

FACING THE WAR-MAKERS

By W. GALLACHER

THE question of war is, or should be, in the forefront of all our immediate activities. Day by day the evidences of war preparations and war alliances are more and more coming out into the open. Never was there greater need of working-class activity, yet so far as this vital issue is concerned we must frankly face the fact that the workers are almost entirely indifferent. They must be awakened to the seriousness of the war danger.

This will be no easy matter, for the screen of peace is being assiduously constructed so that the workers may not see the preparations going on behind. They take the protestations of Labour Leaders and other "Peace" advocates at their face value, failing to realise that such "Peace" protestations are an essential part of war preparation. It is this Peace propaganda which gives the war-mongers the opportunity of swinging the masses of the workers over to their support when war is declared. It is so easy in such a period of national excitement to satisfy the workers that British policy was a "Peace" policy and that war was forced upon Britain by an aggressive enemy. It is essential to expose the fraudulent nature of Capitalist "Peace" manœuvres and drive home to the minds of working men and women the lessons to be drawn from the existing situation of terrific struggle for the markets of the world, rising tide of colonial revolt and steady advance of social construction in the First Workers' Republic.

In the fight for markets all the Capitalist countries are engaged, but standing out as the principal protagonists are Britain and America. We are often told by shallow-minded pacifists that war between Britain and America is impossible. We speak the same language, these people tell us, and that itself is sufficient to prevent serious misunderstanding and to ensure everlasting peace. Nominally, of course, we do speak the same

language, but in the actual fact of business life an entirely different language is spoken. American Imperialism speaks the language of the Dollar, British Imperialism speaks the language of the Pound. And there can be no question about the fact that war is raging to-day in every part of the world between the Dollar and the Pound.

In South America, in Canada, in Australia, in the East, as on the Continent of Europe, the dollar forces its way. The British Imperialists feel its attack everywhere. When Beaverbrook launches his campaign for "Imperial Crusaders," he, and those he represents, are declaring war on American finance. "Win back the Dominions from the menace of American penetration," would be their slogan, if they dared come out openly. Of course, we have just recently witnessed very friendly exchanges between MacDonald, the representative of British social democracy, and Dawes, the representative of American high finance ; they even planted a tree of Peace. All very fine for the films and for deluding the workers, but having no other value than as a temporary Armistice for the purpose of allowing time to deal with the Workers' Republic before coming to a show-down on the question of World Domination.

So long as the question of war with America is in its present stage, MacDonald will be allowed to go around mouthing vague indefinite generalities. But the American Imperialists are not deluded. They are not looking for vague moral precepts. They have an abundance of such from quacks on their own doorstep. The American Imperialists are looking for profit, for markets that provide the profit, for spheres of influence, for colonies.

Can MacDonald give them these ? Only at the expense of the British Empire, and the task of the MacDonaldites is to save the Empire, not to give it away. Saving the Empire, the Slave Plantation of the Plunder-Gang, means War with America.

But while the fight for the market rages, all of the combatants are faced with the fact that one-sixth of the world's surface has been taken out of the orbit of Capitalist exploitation and is being used by the workers for the construction of Socialist Society. This is a serious menace to the stability of Capitalism in two respects. In the first place, it means a very great restriction of a world market,

already too small. At the moment, however, the defeat of the Workers' Government and the re-establishment of capitalism in Russia would provide a measure of relief. The ultimate result would be the same. For, with Russia developed along Capitalist lines, the problem of markets would become more acute than ever before. But it is immediate relief that is wanted, and as Russia would provide this, all of the imperialist countries are united in their desire to destroy the Workers' Government.

There is another—more serious aspect : capitalism with its deadly exploitation and starvation of the workers cannot face the competition of a workers' form of society. In the early years of the Workers' Government the competition was not serious. But now, with the progress that has been made in Russia, comparisons favourable to capitalism cannot any more be drawn, and with the completion of the five years' plan, the comparison will be very obviously the other way about. The five years' plan will explode all the vain pretensions of social-democracy. So social-democracy openly joins forces with capitalism, for the sabotage or destruction of the First Workers' Republic.

True, America threatens the British Empire, and will sooner or later force the issue to the arbitrament of war. But before that day Britain must get her rear protected. The workers at home must be tied down through Mondism or other means to complete submission. It is impossible to go to war while the workers are in a position to rise in revolt before the war has got properly under way. Once the war is well started, then the most extreme measures can be taken to suppress any projected rising, but in the earlier stages passivity on the part of those who have not been swung over to rabid patriotism is absolutely essential.

Now while in Britain the home workers are fairly well under the control of the Labour leaders and the Trade Union bureaucrats, in India, the seat of Empire, the situation is entirely different. There the tide of revolt is steadily rising, and, in the event of war with America, would most certainly express itself in an open revolutionary struggle for complete independence. India is therefore an outstanding danger point in the rear of British Imperialism. Before Britain can even hope to face America, India must be crushed down into complete submission. But this task is an

impossible one while the example of Russia stands out before the exploited workers and peasants of the East. To the Imperialist-ridden masses of these countries the victories of the workers and peasants of Russia bring new hope and new inspiration. What the Russian masses have achieved by heroic endeavour they also can achieve.

America's immediate threat is its penetration of the Dominions and its general attack on the world's markets. But the threat from Russia is the example it sets to India, and to the workers as a whole. If India is to be retained, if the Empire is to be kept going, the Soviet Workers' Government must be destroyed. MacDonald and the lackeys of capitalism who constitute the Labour Government will do their utmost in this direction. *The danger of war against the Soviet Union is an immediate danger.* The whole diplomacy of capitalism is centred on this first task.

In Britain, the Labour Government will enter into negotiations which are ostensibly directed towards recognition of Russia, but in actual fact will be concerned with an attack on the Communist International. Never was there a time when greater watchfulness, greater activity, was necessary. Steadily, the enemies of the workers gather their forces and make their preparations for war. We must go to the factories, and to the Trade Union branches and arouse the masses of the workers. We must shatter the illusions that are so sedulously cultivated by the Labour leaders and their Left apologists. These latter will be exceptionally dangerous. Already we have Maxton and Cook, fresh from their election betrayal of the workers into the hands of MacDonald and Capitalism, posing as the champions of Indian freedom, while actually they are endeavouring to lead the Indian movement into "safe" Parliamentary channels.

Against all such as these the Communist Party will fight. Placing its faith in the workers, and the workers alone, it will arouse them to the true meaning of present day events. It will organise them as it arouses them, swinging them into action through mass demonstrations and strikes, and so preparing them for the great task of destroying capitalist war by the Workers' war against Capitalism.