

WHAT WILL WE DO IN CASE OF WAR?

By I. AMTER.

Part I.

EVERY Party member and revolutionary worker is determined, in case of war, to do his or her duty by the working class. The slogan of "turning imperialist war into civil war" meets with immediate response from the workers, who still have the memories of the last war, and who through the movies, etc., have gained an idea of what modern war means. This has been intensified by publicity on the deadly means that the capitalist governments have invented to destroy human life, and the frightfulness of the methods that they will use. This has also been ingrained in the minds even of the younger workers by the attacks on the workers in demonstrations, on the picket line—yes, even by the machine gun fire in the gang wars. Therefore, the workers do not want war—and only the most frenzied nationalism that can be stirred up by fascist propaganda will make the workers eager for or accept war.

This is especially due to the present continued crisis, in which the workers are being starved, and yet are being steadily, stealthily prepared for war. The war machine is in operation and will soon engulf the entire working population of the world.

The Party and the Communist International have a definite program against imperialist war. Our organization and mobilization against imperialist war, our reaching the workers in the shops and factories, our winning the workers against the fascist and socialist leaders of the unions and fraternal organizations—and our work in the armed forces of the capitalist class, are part of our political and organizational program. This appears clear to the Party members and the revolutionary workers, and each appeal to do his duty when war is declared against the Soviet Union, meets with the heartiest response from the militant workers.

But do the Party members and the revolutionary workers visualize what their task is today and will be on the day that war is declared against the Soviet Union? Will the slogan of converting the imperialist war into civil war become a reality or remain a slogan still to be realized? Will the Party be in a position to carry out this slogan?

Surveying the situation soberly it is obvious that the slogan will not be realizable unless every Party member coolly sits down and considers the question: What will be the task of the Party the day that war is declared, and what must we do today in order to realize this program?

No comrade wants to be called emotional—to be told that he is not doing that which is necessary to present maximum resistance to the onrushing imperialist war and for defense of the Soviet Union. No comrade wishes to be called a utopian—one not facing reality—and yet it is clear that few comrades have considered what the Party must do to fulfill its duty to the Soviet Union and the workers all over the world. Few comrades have thought what their duty is in fighting against the fascist terror in the European and Asiatic countries. Few comrades have stopped to think that demonstrations on the squares and streets of the cities, even in increasing dimensions, will not stop war—that more basic work has to be done, if the Party is to fulfill its duty. To shirk this duty is merely to be an emotionalist regarding war—and thus objectively to render service to the enemies of the working class.

Point blank: What must each member of the Party and each revolutionary worker do to furnish the maximum defense of the Soviet Union—not when war is declared, but today, tomorrow? What will be our task when war is declared? This is a question of tremendous importance that the Party must face clearly, so that knowing what our goal is, every Party member will be able to do his duty.

War is rushing headlong on the working class. The crisis is getting deeper. The auto industry does not talk of "pick-up" any more even in 1932, but postpones the date to 1933. The steel industry is reducing production. The high protective tariff walls in foreign countries are excluding more products of the United States and not easing the situation in the other capitalist

countries. A rapidly radicalizing working class and peasantry in all capitalist and colonial countries is the record. Unemployment is increasing in all capitalist countries, with momentary recessions in England. Misery is increasing—while the governments are spending ever huger funds for war. \$5,000,000,000 is being spent for war—and more men are under arms, more efficient navies, airfleets and chemical departments exist in every country. The capitalists are finding no way out of the crisis—not even through their "ten year plans," "twenty year plans," etc. War is their only way out and they are feverishly preparing for it. Fascist repression of the working class, lynch terror prevail. Unemployed workers are clubbed and shot down. Workers fighting against wage cuts are beaten up and flung into jail. Even that country of boasted "democracy" and police without batons, England, now has police who club the workers; the British government adopts the most drastic measures against the Indian revolution. American "democracy" is dropping its mask. The League of Nations, the Kellogg-Briand peace pact are a joke. Whoever cannot see that the coming of war is not a dream, but a reality, is remote from life.

What, then, will the Party do when war is officially declared? How will we do our revolutionary duty? Will we be in a position to declare civil war against imperialist war? Is the slogan that we place before the workers TODAY realizable with our present methods of work? Are or can we be sincere in proclaiming this slogan if we do not take the necessary steps to place ourselves in a position to lead the workers in civil war against imperialist war?

It is obvious that, were war to be declared tomorrow, turning imperialist war into civil war would be merely a slogan—an unrealizable slogan. Communists are not utopians, not phantasmists: they base their actions on reality—and reality tells us today that our declaration of civil war in the United States would be a revolutionary gesture, but only a gesture. We would not have the forces to declare such a war. OUR DUTY IS TO PREPARE THESE FORCES—AND FAILING THIS, OUR SENTIMENT WILL REMAIN PRAISEWORTHY, BUT IMPOTENT.

The tasks that are incumbent upon us therefore must be clearly discussed. What will be our first task as the war becomes a reality? TO STOP THE WHEELS OF INDUSTRY. This will not be such a simple task, for the capitalists, through propaganda of nationalist hatred, will be able to whip up war hysteria. "Patriotism" will run rampant, fear of death will decline, the hope of plenty of work and wages will increase. Attacks on the revolutionary organizations, and their complete suppression will be the order of the day. The capitalists will have full sway and their organs of hate will sweep the country. At a moment of this nature to be able to stop production of war material, to DECLARE STRIKES, TO BROADEN THE STRIKES AND RAISE THEM TO A POLITICAL LEVEL, TO LIFT THEM INTO POLITICAL STRIKES AND BROADEN THEM INTO POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS, DEMANDS CONTROL AND LEADERSHIP OF MASSES READY TO FIGHT. AND TO FIGHT UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. It is correct to say that the masses will have guns in their hands, guns placed there by the capitalist government, which cannot make war without the workers. But these workers will not be OURS, unless much work is done, not merely of propaganda and agitation, not merely through demonstrations and meetings, but through ORGANIZATION AND STRUGGLE—which are the best teachers of the working class.

How can this organization and experience be gained? How will we be able to lead the masses upon the outbreak of war—if we have not this control and organization today? If our Party members do not perform their daily duty in mobilizing the workers for the struggle which will make them OURS—ours gained through the struggle on the basis of their most pressing needs, and in fighting for which, they will learn where their interests lie and who their enemies are?

This means concretely that WE MUST PERFORM OUR DUTY IN THE SHOPS AND FAC-

Farmers of Upper Mich. Are Beginning to Fight Starvation

THE farmers of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan are facing the crisis in a determined mood to fight for their rights rather than to submit to attempts of the bankers and rich farmers to force them into tenantry and off farms they have spent the best part of their lives in making into homes for themselves and their families. Throughout this part of the state farmers' taxes have gone up in many cases as much as 500 per cent in the last three years. Mortgages are threatening to drive the majority out into the cities to swell the army of unemployed. In South Ontonagon county the Federal Land Bank officials at a banquet for the mortgaged farmers openly told them that 37 farms are to be sold for mortgages during the month of Nov. and that they need expect no leniency from them. In every county the same situation is to be found.

In answer to this action of the bankers the farmers are beginning to realize that they cannot go on any longer in this way. In Pelkie, Mich., 150 farmers at meeting passed a resolution demanding: cancellation of mortgage and interest payments, tax exemption for poor farmers, lower wages for county and township officials as the main demands for which they are going to fight. At Nisula about the same number adopted a similar resolution. At these meetings committees were elected for carrying on the work further.

Other sections are also starting the same movement following the example of these small farmers.

One farmer there mentioned that his farm while worth \$5,000 will be sold for a mortgage of \$800 because he cannot beg nor borrow the money for its payment. These farmers are not going to take this challenge of the bankers and the rich farmers without fighting and they are already building their committees which will bring the demands of the farmers to the county officials and then carry on the fight to the end where a few bankers will not be able to drive the farmers' off their homesteads.

The farmers here do not yet know about the United Farmers League and its program of struggle for the poor farmers but they know that only by struggle can they expect to get anything for themselves. The struggle must be a united struggle where the poor farmers and the workers get together to in a real finish fight against the system that breeds these conditions until they wipe it from the face of the earth.

Workers! Join the Party of Your Class!

P. O. Box 87 Station D.
New York City.

Please send me more information on the Communist Party.

Name

Address

City State

Occupation Age

Mail this to the Central Office, Communist
Communist Party U. S. A.

P. O. Box 87 Station D. New York City.

TORIES TODAY, WE MUST ORGANIZE AND MOBILIZE THE UNEMPLOYED FOR STRUGGLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF AND INSURANCE, WE MUST ORGANIZE WHITE AND NEGRO WORKERS AGAINST LYNCHING, DISCRIMINATION—OTHERWISE OUR PROCLAMATION OF CIVIL WAR WILL REMAIN EMPTY WORDS. It means that if we are sincere—each Party member and revolutionary worker—we must face the tasks frankly and take them up.

(To be Continued.)