

Workers Must Oppose Fascism, the Last Hope of Capitalism in Decay

Fascism, the Immediate Menace.

The capitalist system is in decay. All attempts to reconstruct it have failed. The destruction wrought by the war was so great and the imperialist rivalries have been so intense that a disintegration of capitalist power has set in, which cannot be stopped. Seeing that regularly constituted government no longer satisfies their needs and demanding a "strong" government irrespective of its "democracy," the bourgeoisie has organized all the elements that have suffered from the war—the ex-army officers, the petty bourgeoisie (which has been ground to pieces by the after-war troubles), the flotsam and jetsam of society, and above all the small peasants, as the backbone of a movement and of a capitalist, dictatorial, military dictatorship, which calls itself a Fascist government.

Sections of the workers yield to the siren call, especially the renegade and right-wing socialists, as in Italy.

As a matter of course, the fight is directed against the organized workers and their most militant section, the Communists. It is unnecessary to repeat the deeds of vandalism and destruction committed in the name of "law and order" by the Fascist government of Italy, and by Fascist organizations in Germany, Austria, Hungary.

But one fact must be remembered. Fascism becomes dominant where the workers are not revolutionary and are not organized. Where they are not revolutionary, the workers and the petty bourgeoisie see their safety in what appears to be a "strong" government. Thus Fascism is rampant in Bavaria, which has a weak

revolutionary movement, (it was destroyed in the overthrow of the short-lived Soviet Government of Bavaria), but it hardly raises its head in Saxony. This means that the organized labor movement has as one of its immediate and urgent tasks the organization of counter-forces to deal with Fascism in its various manifestations.

But even Fascism must disintegrate owing to the very contradiction of the elements composing it. There are many elements under the spell and guidance of Fascism who naturally belong to the working class. The momentary discouragement arising from the failure of the revolutionary movement to seize power has driven them to the embrace of a capitalist military dictatorship. The small peasants, the exploited and crushed intellectuals, teachers, etc., must be

won away from the influence of Fascism. We must begin a militant campaign of education and propaganda, explaining the nature of Fascism. It must be exposed as an act of desperation of the sinking capitalist system which no longer trusts its own institutions and resorts to naked violence in order to retain control and power. It must be shown that, as in Italy, where agrarian capital stands in opposition to industrial capital, when in a moment of despair the two unite in struggle against the workers, dissolution must eventually take place, owing to the very antagonism between agrarian and industrial and financial capital.

Hence the struggle against Fascism is also an ideological one. The natural allies of the working class must be won over, or at least neutralized. This is essential for the estab-

lishment of the Workers' and Farmers' Government, which is the surest safeguard against Fascism.

Immediate measures must be taken, however, to combat the violent methods of the Fascists. In Germany, the most effective organization has been found in the "Factory Hundreds." All workers irrespective of party and trade union membership are formed into bodies of one hundred and put under military discipline. Although unarmed their very formation is the best protection against the Fascists. To protect their labor temples, presses, meetings, clubs, they carry on systematic propaganda against Fascism and by their solidarity convert the vacillating elements. The Communists must penetrate the farmers' organizations and bring them close to the Party and the trade unions. Solidarity of all working

people against the violent phase of the disintegrating capitalist system must be preached and cultivated.

As Fascism is an international phenomenon and is internationally organized, the workers and farmers must present international organization to fight against it. The workers of every country must support the workers of other countries where Fascism rules. The American workers, in particular, should fight for a boycott of all shipments of grain and coal to Italy. This will be the best help against Mussolini and his black-shirt gangs.

The thesis and address on Fascism was delivered by Comrade Zetkin, the "Grand Old Woman" of the Proletarian Revolution. Owing to an injury to her leg, she was unable to stand. Sitting in a gilt chair, once occupied by the czarina, Comrade

Zetkin, with the fire and eloquence of a young agitator, inflamed her audience, and made one wish that her ability and enthusiasm.

In the midst of the discussion Radek delivered an address that destined to remain as a brilliant star in the vast galaxy of speeches and writings of this brilliant thinker. "Schlageter, the Wanderer of the Void" was an episode of clear thinking couched in the language of a poet. The story of the young Fascist who thought he was serving the German fatherland by fighting first against Soviet Russia then again the workers in the Ruhr, to be shot down by French imperialism, the affair of Stinnes and his colleagues, who themselves are the patrons of German Fascism—is a lesson for the misguided.