

The Workers' Struggle In Northern Italy

Farinacci's paper "Regime Fascista," now published in Cremona, writes in readily comprehensible indignation: "The masses remain hostile and absentee, trusting only in the enemy... Rebellion is becoming more aggressive and more violent every day... Turin workers—those of the Fiat workers in particular—are continually striking and they hasten to welcome the Allied bombers which come to attack Turin."

And "Stampa," of Turin, writes in a similar strain: "Patriots are becoming increasingly daring... Piedmont is the centre of crime, desertion and disorder... Signs of rebellion and outbreaks of resistance to military service are apparent everywhere. Some refuse on the grounds that they do not want to go to Germany for military training and other refuse to serve under Fascism... There are numerous desertions from among the Carabinieri."

In the third week of June there were labor riots in Genoa, Milan and Florence, and General Silvio Parodi, Military Commandant of Genoa, was hanged by underground workers. Military law was proclaimed throughout the Region of Liguria. The strike in Genoa was led by the seamen and shipyard and metal workers. The leader of the Genoa neo-Fascist Party, Carlo Emanuele Basile, appealed to the strikers at the San Giorgio shipyard and in the big Ansaldo, S.I.A.C., Ceramica Ligure, Vaccari, Ferriere Bruzzo and Piaggio factories. He admitted that his threats and promises had so far had no result, and closed with the words: "I warn you for your own good and the good of your families." German authorities urged the deportation of the strikers to pressed labor in Germany. By the end of June the movement in Genoa had assumed the proportions of a general strike.

Fascist and Industrial Magnates

Some of the Italian industrial magnates who saw the end of the fascist regime approaching are now drawing away from Mussolini. "The shortsightedness of these plutocrats is incredible," writes the Rome correspondent of the central organ of the German Nazi Party (Voelkischer Beobachter). "They seem to have completely forgotten that it was fascism alone which in 1922 helped the great industrialists to regain their property when... workers occupied their factories and proclaimed the latter to have been socialized."—From La Parola.



AMERICANS TALK IT OVER WITH RUSSIANS Who were put to forced labor by Nazis. — American soldiers get valuable information from a pair of Russian workers who escaped from the Germans. They had been captured by Nazis and forced to labor on heavy gun emplacement on the French Coast.

"Inside Washington"

State Department approval of return to European thrones of kings and queens and reigning families is viewed in some congressional quarters as disheartening, inasmuch as it apparently means a return of the prewar status in Europe, with all of its inherent and dangerous weaknesses.

First to return to their ancestral seat will be the ducal family of Luxembourg, headed by Grand Duchess Charlotte and Prince Felix, her consort, who have spent the war pleasantly in an imposing mansion on embassy-lined Massachusetts ave. in Washington. With their six children, they fled Luxembourg at the time of the invasion.

The reigning house of Luxembourg has lived well through two wars. At the end of the last, it greeted the Illinois troops of the 33rd Division cordially on their arrival to occupy the northern section of the country. The Grand Duchess of that day, elder sister of the present ruler, was reported to have been equally gracious to the Germans when they entered the capital.

Luxembourg can offer no defense to invasion in any war, as its standing army consists of but 250 men.

There has been no peep from any official source about the laughable "hero" pose of King Michael of Romania, which was played up in a press association story like an episode out of the Graustark novels. The King's mother, who reportedly controls his every move, is Helen, former Greek princess, who worked in close co-operation with the Nazis in their envelopment of Romania, which gave them much of the oil that enabled Hitler to wage war and vast quantities of grain besides.

The impressive recital of the Queen Mother's dash out of the palace grounds, carrying a pearl-handled pistol with which to shoot any Nazi soldier who might attempt to stop her, has been greeted with cynical laughter among Balkan representatives here.

Others preparing to go back, with full expectation of assuming the same powers they had before Hitler came calling, are Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, who once complained the war had deprived her of her favorite type of bath sponge, and King Leopold of Belgium, now detained in Germany, who gave the order for the fighting Belgian Army to quit, leaving the British flank high and dry and forcing the retreat to Dunkerque.

Once they are restored in their palaces and receive the cheers of their personal supporters, observers wonder what the peace conference will be able to do in insuring the Four Freedoms for all of Europe.—Bascom N. Timmons in The Chicago Sun.

Finland Quits the War

Prior to World War I, Finland was to all intents and purposes a part of Czarist Russia, although enjoying a certain measure of autonomy. During the Russian revolution, however, Finland, with German help, became independent—with a boundary that was within cannon-shot of Leningrad.

Americans showed considerable sympathy for Finland—which had always made payments on its debt to us—when that nation was invaded in 1939 by Russia, then the ostensible associate of Hitler. But the Russian claim of a Finnish menace did not appear so foolish a year or so later when Finland, as an ally of Hitler, brought the Nazis almost to the gates of Leningrad.

During our war against Germany we have refrained from declaring war against Finland, hoping all the time to persuade Finland to give up its alliance with Hitler. On Monday, Sept. 4, Finland quit the war.

But it comes a little late—so late as to resemble the band-wagon rush that is a feature of our political convention battles. For it comes at a time when Germany is probably quite willing to withdraw her troops from Finland, as they can be more usefully employed elsewhere; in fact, at a time when Germany is withdrawing troops from other satellite and band-wagon nations.

Even so, the Russian peace terms appear to be generous. We can endorse them, and urge that Finland be put on parole.—The Chicago Daily News.

YOU BETTER DO SOMETHING, OR ELSE... "BACK TO NORMALCY"...

By RAYMOND HOFSES, Editor, Reading Labor Advocate

What will life be like for the American people after the war is over?

People, big and little have been asking that question with all conceivable variations.

Despite the promises of politicians, most Americans remain uncertain. Most of them feel insecure.

The best answer thus far came recently from the War Production Board, when the Board announced that all controls on civilian production, except those necessary to defeat Japan, will be abandoned soon after Germany surrenders.

That announcement needs a little analysis. But in it can be found a picture of what we are going to look like after victory, just as a scientist who is skilled in that sort of thing can find a single bone of an extinct animal and reconstruct a fairly accurate model of what the whole animal looked like.

It's not likely that the postwar slogan will be as silly as the last one, when Harding was elected president with the promise of "Back to Normalcy." But whatever the program may be called, it will amount to the same thing.

Unless the people of America, who have always been fooled, ruled and robbed, have a plan of their own, this nation is going to take up where it left off and embark upon a program of Business as Usual.

It will be the same old economic anarchism that has worked so badly in the past—the game that has produced depressions and wars everywhere in the world, dictatorships in Europe and "government controls" here at home.

And the government controls will continue. It is important to keep that fact in mind if one wants a preview of the future.

What is now being announced by the War Labor Board is that—

Anybody who wants to will be PERMITTED to go into business—under government regulation.

Those businesses that can find markets for their products will be regulated benevolently. Those that can't will be permitted to die.

Big business will find its level and establish itself at the point of efficient operation—with government supervision.

Workers who can be used by private business will not require much management.

Workers who can't be used by private business will again become the wards of the nation under a more or less glorified and better-prepared WPA set-up.

HENRY FORD TO BUY WILLOW RUN PLANT

Auto King to Use Industrial Goliath to Produce Farm Machinery

When Uncle Sam no longer needs the \$96,450,000 Willow Run plant, near Detroit, for the production of aircraft, Henry Ford intends to buy it and convert it into the world's largest farm machinery factory.

Ford's representatives in Washington recently disclosed he had made an offer for the industrial Goliath.

Willow Run has been turning out Liberator bombers at a 500-a-month clip, but the War Department declares its schedule is to be put back 50 per cent and by the end of the year airplane production will end entirely. Already several thousand workers have been discharged and the others placed on reduced working time.

It is the enemy we do not suspect who is the most dangerous.—Rojas.

Four Million Unemployed Forecast Unless Reconversion Starts Now

Unless a more intelligent and effective program is developed to dovetail reconversion with production cutback America will have an army of four million unemployed on its hands at the end of this year, even if the war against Germany and Japan is still going on.

This is the ominous prediction of Boris Shishkin, AFL economist, based on "known factors" in the production program. He declared the estimates were "conservative" rather than exaggerated.

Cutbacks already are being ordered at the rate of about twenty a week and the rate is due to climb in the next few months. Instead of a labor shortage, surpluses of manpower are bound to develop, Shishkin said.

Meanwhile, efforts of War Production Board Chairman Donald M. Nelson to authorize the start of a reconversion program with labor and materials not needed for the war effort are being stalemated by the War and Navy Departments. The short-sighted policy of the military leaders appears to be to refuse permission for any preparations for peace until the last shot in the war is fired.

American Federation of Labor leaders are throwing their full support behind Mr. Nelson's program which now offers the only hope of averting widespread unemployment should the war end suddenly.

Riches are a blessing only to him who makes them a blessing to others.—Fielding.

DEBT AND WAR COST ABOVE 200 BILLIONS

Global Conflict Entails Daily Outlay of 145 Millions; Taxes Also Zoom

Two milestones in the nation's financial history were reached on the 168th anniversary of our independence:

The cost of fighting the global war passed the 200 billion mark, and so did the national debt, the Treasury disclosed. Since July 1, 1940, the war outlay has been at an average rate of \$145,000,000 a day. Government expenditures during the fiscal year were \$89,721,000,000, with war accounting for more than 95 per cent of the unprecedented total.

Uncle Sam's income during the year zoomed to \$44,149,000,000, or nearly double the sum collected in 1943.

BIT OF STATISTIC

One soldier out of every 100 is named Smith. One out of every 200 Smiths in the Army is named John W. Smith, and there are too many plain John Smiths to be counted.

So—there are 356 John W. Smiths, 240 John W. Johnsons, 286 James Browns, and 249 James E. Browns. The 12 most common names in the Army account for 385,390 soldiers. For instance, there are: Smith, 72,000; Johnson, 48,500; Brown, 39,000; Miller, 33,600; Jones, 31,320; Davis, 31,000; Wilson, 29,000; Anderson, 24,500; Martin 24,300; Taylor, 22,000, etc.

IN THE WIND

From THE NATION

Among the invitations in the morning's mail is a post card that reads in part as follows: "If you are a Native Born, White, Protestant, Gentle, American Citizen of Good Character and believe in our principles, an opportunity to join a secret organization that stands primarily for White Supremacy awaits you. Our Organization stands for: Christianity, America First, White Supremacy. Upholding Constitution of U.S.A. Racial Segregation, Racial Purity, Pure White Womanhood, American Leadership of American Labor Unions. Closer Relationship Between American Capital and American Labor, Opposition to Communism, America for Americans, State Rights, Separation of Church and State, Freedom of Speech and Press, No Foreign Immigration, Except Pure White, Law and Order." It is at such times that one regrets not being of Good Character.

John B. Trevor, president of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, whose name appeared in a list of "leaders" recommended for America by a German propaganda agency in 1933, is now campaigning against the admission of anti-Nazi refugees to America. Senator Robert Rice Reynolds of North Carolina is helping him distribute his literature.

Radio station WQXR, New York, having refused to accept any more singing commercials, has received a flood of thanks from its listeners.

Some imperturbable Britons are busy with plans to preserve the relics of Roman and medieval times which robot bombs have unearthed in London.

Senator Walsh of Massachusetts, asked by a number of constituents to state his views on American participation in an international organization to enforce peace, said, "A nation which does not pursue peace... will find soon enough that it is involved in the wars of other nations." He enclosed a speech of his, delivered November 11, 1943, in which he expressed the belief that this is not our war.

The City of Louisville, Ky., paid \$5,000 to Roy Wenzlick, one of the nation's top real-estate analysts, for a report on post-war city planning. It contains the following note on slum clearance: "The logical solution to the housing problem is to build new housing units for those who can afford to pay an economic rent. As these housing units become older and less desirable, the original owners or renters move to more modern and better located properties, leaving the older properties to be occupied by those who cannot pay a sufficient rental for new buildings."

Festung Europa: As a solution of the fuel shortage in Holland, the Nazi administration has issued an order proclaiming that "removal of chips or pieces of wood left over from the construction of German army installations will be regarded as theft from the Wehrmacht and will be punished as such."

Will Soldiers Favor Unions?

Some top-flight representatives of the nation's leading labor organizations recently visited the battle lines and learned, among other things, what the men who are fighting this war think of labor unions. Their report on that subject is encouraging. Most soldiers think the unions are O. K.

However, the verdict of the veterans is not surprising. Most of them were workers before they became soldiers and expect to be workers when they return. A large number, if not a majority, of the men who are now in the war were in the unions before they joined the armed services.

However—

While the report of the union leaders is to be good, the very fact that it was made indicates that labor will become an issue of major importance after the war is over and the boys come home.

We use the word "issue" in this connection to indicate a division of opinion on the part of workers. What will the veterans think of labor unions at the end of a year or two? Will they continue to believe that their best interests can be served by unions? Or will some other element bid for and obtain the confidence of a large section of the working class?

We think the answer to the above important question will depend to a large extent upon what is expected of unions and upon how well the unions measure up to expectations.

If soldiers come back home with the clear understanding that a labor union is primarily an instrument for the general elevation of the working class and a weapon with which to fight for better social conditions, then unions should be able to hold the good will of veterans.

If, however, veterans expect too much of unions in terms of personal advantage, then the prestige of unions will wane as unemployment rises.

What we are remembering now is that Germany had a strong union movement before the first World War. And that after the war, when the unions failed to provide high living standards—because they could not—a demagogue was able to enlist many German workers into a fascist organization.

We believe the same thing could easily happen in America after this war. More than that, we believe the unions will have the competition of powerful reactionaries, some of whom will have jobs to offer, for the good will of returned soldiers.

How will soldiers who have become workers react to the competition that is almost certain around them? It is a serious question. Will they stand for a principle rather than for immediate personal advantage, or will those with jobs go one way and those without jobs go another?

The fate of democracy itself may hinge upon how the future answers the above question. And how can they be answered on the side of democracy unless the workers of America understand that the Socialists of this nation and of the world have a program that will make prosperity for all workers possible?—The Reading Labor Advocate.

Co-ops Prove Their Worth

Up in Waukegan, Ill., the three cooperative societies are celebrating their 33rd year of service to the community. To understand how important an economic role they play in the life of the community it is only necessary to know that they include among their patrons and members 30 per cent of the families in Waukegan, North Chicago, and the neighboring towns. These three co-ops societies operate, among other things, ten food stores and meat markets, a bakery and coffee shop, super-service station, a sausage plant, and a dairy. During 1943 they saved for their patrons—through reduced prices, rebates in the form of dividends, and so forth—a recorded total of \$79,000. In the 33 years that they have been in operation they have saved for their worker and farmer member-patrons a grand total of \$570,000, or a yearly average of \$20,000.

The co-op movement in this country, although making rapid progress, is still behind its counterpart in England, Sweden and other progressive European countries. This can only be because American workers and consumers are blind to their own interests. When they become aware of the advantages to be gained by forming a co-op in their own community, or joining the one already formed, the fine record established in Waukegan will be duplicated in every city, village and town in the country.—The Brewery Worker.

LICENSE FOR LANDLORD TO STEAL

Chester Bowles, chief of the O. P. A., makes this announcement: "With the return of normal conditions, rent control must be eliminated. We must leave tenants and landlords free to make their own arrangements."

After the war, there will be an acute housing shortage. So, if Uncle Sam wipes out all rent controls, profiteering landlords will have a Roman holiday. Then we will know what inflation really means.

What will happen to the workers under those circumstances? Perhaps Mr. Bowles can answer. And, what will happen to the profiteers are given a free hand.—Labor.

WAR PLANT FEEDING FACILITIES LACKING

More than 5,500,000 workers are being fed through industrial plant facilities and service for 1,500,000 more will soon be available, the War Food Administration revealed recently. That may seem like a large number, but the W. F. A. said that only 44 per cent of the plants with food facilities are able to serve 60 per cent or more of their workers.

It added that only 39 per cent of employees of plants producing war materials are obtaining mid-shift meals.

FORGET IT ANONYMOUS

If you see a tall fellow ahead of a crowd,
A leader of men marching fearless and proud,
And you know of a tale whose mere telling aloud
Would mean that his head must in anguish be bowed,
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a skeleton hidden away
In a closet, and guarded and kept from the day
In the dark; and whose showing, whose sudden display,
Would cause grief and sorrow and lifelong dismay,
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a thing that will darken the joy
Of a man or a woman, a girl or a boy,
That will wipe out a smile, or the least way annoy
A fellow, or cause any gladness to cloy,
It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

FARM BENEFITS UP TO SECOND HIGHEST MARK

During the last fiscal year government benefit payments to farmers aggregated 801,377,000, the second highest amount distributed in any fiscal year since the New Deal farm program was launched in 1933.

In announcing that figure, the Department of Agriculture said payments this fiscal year will total about \$886,000,000, but added this is exclusive of price rollback subsidies paid on flour, meats, butter and some other food products, costing about 300 millions.

DEATHS FROM FALLS IN 1943 WERE 27,400

More than a fourth of the nation's 97,500 accidental deaths in 1943 were caused by falls, according to the National Safety Council. There were 27,400 fatalities attributed to this cause.

The council reported an accidental death every 5 1/4 minutes and an injury every three seconds during the year. Injuries totaled 10,100,000.

PER CAPITA DEBT AT NEW HIGH OF \$1,510

If you're interested, your share in the national debt is now \$1,510, compared to \$412 on November 30, 1941, according to the Treasury Department. An increase of \$54 per capita in July brought the total debt to \$208,573,594,426, compared with \$59,000,819,926 when the Japs attacked Pearl Harbor.