

Women Workers Rally to Fight Against Imperialism

By VERA BUCH.

IN the next world war, working class women in America will be conscripted by the hundreds of thousands to work in the factories. Women will manufacture the materials of war for the ruling class. No longer will it be a case of 1917, when America came tardily into the conflict, throwing in little of its resources in comparison with the European powers. Even in 1917-1918 tens of thousands of women and girls in the United States worked in factories, making munitions—shells, powder and bullets—and hundreds of thousands of others worked in other industries directly connected with the war, such as food and garment manufacture.

But in the next world war, in which America, as the towering giant of imperialism, the most powerful capitalist country of the whole world, will either be the aggressor or at any rate one of the chief participants in the conflict. One of the first war-time measures will be the passage of acts conscripting the whole working class and lower middle class population, not only men, but women and children as well, for the bloody service of the capitalist murderers.

Men will be drafted for the army and navy and women and children will take their places in steel mill and auto plant, in shell, powder and chemical factory, as well as in the second line war industries of food and clothing and in agriculture. Upon the working class women will rest the burden of keeping the war going.

Realizing this, it becomes immediately apparent how extremely vital it is to win the working class women for the struggle against imperialist war and for the proletarian revolution. It is essential for the imperialists' plans that the women should be inspired with enthusiasm, with sacred zeal, not only to sacrifice their men on the battlefield, but also personally to give their all for the "stars and stripes" in the shape of slaving long hours in the factories, speeding-up and sweating to rush out munitions orders, risking life and limb in dangerous manufacture of shells and chemicals, etc.

The working class must snatch its women from the imperialists' poisonous embrace. It must win the women so that their heroism and devotion will be all for the working class. There must be won over at once, in each war-time industry, at least a group of women workers who understand the nature of the imperialist war as a struggle only for capitalist markets and capitalist profits, who will rally and organize the other women around them so that in time of war the women producers will strike and will refuse to turn out war materials for the government.

The women must be won over so that they will join in the struggle of the whole working class to turn the imperialist war into a civil war between the exploited and the ruling classes, to turn the arms in the workers' hands, not against the workers of other countries, but against the employers of the home country.

This is not a task of the dim future, it is the task of today. Every day brings new signs of the quick approach of the next world war. War industries are uniting in huge, vastly powerful super-trusts (General Motors combined with U. S. Steel and DuFond Powder; chemical combines, "intelligence" combines of telegraph and radio, etc.).

The rationalization drive, which the employers, faced with the bitterest competition in other countries for the colonial markets, must enter into increasingly in order to put their industries in the most efficient and economical shape possible, goes on apace. Weak firms and uneconomical factories are eliminated; workers' organizations are smashed and their leaders corrupted; exploitation is increased by speed-up and wage-cuts; technical organization of industry is improved; productive processes become simple and monotonous, women and youth increasingly replace men.

War preparations are carried on at a terrible rate by all the capitalist nations, at the same time that a smoke screen is thrown out in the shape of all kinds of "peace" conferences and "anti-war" pacts, of which there has been a big crop in the last couple of years. The nations are increasing their armies, navies and aircraft, and are giving millions of dollars to the preparation of poisonous gases and bacteria which can wipe mankind off the face of the earth. Whole industries (steel and other metals, auto, chemical) at a moment's notice are ready to turn to the manufacture of munitions and other war equipment. At this very moment two bills are before congress, one against war, the Kellogg ("anti-war") pact, which has just passed the senate; the other for building 15 new cruisers. This is neither strange nor confusing to the worker who understands that the anti-war pact is just so much dust to be thrown into his eyes so that he will not become alarmed at the building of the new cruisers.

Ideological preparations for war goes on by means of a hot-air barrage of talk about patriotism, peace and preparedness over the whole country. Never since 1918 have there been so many patriotic and war-time themes in the movies. The radio works full blast sending similar ideas to the remotest corner of the country. To get the women lined up and in a fervently patriotic mood, the rulers use a whole series of women's organizations which are bourgeois and lower middle class in composition, but which are active among the working class women, winning them over for Americanization, for the stars and stripes, for home and country, for Hoover and war. Among these are the National Women's Party, the Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Council of Jewish Women, the League of Women Voters, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Young Women's Christian Association, etc.

The Conference on the Cause and Cure of War, recently held in Washington, composed of delegates from ten national women's organizations, is an example of the apparatus used during a pre-war period to keep the women mobilized and in fighting trim. They are lined up now for "peace." This conference endorsed the Kellogg anti-war pact. Yet there is not one of the organizations participating in the conference which was not feverishly active in supporting the last war. Not one word was spoken at the conference against the horrors of war and its results for the working class. Not one word against the cruiser bill. It was plainly apparent that this conference was called only to help in the throwing out of the smoke screen of pacifism in which so many agencies are employed in the present period.

That the working women of this country are now aroused to the war danger was proved by the presence in Washington of a group of a dozen working women representing working class women's organizations with a total of 100,000 members in different parts of the country. These women were there to protest against the preparations for imperialist war and against the women's peace conference as part of these preparations. The women succeeded so well that they nearly broke up the first meeting of the conference. Their picketing demonstration brought out the slogans of defense of the Soviet Union, organization of the working women to fight the war danger, fight against wage cuts, speed-up and unemployment and exposed pacifism as the fig leaf of imperialism.

The work begun by this conference must be energetically pressed forward. The working women's organizations throughout the country must be systematically organized to fight war. Furthermore, the fight must be carried through them into every factory, mill and workshop. Particularly in the industries which will be involved in war directly, such

Learning War Tricks



Fred W. Kelly is getting his training as an aviator carrying mail on the Los Angeles-Salt Lake City air mail and passenger route of the Western Air Express. When the imperialist war comes he will know how to fly a war plane.

Marxian Historians Hold First Congress

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with remarks of a number of bourgeois historians at the congress in Oslo and declared: 'Formerly there were naive people who believed that history had nothing to do with politics, today no such naive persons exist. This is as doubtless as the fact that the Marxist method is the only scientific method, and even bourgeois historians are beginning to adopt it.'

Forty speeches will be made at the conference, including lectures upon the history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the history of the peoples inhabiting the Soviet Union, the history of the West, the history of the armed insurrections and the peasants revolts, the revolutionary war, etc.

Reich "Socialists" Urge Large Army to Protect Imperialism

BERLIN, Jan. 21.—A feud between the fascist wing of the social-democracy and its militarist wing is now going on in the "Vorwaerts," central organ of the German social-democratic party, on the left program of the Party, which will come up for discussion at the party congress next March at Magdeburg.

The draft program urges the construction of a strong military force to defend Germany from "invaders." The leaders of the socialist party helped to put through the 10,000-ton cruiser bill by fighting the Communists on the question of the referendum.

as steel, auto, aircraft, metal, chemical, where already many thousands of women are employed, must agitation be carried on against the war danger. In 1920 there were 70,000 women in steel plants and 35,000 in other metal industries and some 5,000 in the auto. Since then the women have multiplied nearly four times in the auto industry and probably as much in the others. In the auxiliary war-time industries, such as food and clothing, very large numbers of women are employed. In the textile there are 500,000, in the needle trades 300,000 and in the food industry 200,000. These are the industries in which it is of the highest importance to organize the women, not of course separately as women, but as part of the whole section of the working class in these industries.

The working class must take as its slogan: Not a single woman worker, not a single worker's wife, for the imperialist war. Every one of them to be won over for the proletarian revolution, which alone will end the scourge of war for the human race.