaire press, as well as the government of Britain is demanding of Sweden to help Finland, in order to save "liberty, civilisation and culture" from Communism.

"HANDS OFF SOVIET RUSSIA"

There was another incident of those years that is important for us today. In 1920 the Poles under Marshal Pilsudski declared war on Soviet Russia with the aim of seizing Soviet Ukraine and White Russia. They were driven back to the gates of Warsaw by the Red Army. The British government, which was supporting the Poles, threatened war on the Soviet Union. But a remarkable thing happened. The working class of Britain were opposed to intervention. Councils of Action and "Hands Off Soviet Russia" committees were being formed from one end of the country to the other. In August, 1920, a special conference of the British working class movement was called by the British T.U.C. and the Labor Party, which still had a spark of internationalism in it, and an ultimatum was delivered to the British government that if war was declared on Soviet Russia, a general strike would be called and every factory in England stopped.

This mighty demonstration of solidarity on the part of the British workers with the workers of Soviet Russia put an end to the threat of war and forced the British government to retreat.

The workers in all capitalist lands, but especially in Britain and the Empire, may have to repeat that great example of internationalism very shortly.

SOCIALISM VICTORIOUS

All the efforts of the imperialists in the years immediately following the October Revolution to destroy the newly established Soviet government failed, because the workers of the Soviet Union were supported by the workers in the capitalist countries.

The imperialists, however, did not relinquish their plans to get rid of the Soviet government and restore capitalism. They bided their time.

The position of Soviet Russia was a difficult one. Here was a socialist state in a world of hostile capitalist powers, which were waiting for the opportunity to attack and destroy it. Soviet Russia must be rapidly transformed from the weak and backward country it was into a powerful country with advanced industry if it were to survive.

The Soviet people, under the leadership of Stalin, threw all their energy into the building of socialist industry. In the short space of 20 years they have performed miracles.

Some figures to illustrate what they have done.

If 1913 is represented by 100, industrial production in Soviet Russia increased in 1937 to 840.8, in the capitalist world to 149.4.

The rapid rate of progress in Soviet Russia is without parallel in history. From a country that was backward industrially Soviet Russia has moved up until today it is second only to the United States in industrial production.

Contrast this advance with Australia. After the last war production figures in Australia steadily mounted until the year 1928-1929. Then came the crash. In the next ten years there was no real advance on 1929. Those were 10 years of crisis and depression with mass unemployment and falling living standards. In Soviet Russia, however, they were the years of greatest advance. Unemployment was abolished and living standards rose rapidly.

Some more figures to illustrate this. If wages in 1929 are represented as the figure 100, in 1937 wages in Australia were 87, in the Soviet Union 371.4. Thus there was a decline in Australia and a large increase in the Soviet Union. At the same time, the prices of basic commodities in Soviet Russia were falling. Bread dropped between 1934 and 1937 by 50 per cent., butter 50 per cent., meat 37 per cent., sugar 27 per cent.

How is it possible that in Soviet Russia living standards rise whilst in Australia they declined? Because Soviet Russia has abolished the private ownership of the means of production. There are no millionaires to rob the working class and production is carried on for use, not for profit. It is because they have established socialism.

Just think, if production in Australia, instead of declining after 1929 had increased by more than seven times as in the Soviet Union, what would be the position then? The country would be very prosperous; the working class would have higher living standards; there would be no unemployment. Capitalism prevents us from having this.

Soviet Russia could not make the progress outlined above without attracting the attention of the world. The capitalists began to reason thus: if during the last 10 years Soviet Russia had so rapidly developed, what will the next ten years bring forth? Where will capitalism be? Will the difference between socialism and capitalism be so great that

the working class, middle class and farmers will demand an end to capitalism and the establishment of socialism?

In Britain, Australia and other countries fascist organisations were set up to campaign against Communism and prepare the way for the anti-Soviet war.

HITLER'S RISE TO POWER

When the capitalist crisis broke in 1929 millions of people began to question the usefulness of the capitalist system. In Germany Communism advanced rapidly. The working class were preparing to seize power. The Nazis, led by Hitler, who demagogically advocated what he called "National Socialism," which has nothing to do with socialism at all, rapidly gained strength. They were wholeheartedly supported by big financiers who looked to fascism to brutally suppress Communism and bring Germany into the anti-Soviet front.

Since 1922 close relations had existed between Soviet Russia and Germany. Britain was anxious to break this friendship and to draw Germany into the front against the Soviet.

In 1933, Hitler seized power in a Germany that was already virtually bankrupt. In the space of a few years he performed the seemingly impossible feat of building the mightiest military machine in the world. Where did the finance come from? Germany did not have it. British financial interests did. They advanced hundreds of millions of pounds in credits to re-arm Germany and draw Hitler into the anti-Soviet front.

The British ruling class connived with Hitler in his aggression against Austria, Spain and Czechoslovakia. Things were going merrily and the stage was set to attack Soviet Russia in 1939 or 1940 when a spanner was thrown into the works. Instead of driving north through the Baltic states and Finland against Soviet Russia, Hitler, with the annexation of Czechoslovakia, revealed that his intention was to drive through South Eastern Europe, the Balkans, to the Near East, to the very heart of the British colonial world.

The British imperialists who had helped to build the vast German military machine for war against Soviet Russia found this machine turned against themselves.

Public opinion in Britain demanded a peace front with Soviet Russia to check aggression. But this meant abandonment of the plans of the British ruling class for an anti-Soviet war—plans they were not prepared to give up. They played a double game. They negotiated with Soviet Russia with no serious intention of reaching an agreement and, at the same time, strove to drive a bargain with Hitler, using the Soviet discussions to this end.

THE SOVIET-GERMAN PACT AND THE WAR

Negotiations between Britain and Soviet Russia finally collapsed when the British, French and Poles declared that the Red Army would

not be allowed to enter Polish territory, and on August 23 a non-aggression pact was signed between the U.S.S.R. and Germany. It has been said that the pact between Soviet Russia and Germany was the cause of the war. But what are the facts?

The British government was quite insincere in its negotiations for a peace front. For four fruitless months, the Soviet Union sought agreement for a mutual assistance pact with Britain and France, as distinct from the pact of non-aggression ultimately signed with Germany.

The British government insisted that its guarantees to Poland and to Rumania were, at the same time, guarantees to the frontiers of Soviet Russia. The world now knows that although the British government made its guarantee to Poland in March 1939, in September, no military assistance was forthcoming, except the measures taken on the western front.

Had Soviet Russia fallen for Chamberlain's proposal, would things have been different? Would the British and French armies not be sitting on the Maginot Line, British aeroplanes dropping leaflets over Germany and the allied navy blockading the North Sea while Soviet Russia was clamped in a life and death struggle with German imperialism in Eastern Europe?

That was Poland's fate. Was it to have been Soviet Russia's?

Soviet Russia was not going to be made a "cat's-paw" of British imperialism. When it was clear that there was no hope of a satisfactory agreement with Britain and when the German government showed signs of a desire to improve relations with the Soviet Union and proposed a non-aggression pact, the Soviet government agreed.

"Russian safety, in view of the repeated efforts of Britain to appease and win Germany, demanded an understanding with Germany." (The Dean of Canterbury, "The Socialist Sixth of the World," p. 381.)

The pact of non-aggression with Germany marked the complete defeat of British foreign policy, which aimed at an anti-Soviet war, with German fascism as the spearhead of the attack.

By torpedoing the peace front the British government opened the gates of war. Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Halifax are as much responsible for the war as Hitler.

SOVIET NEUTRALITY

The most significant result of the non-aggression pact with Germany was that it ensured Soviet neutrality in the European war that was about to break out, in the first stages, at any rate. From the first day Soviet Russia declared its neutrality in the major war, and its policy is to remain neutral, just as long as this is possible.

Soviet neutrality is the worst blow of all to the ruling class in the capitalist world. While the imperialist powers are destroying each other, the Soviet government is standing aloof and strengthening itself and is in the position to influence considerably the course of events arising from the war.

Soviet neutrality is in the best interests of the working class of the world.

THE TRADE AGREEMENT

The Soviet-German trade agreement is sometimes described in the capitalist press as a joke, because Soviet Russia, even if she wished, would be unable to meet the German requirements; at other times it is an infamous example of the way Soviet Russia is helping Germany defeat the British blockade.

All the objections to the Soviet-German trade agreement are absurd. Soviet Russia trades with Britain and France. Is it not entitled to trade with Germany also? After all, Soviet Russia is neutral. Other neutral countries exercise their right to trade. On February 25, 1940, Italy announced the conclusion of a trade agreement with Germany for the exchange of goods worth £78,000,000. This announcement was published in the press without comment. Turkey, Rumania and Greece, all of them Britain's allies, have trade agreements with Germany and yet we hear no criticism of this in the capitalist press. It seems then that it is a crime only for Soviet Russia to trade with Germany.

From the moment the war broke out in Europe, the danger of an attack on Soviet Russia increased. It was clear that efforts would be made to switch the war against the Soviet. True, there are vast difficulties in the way of switching the war, in view of the contradictions between the Allies and German imperialism. But President Roosevelt, spokesman for United States capital, seems to be devoting himself to this task. His special envoy, Mr. Sumner Welles, is on a visit to Europe to sound out the possibility of peace. He will visit Rome, Berlin, Paris and London, but not Moscow. A press cable from Washington commenting on the visit, said: "The fact that the American Under-Secretary, Mr. S. Welles, will not visit Moscow in his forthcoming tour of Europe, is taken to indicate that he aims to create an anti-Russian bloc in Europe." ("Daily News," Feb. 12.)

SOVIET RUSSIA PREPARES TO DEFEND ITSELF

Against the increased danger of an attack, Soviet Russia, like all other countries, has taken far-reaching measures to guarantee the defence of its territory.

On September 17, 1939, the Soviet Red Army marched into Eastern Poland. The Soviet troops entered Poland only after the Polish state had collapsed and its government had fled the country.

German troops were rapidly advancing across Poland towards the Soviet border, where they would have taken up positions on the Soviet frontier extremely favorable for an anti-Soviet war. But the Red Army prevented this. Its march into Poland was as much a surprise to Hitler as to Britain and France.

By occupying Eastern Poland the Red Army not only rescued 13,000,000 former Soviet citizens from fascism and restored peace to

that part of the world, it also took up new military positions on the Bug, Vistula and San Rivers. These new positions are of the utmost strategical importance for the defence of Soviet Russia. On them the Red Army is in a position to resist any combination of forces that may be sent against it.

But an extremely vulnerable point through which Soviet Russia could be attacked still remained. The Baltic states—Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland—were as an open door leading to Leningrad, which is the second greatest city in the U.S.S.R. and the key to Northern Russia. This door had to be closed and barred. To this end agreements were entered into between the Soviet government and Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania which enabled the Soviet Union to occupy and fortify important islands and strategical positions on the southern side of the Gulf of Finland. The agreements in no way interfered with the internal regimes of the Baltic States and were economically favorable to them.

Commenting on these measures of the Soviet government, Sir Henry Gullett said: "The advance of Russia to the Vistula and her ascendancy in Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Baltic were a bitter setback for Nazi aspirations."

FINLAND

Soviet Russia then sought to reach agreement with Finland, which would bar the way to the imperialists on the northern side of the Gulf of Finland. The proposals were that the Finnish frontier on the Karelian Isthmus, which was only 20 miles from Leningrad, should be moved back some 20 miles; that certain islands in the Gulf of Finland, vital to the defence of Leningrad, should be ceded to Soviet Russia; that part of the Hango Peninsula at the mouth of the Gulf of Finland should be leased to Soviet Russia and concessions be granted in North Finland. In return for the territory ceded to the Soviet Union Finland was to receive twice as much territory in Soviet Karelia.

Economically the agreement would have been decidedly in Finland's favor.

The Finnish Whiteguard government, however, rejected the Soviet proposals. It was influenced in this decision by the British, Swedish and the American ruling classes, who did not want to see the way to Soviet Russia through Finland blocked.

Considerable British capital is invested in Finland. The nickel mines near Petsamo are controlled by British capital. The Finnish banks are closely tied up with Swedish financial capital and America has interests in Finland.

For years the imperialists have been preparing Finland as a jumping-off ground for the attack on Soviet Russia. The Mannerheim Line was designed by representatives of the British General Staff. Military aerodromes far in excess of Finnish normal requirements, were constructed. Finland was a veritable pistol aimed at the heart of workers' Russia.

When the Finnish ruling classes rejected the Soviet proposals for

a peaceful settlement, they left the Soviet government no alternative but to resort to military measures. At any cost, the threat of an imperialist attack through Finland had to be removed. Various imperialist groups were already discussing the anti-Soviet war. Delay was dangerous. Hence, at the beginning of December, 1939, the Soviet Red Army entered Finland to destroy the Whiteguard government and to secure those strategic positions which are vital to Soviet defence against the imperialist attack.

Since that moment we have been treated to an amazing campaign of hate and lies against Soviet Russia. Fantastic reports were published in the millionaire press of Soviet defeats and Finnish victories, of "terrible" Red air raids that accomplished nothing, of riots in Leningrad and numerous other things. The Finnish people's government, headed by Kuusinen, which, to the horror of the capitalist classes, plans to nationalise the banks and big industries, to distribute the land of the great landowners among the peasantry, to introduce the 8-hour day and increase the wages of the workers, has come in for special denunciation.

The Red Army has been described as a ramshackle outfit, poorly clothed, poorly armed, poorly led and faked photographs have been published to confirm this.

Truth, however, has a habit of making itself heard. The "ramshackle" Red Army has smashed through the defences of the Mannerheim Line and, at the moment of writing, are on the outskirts of Vyborg. What an amazing military feat! There is no other example in military history of an army breaking through a powerfully fortified position as the Red Army has done. The Mannerheim Line was regarded as impregnable by British military experts. It was considered to be as strong as the Siegfried Line. Have the British and French broken through the Siegfried Line? Have they made any progress against it?

Military experts did not support the belief fostered by the capitalist press that the Red Army is of no account. Captain Falls, military correspondent to "The Times" in a B.B.C. broadcast on Friday, February 23, said: "The Finns do not share the contempt for the Red Army which some people in London profess to entertain."

BRITISH THREAT TO SOVIET

The military success of the Red Army in its operations against the Mannerheim Line has aroused the fury of the British ruling classes and they are making all manner of threats against the Soviet Union.

On February 23 the cables announced that a British naval force was stationed off the Soviet port of Murmansk and that an Allied attack was possible against Soviet Russia in the Black Sea area. On the same day, Hore Belisha, former secretary for war, demanded that Britain and France "throw their military, naval and air strength into a war against Russia."

For weeks the British press has been trying to scare the Scandinavian countries into the war by suggesting that Soviet Russia has

aggressive intentions against Sweden and Norway.

But what is the truth?

Soviet Russia has no aggressive or imperialist aims, nor could it have. The Red Army is in Finland not for the purpose of conquest, nor to impose Communism on the Finnish people, for that would be impossible without the consent of the majority of the working class supported by the peasantry. Soviet Russia is fighting in Finland, in order to remove the threat to its security and obtain those strategical points which will enable it to bar the door to the imperialist attack. An extension of the war in Finland to other Scandinavian countries is not wanted by Soviet Russia and the Swedish and Norwegian governments have been informed of this.

BRITAIN SEEKS TO EXTEND WAR

Why should the British ruling classes warn Sweden and Norway and implore them to fight the Soviet? Because it is Britain and not Soviet Russia that wants an extension of the war.

Swedish exports of iron ore to Germany, which amount to seven or eight million tons yearly, are the main source of supply for German industry. Britain wants to deprive Germany of Swedish ore but to do this she must involve Sweden in the war. If Sweden were to join Finland and the Allies sent troops to Scandinavia, as they would, Germany would attempt to seize the iron ore mines. The British reckon, in this event, on seizing the mines themselves, or destroying them. In either case, Germany would be deprived of the vital Swedish ore. It would never do, of course, for the British imperialists to tell the public the truth about all this. Much better for them to accuse Soviet Russia of having reactionary, aggressive aims and of wanting to extend the war.

An extension of the war is vital to the British ruling class. The blockade of Germany, which was intended to starve the German people into submission within three years, has gone awry. All of Europe, excepting Britain and France, is supplying Germany with the products it needs. Italian, Dutch, Belgian and Danish ports are being used for German imports from overseas. The British blockade, in these circumstances, has practically failed and the position cannot be retrieved unless the war is extended.

In the Balkans the same thing is happening as in Scandinavia. British imperialism wants an extension of the war in order to deprive Germany of Rumanian and Soviet oil but tells the world that it is Soviet Russia which threatens the peace of the Balkans and the Middle East.

Soviet Russia far from having aggressive ambitions in the Balkans, wants to maintain peace there. Any extension of the war to the Balkans would mean, in all probability, that German imperialism would try to drive through to the Black Sea coast and, also, that the Dardanelles would be thrown open for British and French naval forces to enter the Black Sea. Soviet Russia is anxious to avoid this, because if the war should extend here, the Balkans and Black Sea

would, most likely, become the main theatre of operations and the threat to Soviet Russia would be very grave. The Caucasus, the Crimea and the whole of Southern Russia would be exposed to the danger of attack and Soviet Russia would almost certainly be forced to abandon its neutrality.

In the years 1918-19-20, when intervention in Soviet Russia was taking place British and French naval forces were sent to the Black Sea to render aid to the armies of Denikin and Wrangel. At the same time, a British army occupied the Caucasus and the oil fields of Baku. Ultimately the Red Army defeated the British and drove them out but now this danger looms again.

AUSTRALIANS TO FIGHT SOVIET?

The British and French have organised a great army, called the "army of the desert," in Egypt, Syria, Palestine. Only recently Australian troops arrived in Palestine to reinforce British and French forces. On the occasion of the arrival, the Sydney "Sun," in an unguarded moment, published a cable which read:

"If Germany cannot get Russian oil, she has as good as lost the war. Allied moves, including the arrival of the Australians, suggest that the Allies intend to control Russian oil themselves." ("Sun," Feb. 13.)

The "Sun" cable flatly contradicts earlier arguments that things were so bad in Soviet Russia that the trade agreement with Germany was of no importance. At the same time it shows the aggressive imperialist aims of the British and French ruling classes—they intend to "control Russian oil themselves."

It should be fairly obvious now who wants an extension of the war and who does not. All the sermons of Lord Halifax, or the outpourings of Chamberlain, which are designed to deceive the people, cannot conceal the truth.

There is a vast amount of evidence to show that the British and French ruling classes backed by Roosevelt and Mussolini are heading for war on Soviet Russia. Troops, munitions and aeroplanes are being sent to Finland and an undeclared war is being waged against Soviet Russia. They call upon Sweden to defend "civilisation against the threat of Bolshevism," they are instigating the Turks and also Rumania against the Soviet, and are striving to bring all capitalist nations into a crusade against Communism.

LABOR LEADERS JOIN ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN

The predatory aims of the ruling classes in the capitalist world are ably supported by people who call themselves "labor" leaders. These scum—the Blums, Attlees, Citrines and others, who for years smugly professed adherence to socialism, now joyously throw off the mask and proclaim themselves enemies of socialism.

In France, Leon Blum, who not long ago was crying for the sup-

pression of the Communist Party, is now demanding war on Soviet Russia. The British Labor Party, or a big part of it, is doing likewise.

Chamberlain has the majority of the British Labor Party leaders in his pocket. Only recently, Mr. D. R. Grenfell, British Labor M.P., right from the imperialist joss house made a speech in Adelaide. He said: "If Great Britain were forced to declare war on Russia, the British labor movement would stand solidly for that decision."

This gentleman, mark you, is called a "labor" leader—a lickspittle of Chamberlain would be a better and more truthful name.

He slanders the British working class, which has great traditions of class solidarity and internationalism. Grenfell has forgotten how British soldiers in 1918-19-20, sent to fight Soviet Russia, became so infected with Communism and proved so "unreliable" that they had to be withdrawn before they went over, arms and all, to the Bolsheviks. He has never heard, or conveniently forgets, how sailors in the British and French navies revolted when they were sent to the Black Sea to fight the Bolsheviks. The "Hands Off Soviet Russia" movement, the councils of action and the general strike ultimatum of 1920, when the British ruling classes were threatening war against the Soviet, might never have been so far as Mr. Grenfell is concerned.

Unfortunately, Grenfell found a crony worthy of himself in South Australia.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" reports that the state secretary of the Liquor Trades Union, F. M. Standish, said that "All right-thinking workers in Australia would support Mr. Grenfell's sentiments."

"Right-thinking" traitors but not workers. In face of the decisions of trades councils, trades unions and many A.L.P. organisations, Standish dare not say that the Australian working class would support war against Soviet Russia. His "right-thinking workers" are a few people, mainly misled, whose ranks become thinner each day as the truth about the war and British imperialist aims becomes known.

NO WAR ON SOVIET RUSSIA

What a gathering of forces—millionaires, militarists, capitalist politicians and labor traitors—all join in the demand that the working class support an anti-Soviet war.

But war against Soviet Russia would be war against the working class. We could no more support, or engage in it, than we could scab on striking workmates.

The workers owe no loyalty to those exploiting and oppressing them—the capitalist class. We can be loyal only to the working class movement, to the international struggle of the laboring masses against capitalism, to Soviet Russia, the fatherland of all workers.

The Soviet Red Army is not, nor could it be, the enemy of workers in the capitalist countries. It is an army of the international working class. Its victories are the victories of the workers of all lands.

The real enemies of the working class are those who today are demanding war on Soviet Russia—the capitalists and their lackeys.

The labor movement of Australia must make it perfectly clear that we will not tolerate war on the Soviet Union.

Our slogan must be "No War on Soviet Russia."

And if the attack comes, we must do more than repeat the victories of 1918-19-20 when the Soviet Red Army with the help of the working class in the capitalist countries, defeated all the attacks of the imperialists and the Whiteguards. We must see that capitalism is overthrown and socialism is established.

MR. CURTIN SOMERSAULTS

The Australian labor movement must make up its mind quickly as to what it is going to do about the fact that Australian troops are already in the Middle East for use in the imperialist war and possibly against Soviet Russia.

At the beginning of the war, Mr. Curtin declared, much to the satisfaction of the imperialists, that the Labor Party "wholeheartedly" supported the war. At the same time, in a half-hearted way, he said that the Labor Party was opposed to conscription and the sending of Australian troops overseas. Now there is a contradiction in wholeheartedly supporting the war and refusing to send troops overseas—a contradiction which is leading to a reversal of Labor Party policy.

Since the war compulsory military training, which is only one step from conscription for overseas service, has been introduced and yet the Labor Party, officially, has done very little about it.

The most amazing thing, however, is that during the Corio by-election Mr. Curtin said that a Labor government would not withdraw Australian troops already overseas. If a Labor government does not withdraw the troops, then it must continue to send reinforcements to the extent of more than 2,000 men a month. And if the Menzies government sends more soldiers overseas, as it intends to do, the number of reinforcements required will be proportionately increased. Therefore, according to Mr. Curtin's policy, a Labor government would be committed to despatch thousands of troops overseas each month. That is where the Labor Party is getting to.

Will the working class stand for this?

The Communist Party declares that not only must no more troops be sent but that those Australians overseas must, at all cost, be withdrawn.

Curtin's somersault recalls that at the beginning of the last war, Hughes, Holman and other Labor leaders said they were opposed to conscription. After a few months, however, they were the chief advocates for conscription for overseas service.

The threat of conscription hangs over the working-class movement once again. If the labor movement is to fight it successfully, we must be united, not only in our opposition to conscription, but to the imperialist war as well. Because of their whole-hearted support for the war, the Labor Party leaders are reversing their policy of opposition to the sending of Australian troops overseas. As the war goes

on and the situation becomes more difficult, will these pro-war Labor leaders not stoop to new betrayals?

Opposition to the war is the only logical and consistent basis from which to oppose conscription and the sending of troops overseas and the whole of the working-class movement of Australia must face up to this fact.

Every path the working class takes today merges into the struggle against the imperialist war. The fight against war profiteering, lower living standards and the attack on democratic rights, the struggle against militarism, conscription, sending of Australian troops overseas and many other issues—all calls for bitter opposition to the war and capitalism and places on the order of the day the need for the working class to take over all power and establish socialism.

COMMUNISM IS "FOREIGN"

W. M. Hughes, and other gentlemen of his ilk, tell us that Communism is foreign to Australian conceptions and that the working class will have nothing to do with socialism. The Communist Party, they solemnly assert is a subversive organisation under foreign domination—it is directed from Moscow.

Well! well! well!

Perhaps they would prefer that the Communist Party be directed from Canberra. Or better still, from Downing Street. It is rather ironical that members of the present government should charge the Communist Party with being directed from outside Australia. After all the Menzies government is directed, very largely, from Downing Street, London. For instance, when Australia entered the war, Mr. Menzies did not consult the Australian people. He did not even go to the length of calling parliament together to get its sanction to declare war. He merely announced over the wireless that as the Chamberlain government had declared war on Germany, Australia had also declared war.

Mr. Hughes, in any case, should be the last person to charge the Communists with receiving instructions from overseas until he has explained a little incident that happened during the last war, at any rate. On July 16, 1915, Mr. Hughes said: "In no circumstances would I agree to send men out of this country to fight against their will." In March, 1916, he went to Britain. On his return to Australia he was a ranting conscriptionist. How did it happen? Who gave him his orders? Was it the British labor movement or the British financial and military clique?

The Communist Party in this country has grown out of the fertile soil of the class struggle in Australia and bases itself upon the best traditions of the working-class movement. True, we draw upon the experiences of the struggles of the working class for emancipation in other lands, for in every capitalist country the mission of the working class is to destroy capitalism and establish socialism. We have established connections with working-class parties in other countries, includ-

ing Soviet Russia, in order to strengthen the bonds of working-class internationalism, to hasten the downfall of capitalism in all countries and, through socialism, to achieve the international brotherhood of man.

The government of this country has established connection with other governments, capitalist firms trade with other countries and invest capital in them but when a working-class organisation makes international connections, it is denounced as infamous and subversive, an example of foreign domination which must be suppressed.

DEFEND THE COMMUNIST PARTY

In "democratic" France and in fascist Germany, the ruling classes have brutally suppressed the Communist Party. In Sweden, Belgium, Britain and the United States it is under fire. Here in Australia, Communist Party meetings have been attacked, our press interfered with and there is a rising clamor from reactionary anti-working-class circles for our suppression.

The experiences in Germany, France and other countries, emphasise that once the attack on the Communist Party succeeds, it is followed by attacks on other working-class organisations and the suppression of the trade unions.

The working class needs Communist Party leadership today more than ever before.

No confidence can be placed in those Labor Party leaders, the Curtins, Forgan Smiths and others who so wholeheartedly have joined the camp of the imperialists. They have betrayed every principle of the labor movement. They are for the imperialist war and the sending of Australian troops overseas, they bitterly oppose Soviet Russia and are enemies of Socialism.

Such people as that have forfeited the right to occupy positions in the leadership of the labor movement and must be exposed, isolated and driven out by the workers.

The working class has the task of waging the struggle against the imperialist war, of defending Soviet Russia and of fighting to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism. There is only one party that stands four-square on these issues—the Communist Party. Persecution of the Communist Party is part of the general drive against the working-class movement and must be resisted by all labor organisations.

CONCLUSION

On Tuesday, February 27, 1940, the Sydney "Sun" published a cable commenting on the Italian attitude to the war. It read: "Mussolini is said to fear that European civilisation will be destroyed, if a bloody war drags on for years and that Russia (which means socialism—R.D.) will emerge as the sole victor."

What thoughts that conjures up—Mussolini's "civilising mission"

in Abyssinia, the "destruction of Bolshevism" in Spain and the annexation of Albania.

Churchill, Halifax, Menzies and others use words similar to Mussolini. They call upon the working class to defend civilisation. What civilisation? Capitalist civilisation? Are we to defend the civilisation of the blood-thirsty Mussolinis, the Halifaxes and Chamberlains? Of the munition manufacturers, millionaires, food profiteers? Must we defend their riches and our poverty? Are we to die defending their right to perpetuate this system of capitalist war, economic crises and mass unemployment?

The working class must end that "civilisation."

There is a new world far removed from the capitalist barbarism which the ruling classes deign to call civilisation.

It is the world the working class want.

It will be a world in which every man understands that his sacred mission in life is to help increase the sum total of human happiness. A world in which children can grow to manhood with their minds unsullied by thoughts of war or fear for the future. It will be a world in which ignorance and fear will be banished and where there will be no poverty.

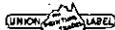
This new world will be a Communist world in which every man, woman and child will partake to their full of the wealth that will be in such abundance as to supply the wants of all.

It is to establish this world that the working class must fight.

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