

# Stop the Shipment of Arms and Ammunition to China!

By CYRIL BRIGGS.

WAR is already on in China. All the elements for another world slaughter are present today in the Far East. The imperialists are rushing forward their war preparations. In the United States, the war industries are secretly turning out huge amounts of war materials. The bosses are trying to popularize the approaching war in the minds of the working class. They are engaged in spreading the most dangerous illusions as to the meaning and consequences of the coming war.

The illusion that war means a "return" of "prosperity" is being openly peddled by bourgeois economists and the capitalist press. Stopping at no crime against the working class, the fascist leadership of the American Federation of Labor, and the yellow "socialists" are ably lending their aid to put across this lie. The working class is being told that war will end unemployment, that war will provide jobs for the 12,000,000 unemployed workers in this country. The workers are being asked to believe that by permitting themselves to be sent forth to be maimed and slaughtered they will be able to escape the misery and starvation to which they are sentenced under capitalism.

The grandest way dying capitalism can find out of the crisis in which it is engulfed is to throw millions of workers on the battlefields to slaughter each other. This is the "high wisdom" of the capitalist system. Its most enduring "solution" is to slaughter the surplus workers for whom it can no longer provide employment, to whom it refuses the right to live. In sharp contrast, the workers see unemployment totally abolished in the country of advancing Socialism—in the Soviet Union.

Mass butchery of the workers as the ONLY way out of the crisis for the capitalists was openly proposed by Otto T. Mallory, a leading bourgeois economist, in a speech before Washington officials and economists on Dec. 29, 1931. The New York Times of Dec. 30, reported that:

"Mr. Mallory asserted that no government had ever stopped a depression except by war, and while it was dangerous to try to halt a depression, it was also dangerous not to attempt to do so."

The Whaley Eaton Service in a confidential letter sent out to its clients on Feb. 2, 1932, refers as follows to the use of this device by the Japanese imperialists in their present war on the Chinese masses:

"It is an old device, in the face of such unsatisfactory domestic conditions, to divert the public attention to foreign fields, to give employment in the army to the idle, to depend on foreign exploitation to pay the cost and actually enrich the treasury."

This device is being resorted to not only by the Japanese imperialists but by the United States and other imperialist powers.

Employment in the army! Sending the workers forth to slaughter to enrich the capitalists and their treasury, they are at present refused a single dollar for relief and unemployment insurance. This is how capitalism tries to solve unemployment. This is its way out of the crisis—at the expense of the lifeblood of the masses!

The capitalists are openly gloating over the slaughter of Chinese workers by the Japanese. They are openly gloating over the rapid development of the Japanese war moves against the Soviet Union. They are supporting those war moves. They are uniting, within their sharpening antagonisms, for armed intervention against the Soviet Union, for the destruction of the victorious Five Year Plan, for the partition and looting of China. On Nov. 10, 1931, the N. Y. Post gleefully declared:

"Prosperity.... Stocks went up. So did bonds at the mere rumor of war."

The prostitute writers among the intellectuals are being mobilized to put across the vicious illusion that war means "prosperity" to the working class. H. L. Mencken, writing in the Baltimore Sun of Feb. 3, 1932, under the caption "The Japanese Bugaboo," declares:

"As for me, I confess frankly that it would not annoy me to hear that the Japanese Ambassador had been given his passports. The war would blow up the depression as neatly as a Prohibition agent explodes a still. Every factory would begin to belch smoke, and the

railroads would resume dividends. There would be good jobs at high wages for all the unemployed, and the busting of banks would cease. It would delight me, above all, to behold the pacifists, and especially the clergy among them, tearing up their pledges to object conscientiously, and howling for blood. I give public notice that, if war comes, I shall be a patriot myself, and that I shall do all my profiteering at home, and try to make it pay. The last time I missed some good chances."

Mencken not only lies about war "blowing up the depression," but cloaks his lies in the most brutal cynicism and disregard for the misery and bloodshed that imperialist war inflicts upon the masses.

Workers! What are the facts? Will war mean "good jobs at high wages for all the unemployed"—twelve million workers? War production is already proceeding at a great rate. Passaic, N. J. is a veritable hot-bed of war production. The Botany Worsted Mills recently completed a huge government order for army cloth. It was given another order at once. And what did the Botany Mills do for its workers? It reduced their wages 30 per cent. War production "prosperity"!

The Manhattan Raybeston Rubber Company, also in New Jersey, has just completed a government order for 17,000 gas masks. And right away it handed its workers a 20 per cent wage cut. More war production "prosperity"!

The Pickanniny Arsenal at Dover is working with fifty per cent more workers than during the World War. It is turning out huge quantities of 3-inch shells. A large shipment of these shells has been shipped already to the West Coast for transhipment to the Far East. And, here again the wages of the workers have been reduced, until now they get only an average of \$1.50 a day.

From all over the country, workers are sending in reports to the Daily Worker of the frantic production of war materials. And in each case, they report a cut in the wages of the workers.

Wages in the war industry are being reduced to a minimum, because the capitalists are able to use the crisis in other branches of industry, and in agriculture, to bring pressure to bear on wages in the war industry.

War means increased misery and starvation for the workers. By declaring the existence of "a state of emergency," the bosses will proceed to use every brutal method at their disposal to suppress the struggles of the hungry unemployed workers, to beat down the revolutionary struggles of the masses. Already, the bosses are paving the way for the coming war by an intensified attack on the Negro masses, on the unemployed fighting for relief and social insurance, on the striking miners and other workers struggling against starvation wages.

The war is now being prepared at the expense of the hunger and misery among the toiling masses. Billions of dollars are being poured into the war preparations while the bosses and their government deny relief to the destitute unemployed millions and their families and children.

And for what, workers, will we be called upon to fight?

For the protection of the \$250,000,000 investments of the Wall Street bandits in China! For the protection of the investments of the Standard Oil Company and other American companies which are exploiting and oppressing the workers in this country, and shooting us down when we strike against starvation wages, against the wage slashing campaign in which they have been engaged for the past year or more, with the open co-operation of the A. F. of L. leaders and the "socialists."

Workers! Do not permit the bosses and their "socialist" and A. F. of L. lackeys to lead you into a world slaughter as they did in the last World War! Do not be deceived by the vicious illusions they are attempting to inject into your minds that war means "prosperity." Do not be deceived by the fake pacifist gestures of the "socialists"! Fight vigorously against the war plots of the imperialists! Defend your class brothers in China! Defend the Soviet Union, the fatherland of the proletariat! Build a united front against imperialist war! Join and strengthen the Communist Party which leads the fight against imperialist war.