

PROLETARIAN NEWS



WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT
YOUR CHAINS! YOU HAVE A WORLD
TO GAIN! — Karl Marx

A JOURNAL FOR THE WORKING CLASS

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NEW SOIL WHERE DOLLARS MAY GROW

By Christ Jelset

America's capacity to produce has been demonstrated during the war. American dollars have multiplied as never before. In 1929 American citizens had \$59 billion deposited in their banks. At the end of 1945 they had 150 billion of such deposits. The sum is growing. Predictions are that by the end of 1946 bank deposits shall have reached \$200 billion.

Dollars have been endowed with capacity to multiply. They are also supposed to circulate. If they fail in these functions they become idle and sterile. Idle dollars, not only fail to perform their assigned functions for their owners, they also cause industrial stagnation.

Not all the deposited dollars are idle. Through the functions of the banks, billions are invested in government bonds and multiply, although slowly, through interest payments. Other billions are invested in form of loans to the various private industrial and commercial undertakings of the nation. Other billions are in foreign investments and thus perform their assigned functions.

All such sums of money are said to be "employed." They perform their assigned tasks solely because of the power they have been granted to command the labor of millions of workers. If dollars are to grow and multiply, workers must produce new wealth; and the wealth thus produced must be available as increment to the dollars, or their owners, rather than going to the workers who produce it. This factor is usually overlooked, except that workers and owners of invested dollars have trouble agreeing upon the proper amount going to each. The present wave of strikes is an indication of how serious is this controversy.

But the vast and growing sum of deposited dollars, is not all thus employed. Growing billions are unemployed and need to be put in the harness. To find new fields of employment for idle dollars, or new fields for investments, is becoming a national problem, second to none. With money available for payments it should be no trouble assigning workers to the many

different tasks of opening new mines, building new factories, extending transportation facilities, or turning out new machinery. If making investments were that easy there would be few idle dollar and fewer idle men. As things stand, there must be a future possibility connected with all new industrial expansion, with all new dollar investments. There must be an available market, a cash demand, if you please, for the products of all new industrial expansion. Otherwise, the invested dollars would not only remain idle, they would constitute a waste for their owners.

Going to history for an example of what the investors are confronted with we can but look at the "boom" of the 1920ies where

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The Atomic Bomb-- A World Problem

The atomic bomb appears to have become one of the most important political problems in the world today. That it has had an effect on the international situation is very evident to all. This subject is on the minds of most every human being, scientists, statesmen, intellectuals as well as workers, all are concerned about the solution to this problem. The radio, the press, the pulpit, etc. have focused the attention of the people with solemn warnings that unless the atomic bomb is controlled the world is hell-bent for ultimate destruction. World peace or world suicide seems to be the theme of all the arguments, pro and con.

The atomic bomb is not the only obstacle toward world peace, even though it assumes so much importance in world affairs today. One

must remember that two world wars have broken the peace within less than a half century of the most civilized period in man's history. Lest we forget, it is well to jot down in our memories that this happened before the atomic bomb was discovered. In fact the latter came at the close of World War II. It is, however, an indisputable fact that for the imperialists the atomic bomb has complicated matters insofar as bringing about a durable peace, for two main reasons: first, because as the most lethal weapon of war everyone is aware of its destructive nature and, second, because at present the secret of its manufacture is monopolized by the most powerful nation in the world, namely the United States.

The question is still uppermost in the minds of many: what does America intend to do with its secret? Will she use it to advance her own interests as against other nations, i.e. as a sort of club to make the rest of the world do her bidding? Having been put on the spot by the atomic bomb, and queries concerning its future use, the United States assured the world that it regards the possession of this secret as a sacred trust and that, like the gentleman out a-courting, its intentions are honorable.

A brief glance, however, at the

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HOME SCENE

From Gripping to Demonstration

Individual griping has been known to prevail in the American Army quite a bit during the war. Yet it was tolerated as "one of those things." During the active combat period this mood was said to have even helped, in the sense of stimulating a greater hatred for the enemy. But when griping reaches mass proportions and becomes organized, that, when the war itself is over, is not so delectable a morsel. The high officers are dismayed at what borders on insubordination. The nation stands surprised. Congressional investigation has been urged.

In substance, what are the G.I.'s angry about? What are they spontaneously demonstrating against, all the way from Philippines, China, Korea and into Europe?

It is summed up in the New York Times of Jan. 13 as follows:

(1) That the Army had broken its "promise" to return all high-point soldiers as soon as shipping was available;

(2) That officers were getting almost all the comforts and luxuries while "sweating it out" overseas;

(3) That high ranking officers

were deliberately impeding demobilization in order to hold their rank and pay as long as possible. The War Department announcement on January 4 of a slow-down in the discharge rate was, according to the soldier view, the last straw.

The Times attempts a rationalization of the causes of discontent, attributing this breakdown in morale and discipline to "homesickness" and "a general post-war letdown and apathy." But that is only the truth in part. Of course, the boys "want to go home" to their families and civilian tasks. They feel that "their job" is done and see no reason for further detention. That "promises are made to be broken" is a practice lightly accepted in American politics. "That's politics." But it takes a grim war with all its hardship to seriously bring home the contradictions and dishonesty involved in the breaking of promises. Further they have fought in the sincere conviction for what they were told and thought, was democracy and liberation. The real imperialist designs behind the war are just commencing to dawn upon them,

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THE ATOMIC BOMB-- A WORLD PROBLEM

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international situation, from the time the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan in August of last year up to the present, is sufficient proof that America's actions belied her words of sacred assurance. Let us examine.

When Japan was defeated, World War II came to an end but with it many immediate problems came to the front. True enough even before the victory over Japan the Big Three had met at Potsdam, July 17-August 1, and had drawn up an agreement but it dealt mainly with defeated Germany, occupation, reparations, etc. Nevertheless a Council of Foreign Ministers was set up and was charged with drafting the peace treaties for submission to the United Nations. Potsdam marked the high point in Big Three relations.

Then shortly afterwards the world was startled by the dropping of the atomic bomb upon Japan. At first the United Nations were elated for it hastened the end of the war. But it wasn't long before this elation gave way to anxiety for the terrible weapon had only added another world problem to an international situation far from tranquil. The Big Three had still before them many unsettled issues concerning the Balkan nations, the Middle East and the Far East. The security aims of the Soviet Union depended upon the settlement of these issues but the interests of America and Britain were not in harmony with those of the Soviet Union. The New York Times, in its News of the Year in Review (Dec. 30, 1945), remarked that: "With Russia lacking the atomic bomb and the Western Allies possessing it, these issues as potential sources of conflict took on deeper significance." What the foregoing statement meant, in blunt language, is that America and Britain attempted to use the atomic bomb as a bargaining weapon against its "ally" the Soviet Union. As a result international relations cooled between the latter nation and the Western allies.

No spokesman of the capitalist press could remain silent on the atomic bomb and its effect upon future world peace. It has been said that the growing conflict of interests between Great Britain and America, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union on the other was excelled by the existence of the bomb. The failure of the London Council of Foreign Ministers was attributed to the same source.

An American periodical (Time, Oct. 8), stated: "When the giants came together at the ill-tempered, ill-prepared London Council of Foreign Ministers, each seemed to the other aggressively expansionist. The U. S. was stronger, so the Russians talked tougher."

According to this bourgeois journal, Molotov was supposed to have

said of Byrnes at a dinner party (one of the conference's few pleasant interludes): "He (Byrnes) doesn't need to persuade anyone. He just has to hold up a little bomb." A delegate who heard him was supposed to have remarked: "Mr. Molotov never makes jokes just to be funny." Time pointed out that undoubtedly Mr. Molotov did not think the atomic bomb was funny.

President Truman in his Navy Day speech assured the world that America's possession of the atomic bomb is no threat to any nation, that its possession had to be regarded as a "sacred trust." The statement satisfied no one except those who want to build and maintain U. S. military might. Suspicions are not wholly unfounded. In the very same speech the President said: "The atomic bomb does not alter the basic foreign policy of the United States." This basic policy is to maintain friendly relations with the rest of the world, but also to extend American business and American investments on a tremendously increased scale into all corners of the world. The peacefulness of that economic policy is still subject to serious questioning.

The British Conservatives, now the party of opposition, are finding fault with the "Labor" government. And the "Daily Express" demands: "Give the secret of the atomic bomb to Russia. A world committee of nations is the only safeguard against future war. It is absolutely wrong that one nation or two nations should control a weapon which might be capable of much conclusive destruction in war. The knowledge must be shared by those who fought together for a better world."

Russia itself had spoken its piece on this "secret" through Molotov, who said: "It is not possible at the present time for a technical secret of any great size to remain the exclusive possession of some one country or some narrow circle of countries." Previously he had assured the Russian people that they also will have the atomic bomb. Molotov furthermore declared that: "The discovery of atomic energy should not encourage either a propensity to exploit the discovery in the play of forces in international policy or an attitude of complacency as regards the future of the peace-loving nations. . . ." (The New Republic, Nov. 18) This was a direct warning, undoubtedly aimed at America.

One thing was most evident, namely, that the Soviet Union had to be reckoned with when it came to setting up international control of atomic energy. When The Big Three met again towards the close of the year 1945 (December 27) atomic energy was point one on the agenda and the nations agreed that it must be internationally con-

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investments were made in all directions, and which landed in the crash of 1929 when so much of the new equipment could not be employed for lack of a market.

As the domestic field for investment has proven inadequate to absorb the dollars seeking employment, the foreign field must be investigated. "There is where our new opportunity lies," we are told. Large sections of the world have been devastated by the war. These need rebuilding. Other large sections are industrially backward and need equipment for their economic advancement. America becomes the great benefactor. America must put the world on its feet. We must extend our "Good Neighbor Policy" to all nations. We must do it to create good will and world peace. And by doing it we shall put our idle dollars to work. Thus runs the new reasoning. Thus America sets out on its post-war career.

Several hindrances seem to block the road from the start. Others loom in the future. First of all, why should this have to become a national policy? The idle dollars are privately owned. They could be privately invested, as the owners see fit. Isn't "free enterprise" the superior method? It appears not, in this case.

After World War I, there was much private investment in foreign fields. Later, there was also much defaulting on interest payments. For one thing, the national policy of protection for home industry did not harmonize with the investors interest in allowing foreign products into the nation to service debts. Second, there was a bit of national reluctance in giving full protection to the foreign investors. Third, there appears to be a time-lag between the granting of loans and the period when servicing will be possible. Fourth, the undertakings need to be on a vast scale if the desired results are to materialize.

The new building programs in the different nations must be planned and coordinated if they

trolled if there is to be world peace. But pending the international set-up it was decided that the secret still remain within its present confines. The Big Three in that Moscow conference met in a friendlier atmosphere and, in addition to the above, agreed upon a four-power control commission for Japan and the drafting of European peace treaties by a five-power organization, for submission to a peace conference of the twenty-one allied nations. All seems to be "settled," but still hovering over the world is the shadow of the atomic bomb for it is yet to be determined how it is to be "internationally controlled." What

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are to achieve success. Fifth, Britishers, Frenchmen, and other nationals may have funds to invest, and agreements must be reached as to amounts allowed each if that permanent peace is to prevail. These and other reasons make it necessary for the government to be at least a partner in the undertaking.

Long before the war ended, American business realized that world trade and world business would be disorganized by the war. It was felt that just when an increase in world trade was needed the most, the world economic situation would be in no shape to permit its even flow. Thus the Bretton Woods Agreements were consummated, making most United Nations partners in a world financial scheme. Now it is claimed that Great Britain and other friendly nations are not in a position to live up to the Bretton Woods Agreements, unless they first receive U. S. assistance.

A loan to Great Britain, amounting to 3 billion, 750 million dollars, has been arranged by the financial experts, but it must first be approved by Congress. The loan agreement stipulated a five-year period, with no interest and after that, two per cent to be paid when able. The loan—like all dollar loans—is to be spent in America, particularly to reequip British industry. This is to enable Great Britain to again produce for the foreign market, making it possible for that nation to obtain its needed supplies of food and raw materials and also to service the huge credits now held against it.

American investors are anxious to have the loan ratified by Congress, not because of direct interest returns, which will be small, but because of other concessions Great Britain had to make. Such concessions pertain mainly to a lessening of British restriction against American trade in British dominion nations. There will be strong opposition to the loan in Congress, but it is hoped by the administration, and the investors, that enough support can be mustered for its passage.

After Great Britain has thus been taken care of it is expected that similar loans will be extended to other nations, France, Poland, Greece, etc. Of course, it will be necessary before the granting of any such loans to see that the respective nations have the proper form of "democratic" governments, the sort of governments which will give due respect to the rights of private property and investments. Thus the loans will have a political purpose as well as providing purchasing power for American production.

It might be added, as an afterthought, that if the loans go through and the nations involved become stabilized, private invest-

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ors can follow up the loans with much commercial credit and investment of more idle dollars. It must be noted, however, that most such nations stand in immediate need of rehabilitation equipment. The loans will thus provide an outlet for American manufacture at a time when shortages at home await to be supplied.

At a later period, when the five year grace has expired, and the loans are to start paying off, it might again be a question of what America can take in payment. If we look back once more to the operation of former loans, to the time when "good, honest little Finland" was the only nation which paid its debt obligations, we find that Finland was the only debtor nation permitted to sell more goods in America than it bought here. This left a favorable balance of trade, and, with it, the possibility of making payments.

As America and its investors survey the world for possible spheres of future "help," the Middle East seems to draw attention. We are told that those who toy with the possibilities of the Middle East show a "glint of unexpressed excitement." They dream of untold possibilities of the Arab market. They speak of "a fountain pen in every cloak, airconditioning in every tent, short wave radios and refrigerators for the pashas and beys." They hope to sell vacuum cleaners and electric irons. There is a call for American cars. Tractors and other agricultural machinery are in demand. They want airplanes in Egypt and industrial machinery in Palestine. The demand is there, both real and potential. It is almost unlimited. There is one obstacle, they lack dollars.

They have very little money, but what they have is tied to the British pound sterling. Will the loan to Great Britain cause that nation to release its hold on the Middle East purse strings? Will a loan direct to that section of the world provide it with American purchasing power. These would be temporary benefits, we are told. But, more important, *the Middle East has oil*, and plenty of it. American dollars can be used in its development.

Already American oil companies are in the field, some in cooperation with the British, others independently. An oil concession in the independent sheikdom of Bahrien on the Persian gulf, is owned half by the Texas Company and half by Standard Oil of California. These companies are also reported to own the sole right to exploit the oil resources of Saudi Arabia under the name of the American Arabian Oil Company. A proposed refinery in Tripoli is to involve an investment of 20 million dollars. At Ros Tenura on the Persian gulf, a refinery project is em-

ploying 7000 native workers.

Royalties to native rulers are, roughly, one dollar a barrel. Millions of barrels of oil extracted will mean millions of American dollars for the Arabs and, consequently, dollars available for American products.

Aviation can be developed with more American dollars invested, and the work is on the way. We are told that "already the Payne field, Cairo, is the finest east of New York," and landing fields have been prepared from Casablanca to Ankara and the Persian Gulf. Banking in the area is as yet in British hands but possibilities are seen for Americans to come in.

Oh yes! They are finding employment for idle American dollars. As to its beneficial effects upon the world peace, and good will, there might be doubts. The British are reluctant to give up any of what they have for long considered their sphere of operation. The French might again be wanting their share.

Most important of all is the native population. Keeping in mind that no money will multiply without some workers sweating in production, we shall find, here as elsewhere, with foreign investments that the natives will see their national resources exploited, their own hands and bodies grimed in the operation and the main benefits going into the pockets of foreign parasites.

This time there are to be no crudities, we are told. The old line of colonial exploitation is at an end. Now the benefits must largely go back to the natives in the form of higher standards of living, educational facilities, etc. They have practiced that at home until we have—the strike situation of today. It will work less smoothly in the foreign field.

The awakening political consciousness of native populations in many sections of the world today indicates how unwelcome will be the future extension of financial "aid" from America. This is nothing for American labor to cry over. The coming unemployment periods will be blamed in part on the unsettled conditions of the rest of the world. Labor will be told to wait, to be patient, to join the army, to do all and sundry things to help bring back peace and tranquility.

Once American labor learns that it can only enjoy the dubious security of a job as long as it is willing to support the further extension of American exploitation into foreign fields it will not for long give support to such a program. The billions of idle dollars vainly seeking new fields for exploitation, is but another indicator that the days of exploitation are coming to a close. The new era of peace will not come through extension of exploitation but through its abolition.

HOME SCENE

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as a result of their own experiences. They see no need for policing the Philippines especially if the latter is slated soon for independence; nor for interference in the internal affairs of China, an ally. Everywhere they see themselves made the tools for strangulating popular movements. That "changing international situation" to which Lt. Gen. Styer ascribed the changed schedule in redeployment can only mean one thing to the thinking G. I., i.e. that he is slated for the role of the world's policeman. That, he feels, he hasn't bargained for, nor has any stomach for.

These demonstrations are a symptom of war weariness and a hatred for all that goes with it. In their resentments against what they term the "officer-caste system," with special privileges in food, living quarters, private toilets and other comforts, while the G. I.'s are "sweating it out," they are protesting against class distinction.

One other factor, and a very important one, is the growing uncertainty over job-finding possibilities. The fear is commencing to prey upon the G. I. mind that the longer he is away from home the further he is away from a job. Some of them still have lingering memories of the terrible jobless thirties.

In essence, these mass protests reflect in the military field the general trend in the civilian economy proper. The post-war has brought little harmony or prosperity. The antagonisms of capitalist imperialism are flying at each other. Labor and capital are at grips everywhere. The workers are protesting through strikes against the power of class privilege to force their living standards downward. The soldiers, too, in their own way, are becoming more articulate against upper class politics and injustices.

The high army officers have in the main, come out against these demonstrations, calling them "mutiny" and "demoralization." The captains of industry at home take a similar attitude towards striking workers.

From a working-class viewpoint, any rank and file action taken up in defense of its elementary rights is perfectly justifiable. Experience will teach them, in due time, to take up the struggle for more advanced rights.

* * *

From Apple-Selling to Chicken-Raising

Anxious to avoid the deleterious effects of the apple-selling days following World War I the government is now tackling the soldier problem in more organized fashion. Through its G. I. bill of rights it helps to finance the education of many veterans, who seek to become specialists of one sort or another. The institutions and colleges are now filled. For the

time being the problem of rehabilitation is eased or rather postponed. What will happen when the training period is over is not hard to conjecture. Industry, commerce and the professions will be flooded with more specialists than they are capable of using. Furious competition for jobs will follow, between civilian specialists and veterans. Superfluous hand and brain workers will be on hand. Low wages and unemployment will stalk everywhere,

Now it is reported that many veterans desire, and will be encouraged by the government, to go in for chicken-raising "to get away from it all." This too sounds like progress over apple-selling in streets. And surely everyone loves to eat chicken! At last we can visualize the day when there will be "a chicken in every pot!"

Coincidentally, this "bright" idea is also the dream (or delusion) of many an industrial worker. Growing older, stiff-jointed and unable to stand the nervous-rack and speedup, he too is day-dreaming that some day he'll get himself a little farm to retire to, for a quieter life, raise some chickens and a few pigs, perhaps.

By the talk of things the chicken industry is in for quite a heavy social responsibility — in solving everybody's economic problem.

The farmers haven't yet been heard from. But if, and when, more chickens are raised than what the market can absorb with a profit; when the old law of overproduction sets in, and chicken prices drop below even the cost of production, threatening them with bankruptcy, their howl is sure to drown out even the cackling of the fowl.

We doubt very much that this is the answer to the soldiers or workers prayer.

* * *

It Pays to Advertise

That it pays to advertise is an acknowledged business practice proven to be highly remunerative. Millions of dollars are daily expended by big corporation capital to popularize through press and radio given brands of commodities, cigarettes, cereals, soaps and suds of all kinds, so that Mr. and Mrs. America, every man, woman and child automatically reacts in the purchase of their wants. Advertising, practiced universally in capitalist countries, is developed highest in America. They call this good business psychology—to sell ideas to the public.

Of late, with the developing strike situation, this practice of advertising has been extended beyond that of selling products and into the domain of capital and labor relations. Full page ads in the form of statements by G. E., G. M. and others have appeared in the press, presenting management's side of the story. Facts are offered to show the danger of "higher wages leading to inflation"; that

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The Crime Wave

It is now sometime since the great slaughter officially stopped. We are now supposed to be in the post-war period of peace and prosperity, the period in which all the good things promised by the politicians and publicists of the war years were to be showered upon us. The gateway to the "four freedoms" is now wide open, but there seems to be something wrong on the "home front." The war may be over, "over there," but it is taking different shape over here.

There may not be so many uniformed men in the streets, or at least not the same kind of uniforms. The old lines are now the picket-lines. Battalions of police with their weapons of class-war, including tear-gas, are "doing their duty." They are fighting to keep open the gateway of "free enterprise," the unorganized labor-power market. The right to work, at starvation wages, must be defended.

This effort is going to use up a lot of police power, especially at a time when a wave of crime is sweeping the country, for is it not contended that strong and efficient police forces are the frustrators of crime? Many brutal murders have been perpetrated during the war years, and they seem to be increasing since the advent of peace.

Robbery, rape and other crimes of violence, have become shockingly common. The "good people," including the gentlemen of the cloth, are proclaiming it to be the result of the "let-down" in our standards of morality, the semi-nudity of the movies and the loose talk over the radio. There are too many taverns and not enough churches, they assert. We believe that the churches had the people first. Why were they unable to hold them, to keep them away from the bottled spirits? Were their brands of spirits too weak? Or, are they just "passing the buck" to try hide their share in the general failure of the "free enterprise" system?

Failure, may be rather a mild term for it. The "brave new world," so eloquently heralded to follow V-E Day and V-J Day, is now unfolding and it is not very pretty. Some of its apostles are vexed and disappointed. We are not. In fact, we are not at all surprised. Even the "good book" warns that those who sow the wind should expect to reap the whirlwind. (Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki and those little pineapples which were dropped by the most advanced Christian nation of the world.) But it was only in the interest of ushering in this "brave new world," and it had the approval of the leading politicians, and the blessing of the clergy.

The respectable official spokesmen of the present social order, who so loudly lament the crime wave, don't seem to connect it at all with the war. Of course, the war is not the only cause. There have been crime waves in the piping times of peace. The war uprooted large numbers of people from their regular routine of life. Boys and girls were drawn from school, the playground, the quietness of home surroundings, and forced to live in camps, trained to use deadly weapons and exposed to unspeakable horrors. Most of them underwent a transformation. The surprising thing is that so many were able to retain their balance. A considerable number did not. They have become

calloused and hardened, if not actually brutalized.

Several years of working, night and day, on "production for destruction," has also had its effects upon large sections of the civil population. On all hands, war and killing have been glorified. War propaganda was prolific. Large numbers of young people came under its spell. But, as someone has said: "Crime marches on," and all the super-duper "crime-detecting experts," with their extensive and intensive scientific apparatus, "Lie-detectors," fingerprints, etc., seem quite incapable of stemming the wave of crime, let alone causing it to subside. The suppression of crime is one thing, its prevention is something else again. This latter calls for drastic changes which official society resists because it would upset the rule of the rich.

Police forces can be increased. The cops' clubs can be made heavier and harder. They can be instructed to shoot first and inquire afterwards (a not infrequent practice). The courts can impose heavier sentences, and the prisons can be made bigger and stronger, but all of that will not prevent crime if the causes, the social forces which produce the criminal, remain and are on the increase.

Criminality is the "natural" outcome of the "free enterprise" system, which some people are so proud of. Since the bulk of all crime is of an economic nature, violation of property laws, that should be plain enough. Even crimes of violence can usually be traced to an economic motive. But official society, the "educated" people of the nation, look everywhere else for an explanation of that major phase of "the American way of life," criminality. They look for bumps on the heads of the criminals, or corns on their feet, to "inborn depravity," spots on the sun, etc., rather than to the simple fact that wealth has been so monopolized by a few, and is a big temptation to the poor, most of whom are honest and prefer to starve quietly, but an increasing number take what they regard as the easiest and quickest way to get possession of the good things of life.

The embryonic criminal may begin with petty larceny and, if he appears to get away with it, may come to believe himself clever enough to go in for grand larceny. And, for many of them, it is a grand mistake. But wealth increases in volume and in fewer hands, while the poor get poorer and increase numerically. If this general trend could be reversed, which it can't under the "free enterprise" system (capitalism), crime would diminish. As things are, it will increase with the intensification of the economic struggle for existence which the wage system imposes.

This post-war wave of crime is not confined to America. Wherever poverty has increased, crime has increased. The British ruling class has always boasted about its "law abiding" people. The following appears in *The Sphere* (London, Dec. 22, 1945): "The post-war 'crime wave' might well have been foreseen and prepared for by a government less preoccupied with winning the war and preparing for demobilization and reconstruction." * * * If any officials of Home Office or Scotland Yard read history, study records or visit the gloomy, dingy crimes museum at 'the Yard,' the present wave of crime was clearly to be seen rolling towards the shore."

After commenting upon the war's effect upon moral standards, the article in *The Sphere* continues: "Ordinary morality and common standards of decency have been rocked and overturned. Petty larceny, and grand, is common everywhere. The railways, the Post Office, the hotels, all tell the same tale. *Nothing* is safe. And the rural magistrate has long since seen the same revolt against honesty, decency and even humanity in the village, and among persons of both sexes. To prepare well in advance for the inevitable crime-wave was a glaring

and burning duty, with precedence over any form of reconstruction. For what is the use to rebuild new barns on rotted, rat-infested, lousy and crooked foundations? Today we are (what we have seldom been called in our history) a dishonest, pilfering race—it is proved every day by clear evidence."

What *The Sphere* article failed to observe is that the "rotted, rat-infested, lousy and crooked foundations," are those of capitalism. That is certainly no foundation upon which to erect a new structure. And, incidentally, that is just what the British Labor government is now trying to do. The old rubbish, including its crooked foundation, must be swept away before a sound new social system can be established.

In Austria, a country which once had a reputation for its peaceful and jovial inhabitants, internal conflicts and the great war have brought about chronic poverty and much crime. Joseph Kalmer, writing on "New—Old Austria," in *The Central European Observer*, Dec. 14, 1945 (London), says: "Perhaps it is too early to say how the police force is to be transformed: at present it is unable to cope with the wave of crime which is sweeping the country—40 murders and 1,500 other crimes are committed every week."

Peaceful little Austria, in the very cockpit of Europe, is feeling the full force of defeat. It had a population of approximately seven millions, but probably has much less now. Armed forces of occupation upon its soil are said to number close to a million—600,000 Russians and 400,000 British, Americans and French. The "guarantees" of the democratic war mongers — "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear"—still seem to be no more than politicians' promises.

America's crime wave has drawn strength from the war and its aftermath, with its promise of "the old job back," a promise which, in the main, could not be kept, even if it was so intended, and also from the insecurity and suffering that confronts large numbers of people, plus the vulgar display of excessive wealth in the hands of the rich.

Criminals are not "born." They are made. It is the social conditions which bring them into being. With a few "economic royalists" of great wealth at the top and a mass of economic paupers at the bottom of America's "free enterprise" system, it is little wonder that social problems arise, including crime waves.

As we are at it, let us look at a new category of "crime." Let us look at the "war criminal." World War II gave birth to this new species of "criminal." Of course, this specimen is only to be found on the losing side. Although the workers suffered most in the great war, the issue of the "war criminal" is not a working class problem.

In the main, those on trial are the rival generals and politicians of the defeated "free enterprise" nations, plus some of their small-fry lackeys and social scavengers. A few capitalists, not many, may be included for good measure.

As the war was a struggle between rival national groups of capitalist imperialists (with the exception of the Soviet Union), and resulted in victory for one set of the imperialists over their competitors, it is the victorious imperialists who are staging the "war crimes trials."

If the "good imperialists" are putting "bad imperialists" on trial for "war guilt," for atrocities, it is but an internal quarrel among the financial and monopoly-capitalists themselves. Whatever happens to that lot of rubbish now on trial is nothing for workers to worry about. But, we should understand that "war guilt" is not confined to defeated nations, and war can be just as disastrous for the masses if the "rules of civilized warfare" are strictly observed by both sides. Capital-

ism, as a whole, speaking socially, is the real "war criminal." Only the working class can put that on trial and pass sentence of death upon it, and the sooner the better.

Crime on the American home front, as in Britain and Austria, which we used as illustrations, was plentiful enough before the war. The strain of the long struggle and post-war conditions have caused it to greatly increase in volume.

Because of the deepening of the gulf which separates rich from poor, between the producers and the appropriators, crime will continue to grow. Crime marches on. It, like war and other horrors of this system, can only be eliminated when the system itself is eliminated. To end crime and war, that which lies at the root of both, the profit system, the exploitation of labor by capital, must be abolished.

Strike -- What For?

In less than a year's time after the closing of the great conflict, the older and greater war, the struggle between capital and labor, looms larger and takes on a militant attitude in many countries.

Of all the nations engaged, America came through the war with probably the least losses. But no sooner is the "peace" period entered than large numbers are forced by circumstances to engage in industrial warfare. More than a million workers, closer to two millions, are now on strike. It is the largest strike in American history. Although it may not be the most important, nor have the greatest social outcome it has other characteristics. It involves politics to a greater extent, and by raising the profit issue it comes closer to the vortex of the problem, the question of ownership and management.

There is a good reason for this great strike wave, a "natural" reason. The cost of living has gone up beyond the increase in wages. The living standards of labor have been lowered. It is admitted on all sides. The employers agree that the workers should have more, but not as much as labor is asking for. The issue may be

compromised and the strikes brought to an end. But such a settlement will settle nothing, if six months later the cost of living has again advanced, nullifying the gains made.

The question of profits, of ability to pay increased wages, has been very much injected into the present conflict. If the workers were demanding higher wages purely upon the basis that the capitalists have funds and can afford to pay, as some enemies of labor are contending, even then, what is wrong with such a proposition? Where do the capitalists get their funds? Did they get them from Santa Claus, or out of the sweat and toil of the workers?

That most workers, so far, are even willing to recognize the right of one class to appropriate as much as a dollar from the social labors of the workers is the main shortcoming of labor.

The old theory that, with the passage of time, labor and capital would get closer together economically, and that they would be able to work out agreements to their mutual advantage is utterly false. As a matter of fact, capital and labor drifts further apart, and of necessity must, because of the following facts.

First, there is the general nature of capitalism. We mean its competitive character. The industrialist, upon penalty of elimination, must continually improve his machinery and the process in general. This results not only in greater output but in an ever widening margin between wages and the value of the product. The *surplus value*, left in the hands of the employer steadily increases, as a result of the improvements.

Thus, economically, the workers and the capitalists are driven further apart by the industrial process itself. The workers as a class become more and more dependent upon the capitalists for jobs. They have less and less of their own. An increasing number have to live in rented homes, fewer own their homes. The continual increase in national wealth gives the capitalists more and the workers less. Security for labor becomes more precarious. Larger numbers become paupers of various sorts. Over a long period there is more joblessness. What workers may be able to save

in "good" times (and many never can save) is quickly used up during depressed periods.

Politically, too, while capital and labor seem to be together because the workers usually support the parties of the business class, the Democrats and Republicans, they are actually moving further apart. They are more restricted, more regimented and repressed. Through various laws, sometimes represented as for the workers' benefit, such as "Social Security" which makes capitalism, not the workers, more secure. The workers are tagged and numbered. Capitalism pries more into their personal affairs. Their food, shelter and clothing are regulated, more and more doled out, and in more restricted quantities.

Side by side with this there is a tremendous increase in the number of official and unofficial snoopers. Police forces and political job holders of all sorts are on the increase, and all in the interest of the property owners. The "public power of coercion," the state, is greatly strengthened. This more and more ties the workers hand and foot, and gives the capitalists greater control over the lives of their exploited wage slaves.

That the workers are striking against this process which forces them to work harder and faster while the purchasing power of their earnings falls, is at the bottom of the strike struggle, also something else which, as yet, the worker only feels, the greater political regimentation and class repression.

That is why labor is striking. It is for greater security. It is aimed at all the pushing around which the workers have been subjected to on the job and elsewhere. It is a protest against this growing repression and a demand for a greater share of the good things of life which their social labors produce. That is what the strikes are for.

John Keracher.

The number on wrapper opposite your name shows the last issue for which you have paid.

This issue is No. 155. Remit early. Postage stamps are acceptable.

DOES CRIME 'PAY'?

A little "tow-headed" girl plays her childish games in a dirty, cluttered back yard. Her little body strives in vain to absorb energizing oxygen from the foul air, and her little face, pale for the lack of the sunshine which cannot penetrate the smoke pall, is a fit setting for a pair of large lusterless eyes. Eyes that look out with only mild interest upon the drab, sunless ugliness of her America—a typical back-of-the-factory district.

No awareness here of the great, rich, powerful America; the America of wealth and beauty; the America of the professional patriot and promise-bearing capitalist politician. Here there is only the eternal struggle of the worker to survive and perpetuate his kind. A struggle to make the contents of pay envelopes meet the actual needs of a family; a struggle for a bit of air, a ray of sunshine, sufficient food and needed shelter. No indication here of that nation so rich in words of self-praise; so rich in arms as well as in the cultural gleanings from other lands—for this is only the

America of the workers. Days, weeks and months go by, and then, like a bolt from the blue—a blue that has always been only a dirty grey—tragedy strikes. For, one day a little girl fails to come in from her out-door play. Her parents become worried and then frantic. The police are called and a search gets under way. In due course a body is found—the body of a little "tow-headed" girl—the victim of a murderous fiend, say the police.

The formidable machinery of capitalist justice swings into action, and the yellow press prepares for a field holiday. Editors, with an eye to the sale of advertising space, skilfully dole out bits of gruesome "information" to readers. Advertisers buy more space in an effort to coax more customers away from competitors, as each issue reaches new readers, by dwelling more fully on the gastly, pitiful details. The Mayor, not to be forgotten in the bustle, asks for a larger police force. The churches offer prayers for the soul of the dead; the feelings of the living and for the hope of a

better world to come—and get advertising free. Newspaper profits jump; advertisers get more business and the Mayor and the churches get much free publicity. It has been a good business week.

Meantime, workers, striking so they may raise their own children in safer and more healthful surroundings, find their picket lines unmolested by police as the pack goes into full cry on the trail of a child killer; but not for long. When the most convenient, and financially helpless, suspects have been browbeaten, grilled and fried in the juice of "public indignation," then they will be back. Back to browbeating, intimidating and slugging workers into submission to industrial masters; back to aid in keeping wages down and profits up; to aid in fostering poverty in which more crime can breed, and more tragedy and misery ensue. When the initial distraction incidental to violent crime has subsided, then the cop—the valiant blue-clad gladiator—again enters the arena of the class struggle for the edification and profit of the master, the capitalist class. "His not to question why; his but to do and die" in the best traditions of "service." His merely the task of applying the salve of capitalist law

to the festering sores on the body of a sick and ailing social system now rapidly approaching the stage of senile decay. His work, like that of Dr. President and the Congressional hospital staff, has just begun for social systems like human bodies, decline in vitality with age, grow more susceptible to the destructive germs that lie in wait, and finally yield to the ultimate master—death.

Much has been said and written on the subject of the cause of both crime and strikes, and opinions on these subjects are both plentiful and cheap. Wall Street, however, which quotes prices on almost everything salable, has, so far, failed to list a stock of public opinion on the subject, from which we infer that the generally accepted opinions which appear in the capitalist press are entirely without value. In order that this lack of valid opinion on this vital subject may not continue we should like to suggest consideration of the scientific socialist solution for both crime and strikes; a solution which has proven singularly successful in Russia, and since human nature "does not vary, and cannot be changed," should prove equally successful here.

A. N.

War -- Its Origin and Outcome

There are innumerable explanations of the causes of war. Among these are the contention that it is, "The expression of man's pugnastic nature," or the result of sin in the world, or that certain nations are by nature more war-like, and are described as "warring nations" and, of course, other are "peace loving" nations, and that wars have always been and are due to selfishness of human nature etc. Shelley, the poet, described wars as "the earthquakes of humanity."

Most people believe that there has always been wars but, contrary to popular prejudice in that relation, investigation reveals that during man's existence there was a long period in which there were no wars.

Early society was based upon community of property and wars were non-existent. This was the type of society which preceded Civilization. During the period of Savagery, and much of the period of Barbarism there was no basis for war, as we understand that term. Going further back we find that war did not exist among the animals, or highly developed primates.

It was only when private property was introduced, in the higher stages of Barbarism, that wars originated. The first "wars" were merely cattle raids, among the pastoral peoples. That is, the private ownership of cattle sowed the seeds of war and it laid the basis for building society with class divisions, owners and slaves. To quote from Emanuel Kanter's "Evolution of War," page 22: "The division of society into the property owners and the property-less gradually developed; which division Civilization organized through the mechanism of the State and legalized by means of written codes of law. Then war was born."

"The passion for private property, that was quickened by the introduction of the private ownership of flocks and herds, received further stimulus from the fact that Slavery for the first time became economically possible." . . . "The seeds of private property sown by the pastoral tribes of Barbarism had flowered into murder, slavery and war."

And, to quote from Frederick Engels' "Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State" (page 216—Kerr edition): "Exploitation of one class by another being the basis of civilization, its whole development involves a continual contradiction." We make another quotation from Kanter (page 23): "This contradiction finds its expression in the wars and revolutions of the three phases of Civilization; Slave, Feudal and Capitalist."

We Marxists recognize wars as the struggle of the property owners for protection of their own property or as means of "legally" acquiring property of others. That

we have had wars continually since the beginning of Civilization is an indisputed fact. As mentioned above, this "continual contradiction" between the classes in society expresses itself during "peace time" by struggles between master and slave, feudal lord and serf, capitalist and wage worker. We mean the "war" between the ruling classes and the oppressed classes.

War, as such, is a struggle between the various groups of property owners, that is, those located in one section of the world, with the property owners of another section, between those sections (or parts of the world) having historically developed into nations.

The most peculiar characteristic of these wars is the fact that the oppressed classes in each of these nations have performed the acts of war for the benefit of their masters, under the disguise of patriotism or love of country. Of course, this incessant struggle is a complicated affair under capitalism. It is a struggle between capitalists and proletarians in each nation, and the struggle between the different national groups of capitalists within each country. There is a struggle within the nations for home markets, and then an overreaching of national boundaries for foreign markets. Then the struggle between the various nations for control of the foreign markets, or control of the world markets.

The capitalists of the world cannot agree, because all want the "lion's share," and war is resorted to, to decide the issue, to determine which is the "lion." And then is the proper time to give the additional dose of medicine, patriotism to the exploited classes in each of these "peace loving" nations. The workers fight to protect the property interests of their masters, expressed in slightly different terms "For God and Country."

The oppressed masses have just experienced an excellent illustration of the rewards for their participation in their masters' wars. In the defeated nations, the workers' reward are hunger and starvation. In the victorious nations, it is a reduction of their wages, for some and unemployment for others.

How then can wars be eliminated from society? We Marxists, in the words of Kanter, "Analyze Civilization and especially Capitalism, its final phase: and finding that private property is the root of all wars, we set out to educate and organize for its destruction."

"What, then, does the Marxist postulate? It is this, that Capitalist civilization must be destroyed by proletarian revolution, for the purpose of transforming the private property of the former into the common property of *Socialist Society*. It is only on this basis that war can be gradually eliminated, for competition between clas-

HOME SCENE

(Continued from page 3)

the "added burden will ultimately fall upon the 'public';" that labor's demands are unreasonable and out of all proportion; that labor is better off than it has ever been, etc.

In analysing these ads we find the facts unrelated, the economic reasoning, of a very common vulgar variety, cleverly concocted to confuse and intimidate the average reader, including the strikers themselves. What it presents is capital's side of the story.

You Have to Pay to Advertise

Labor's side gets less public hearing. Why? Because it cannot afford to compete with management when it comes to cash. Its income, or wage, is usually consumed weekly on necessities. What-accumulated funds there are in the union treasury hardly suffices to tide over any sort of a prolonged strike.

With very few exceptions, the press and radio, editorial comments and commentators, express in no uncertain terms anti-labor sentiments.

Press Freedom a Sham

Despite all pretences to formal press freedom and equality, in reality capital enjoys a position of vantage. It alone is able to pay for and foist its opinions as facts for everyone's consideration. Labor should see through this one-sided

ses and nations then vanishes. With the change from production for sale and profit to production for use the hours of labor are gradually reduced. Man, now in possession of sufficient leisure, educates and improves himself. For the first time in the history of the race he steps forth as a human being, free from poverty, disease, ignorance and war. It is then discovered that he is no longer Civilized, that Civilization, the most cruel phase of human development has vanished from the earth."

The socializing of the means of production, the abolition of exploitation of labor for profit, will provide a basis for universal peace. With competition for markets, home and foreign, for sources of raw materials, trade routes and spheres of capitalist investment, eliminated, in other words, society rendered classless, the world will become warless.

Len Johnson.

STRIKE 'SETTLEMENT'

That the capitalists of America recognized that the strike "settlement" is very favorable to them, that the workers settled cheaply, was promptly demonstrated in a stock market boom. Stocks in general advanced one billion and a half dollars, on Monday, January 28th, the first market day after the "settlement." And why not? What are workers for, except to make profits for capitalists.

equality. These ads represent none other than the ideas and class interest of the bosses.

They should be regarded as so much overstatement with little or no foundation. Workers need no better guidance than their own experiences and labor theory.

Strike Facts

The present strike wave, in scope, is reminiscent of the one in 1937. Now, as then, it is a national issue. In 1937 the sit-down tactic characterized and electrified the strike situation. Today the singleness of purpose characterizes the unions actions. Then union recognition and the struggle for the 40-hour week was tied with the demand for a general increase in wages. Today the slogan of 52 for 40 hours pay best typifies labor's demand.

The tremendous speedup and increased productive output during the war now carried over, weighs heavily on labor. The workers graciously accepted the load, and self-imposed restrictions, during the war for what they thought was the welfare of the nation as a whole. That emergency has passed and, also the excuses. The wolf cry has now a hollow ring. Tired of further waiting for the capitalists to "pay up" voluntarily (as if they ever do), labor is compelled to strike to enforce its demand for a wage ~~that will balance~~ the cut in take-home pay. The high cost of living makes that a necessity. To be short-changed in both take-home pay and rising prices, is a double cut for labor. Promises for better days after re-conversion remain only promises, which the grocer and landlord just won't accept. The "by and by" stuff won't get labor by.

It is against this background and cold economic facts that labor was forced to act. Industry after industry have been affected. Yet capital is adamant and shows little disposition to even compromise. Instead, a deaf ear and a stone heart is turned toward labor. Sitting pretty with built up reserves and tax kick-backs due, capital can afford to wait and feels mighty confident in the event of a show-down. Now, it feels, is the opportune moment to weaken if not entirely destroy labor union action, an ever bosom-motive of capital.

With all their claims to magnanimity, philanthropy and charity, these pious industrial gentry get awful crummy when it comes to paying workers. Good sound business, to them, means to pay as little as possible for things bought, especially labor-power. That is the quintessence of free enterprise.

Fact-finding is the government's proposed solution for strikes. But, in point of fact, what this will amount to is a stalling of strikes into defeat.

Labor needs no new facts. It knows what it's getting, and that is not enough.

L. B.

The Housing Shortage

By Lewis R. Schultz

The nation's press exploded recently with the startling news that there is an acute housing shortage in America. The explosion occurred, not as the result of any sudden ruling class compassion for the homeless, but because sections of the ruling class itself (i.e., the petty bourgeoisie) found themselves affected by the shortage.

Time, a Morgan organ, viewed the nation's prospects for 1946 in general as a "primrose path," and likened the economy to "a great waterwheel gushing out money," but admitted that there were "mantraps" ahead, and termed housing "Mantrap No. 1." (Jan. 7, 1946.)

The present housing crisis consists in the fact that there has been an intensification of a chronic problem. A great influx of people into the already crowded urban industrial areas during the war, an increase of 8,000,000 in the population in five years, and a grossly inadequate program of home-building, both before and during the war, have all been contributing factors. There has always been a housing shortage for the working class, in the sense that its dwellings have ever been squalid, unhealthy and overcrowded. This shortage is a chronic one. Inadequate housing has been the lot of all oppressed classes in all stages of historical development, and is not peculiar to the modern proletariat: Its elimination as a problem presupposes the abolition of oppression in its final form, the capitalist mode of production.

It is estimated that America needs 16,000,000 new housing units in urban areas alone. In 1942, the peak year, only 937,000 units were constructed, thus it will take seventeen years at the boom rate to achieve this goal. By that time most of the other homes in America would have collapsed of old age.

8,000,000 American dwellings are beyond repair; another 4,600,000 are in bad condition (the figures are for urban areas alone). Urban plumbing is not to be mentioned when eulogizing the so-called "American standard of living:" 32 per cent of the homes are without private baths. For, roughly, 45,000,000 Americans, therefore, cleanliness ceases to be "next to godliness." It is next to impossible.

American homes are still built in a primitive fashion, by hand, outdoors, slowly and inefficiently, just as they were in early colonial times. The building industry has not been sufficiently affected by the industrial revolution.

Meanwhile, people are living in tents, trucks, trailers and other make-shift dwellings. Practically nothing is currently being done to alleviate the shortage. Nor will anything much be done. The government has taken cognizance of

the situation in but hypocritical fashion. President Truman appointed a man named Wyatt as "expediter," to take charge of a building program which is still nebulous. Wyatt told newsmen that he was confident he could cope with the crisis; the solution of which appeared to his myopic vision to lie in the temporary housing of some veterans.

Two bills, dealing with the housing shortage, are before Congress (1) the Patman Bill, and (2) the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill. The former would set ceiling prices on homes, allocate critical materials on priority to veterans; the latter would start a program of housing research, ease F. H. A. credit terms giving borrowers 32 years to pay (by the time the house was paid for in full, it would probably be ready to crumble to pieces), and would encourage private building as well as federally-assisted slum clearance. These bills, if passed at all, will only become law in a form attractive to the building capitalists.

On December 17 and 18, the government held a conference on home construction. Naive people thought that some solution of the housing problem would be forthcoming. Representatives of government, industry and labor were present. The building capitalists demanded that price and rent controls be removed. Building labor demanded that wages be raised (wages in the industry are notoriously low and the work seasonal). A representative of the bankers announced that the banks had a reserve fund of 20 billion dollars and were willing to lend. The government, through John Small, Civilian Production Administrator urged industry to confine its building to homes (knowing full well that with the war over and many of the stops out, the building capitalists would consider only the more profitable outlets for their capital—and low-cost housing is not one of them). The two days of doubletalk yielded the authorization of the appointment of two committees, one to "take the heat off the building industry," and the other to consult on a program of priorities!

It was finally announced, that on Jan. 15, the Federal Housing Administration was going to allocate 50 per cent of the critical building materials on a priority basis, to dealers for the construction of homes costing \$10,000 or less. O. P. A. officials estimated that 80 per cent of these homes would sell for from \$8,000 to \$10,000, a price beyond the reach of the overwhelming majority of the American people. This, then, is the substance of what is being done to alleviate the housing shortage. Probably no more than 400,000 homes will be erected in the U. S. during 1946—a drop in a

pail of water.

Experts admit that nothing much will be done to ease the situation for about three years. In the meantime, American workers are urged to "double up." Homes will be built for individual petty-bourgeois who can afford to pay \$10,000 but not for the worker, except in rare instances.

Life magazine (Dec. 17) devoted several pages to the housing crisis and said that the only solution lay in a "revolution" in the methods of homebuilding. What was needed, it said, was a modern counterpart of the housewright, i. e., a man to supervise construction from beginning to end. Also, cost reduction through new techniques, must be achieved. The prefabricated, assemblyline house must replace the present obsolete home. This is the most wishful thinking. Although a certain number of these homes will be built, the majority of the workers will not own them under capitalist conditions. Before you can have a house, you must have some land to put it on, and being both landless and propertyless is the necessary condition of life of the "free" laborer. The modern worker is chiefly characterized by owning nothing but his power to work. This fact is not to be rued: on the contrary it is the first condition for his emancipation from capitalist slavery. He has no stake whatsoever in the preservation of this system.

The bourgeoisie cannot solve the housing shortage. Any temporary solution which results from the adjustment of the laws of supply and demand, is in reality no solution at all, for these same laws operate (independently of the will of the capitalist) in such a way as to reproduce the problem over and over again.

Since the bourgeoisie are unable to solve any of the other social evils such as crime, disease, unemployment, war, etc., it is folly to hope for an isolated solution of the housing problem.

Many workers suffer from the delusion that although the capitalists cannot solve the housing problem, surely the government can. But what is the government save the organized collective power of the capitalist class? If the individual capitalist is both unable and unwilling to solve the problem, why should the collective capitalist be any different?

A working class government could solve the housing shortage. It would be quite simple to find living space in the expropriated buildings and dwellings of the capitalists for the temporary convenience of the overcrowded and homeless workers, pending a final working out of the details of the long-range solution. The present government has no difficulty in taking over building for its purposes. Neither would a workers' government.

But the housing shortage is only a secondary evil, as Frederick Engels points out in his extremely interesting and profound study: *The Housing Question*. The basic evil is the exploitation of the worker by the capitalist. The capitalist purchases the labor power of the worker at its value and extracts from it a value far greater than its own value, i.e., the worker must not only produce values equal to that of his labor power, but values far in excess of the value of his labor power. The capitalist, by appropriating this surplus value, robs the worker of the fruit of his labor. It is this exploitation that lies at the bottom of all the other evils that beset the workingman, including the housing shortage.

THE ATOMIC BOMB-- A WORLD PROBLEM

(Continued from page 2)

the big Three in Moscow had actually decided on this matter was to refer it to the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization (U.N.O.) with the directive that it appoint a commission composed of the eleven-nation Security Council (plus Canada) and such an atomic energy commission to make reports and recommendations to the Council.

The Soviet Union is, like its present allies, interested in maintaining peace. That nation, however, knows of the conflicting economic interests yet dominating the capitalist world. It knows that peace will not be permanent under capitalism. Self preservation and self protection are and must be predominant factors in Soviet foreign policy. Just as the Soviet Union could not remain outside of the old League of Nations so it now is attempting to work with the United Nations Organization.

Today the Soviet Union is one

of the powerful nations of the world. It will be wielding an influence. It will be strong in its attempt to prevent new blocks being formed against it. It will try hard to make use of the present wide-spread desire for peace to expose all attempts to prepare for war. It will not sit idly by and let the major capitalist nations store up atomic secrets for future use against it.

The U. N. O. (United Nations Organization), as most everyone is aware of, is composed of some fifty nations and was first set up at San Francisco in June, 1945. Ostensibly, its purpose is to maintain world peace. Actually, as at present constituted, it has no more power to prevent wars than its ill-fated predecessor, the League of Nations.

The U. N. O. is now in session in London, at this writing. What will come out of its deliberations remains to be seen. This much is

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SPARKS ABROAD

France—DaGaulle's resignation as president of France's provisional government seemed to be inevitable. The Communists and Socialists, who together constitute the majority of the assembly, have been in conflict with DeGaulle from the time the government was elected.

Confronted with the vacancy in the presidency, the Communist party offered one of their members, Thorez, for the office, but the decision finally went in favor of a Socialist party leader, Felix Gouin. Another coalition government was set up, consisting of Communists, Socialists and Popular Republicans. This is being referred to as the new interim government, which these parties hope to hold together until the regular election, following the adoption of the Constitution.

Georges Bidault of the Popular Republicans retains the post of foreign minister, the army and social affairs ministries go to the Communists, and banking and other economic posts to the Socialists. DeGaulle, while officially out of politics, may still remain an important figure in French national affairs. He probably will become the champion of the reactionaries, those who would like to head off the leftward trend with a military dictatorship.

GERMANY — The first "free" elections in Germany, since the Nazi dictatorship, took place on Sunday, January 20. This election in the American held section of the country, included some 1200 villages, and places of less than 5,000 population. A total of less than one million live in those places. Early tabulations showed that Socialists were leading. In Bavaria the Catholic Republican party seems to have run well ahead of all others. When the voting takes place in the larger communities, the Socialists and Communists will undoubtedly show greater strength. With the military occupation, the significance of those elections will be vague.

GREECE — The general elections to be held on March 31, under the eyes of "democratic" America, Britain and France, not to mention the reactionary regime now in office, is almost certain to result in "victory" for the rightists. The leftists are particularly protesting the presence of British forces in the country.

Only when all outside armed forces leave Greece will the workers be able to give free political expression to their ideas, and by then they may be strong enough to take political control.

ITALY — Elections are to be held this Spring in Italy, and they will also be under the observation of the "democracies." It is reported that some 300,000 British and 50,000 American troops still occupy the country. An American

official was quoted as stating that "the British want to make a Mediterranean India out of Italy." It is going to take more than 300,000 Britishers to do that. The workers of Italy can be counted upon to make a bid for power, foreign troops or not, whenever an opportunity presents itself.

MEXICO — Coming closer to home, we find that south of the border, a situation, which almost duplicates that of America, now prevails. Thousands of workers in that agricultural country are out on strike and inflation is worse than it is here. 30,000 silver miners are on strike for a 40 per cent raise. The Mexican worker is more politically conscious than his American brother. When he strikes, he's not a piker. He asks for a month's vacation with pay, 40 per cent increases, and other real concessions. The "smart" Yankee worker who talks disparagingly of the Mexican worker merely demonstrates his lack of understanding.

U. S. S. R.—While the capitalist world is in turmoil the Soviet world plans peacefully to eradicate the ravages of the war and advance the standard of living for all of the people, and all in the short period of a few years. This is possible only under a socialist

THE ATOMIC BOMB-- A WORLD PROBLEM

(Continued from page 7)
certain: never before did the nations of the world have a bigger problem on their hands than they have now. The U. N. O. is definitely on trial.

In this gathering of nations one must not overlook the fact that the great majority of them are capitalist nations. (In fact the

economy where every hour of work performed by a worker directly or indirectly benefits him. Prior to the outbreak of the war in 1939 the Soviet Union spent more money on scientific research (outside the military field) than the whole capitalist world put together. At the present time 16,000 geologists, engineers and workers divided into 500 expeditions, have gone to Central Asia to hunt new mineral deposits. The capitalist world no longer laughs at the five year plans of the Soviets. They know that the workers' country has the resources, the ability and the willingness to carry out any plan they undertake. Kiev, the capital city of the Ukraine is planning to have moving sidewalks, it is reported. "The pedestrian will mount a strip which will move slowly and then be automatically transferred to a faster moving one." C. B.

only socialist nation is the Soviet Union.) Capitalist nations have conflicting interests mainly because they are in competition with each other for the world market, sources of raw materials and spheres of influence. Economic rivalry on a world scale inevitably leads to world war. What can the U. N. O. do about this fundamental aspect of the whole problem? Practically nothing, is the answer. For to eliminate competition would be putting an end to capitalism and the capitalist nations gathered in that solemn assembly have no such purpose in mind. In fact the purpose of each capitalist nation is to maintain itself in a favorable competitive position vis-a-vis their rivals and none will forego one bit of their "national sovereignty" if it is harmful to their economic interests.

One can readily see, that in view of all this, why the United States is so reluctant to part with the secret of the atomic bomb. As long as it remains a secret, possession of it makes the American nation that much more powerful i.e. puts it in a better "bargaining" position. As a capitalist nation it could not forego the temptation of making use of its "bargaining weapon"

Just like an individual capitalist with a new machine there is an urgency to utilize it to the full in order to make as much profit as possible while the market still holds. It is during the brief period of the lifetime of the new invention that the best of profits can be made or as Marx long ago stated that the capitalist endeavors to exploit thoroughly "the sunny time of this, his first love."

But as with the new machine so with the secret of the atomic bomb. Sooner or later some other nation or nations will make a similar or even better discovery. Result: an armament race will follow that can only end in another world war far more destructive than all previous wars.

The atomic bomb is indeed a world problem. But that is only so because most of the world is ruled by the capitalist class. A world government that would leave the capitalist system intact would not solve the problem, even if it was possible to create one. But a government similar to that of the Soviet Union would solve the problem, regardless of capitalist scoffers. For in the Soviet Union the world has a good example of a country that is based upon a firm foundation not of cut-throat competition but of socialist cooperation. To bring about such governments throughout the world would require the efforts of the working class in each nation. They would have to first of all abolish the capitalist system. With the world under workers rule the problem would be solved and only then would an era of permanent peace be possible. Al Wysocki.

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