

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

We print an article on Herbert Hoover, Finland and American Youth on Page 2. With it is an analysis of the Stalin invasion of Finland. On Page 3 you will find reports from various youth conventions: the American Student Union and others. "Henry Ford Tells The Youth" also appears

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

**Jobs,
Not
Guns!**

NOT ONE CENT TO DEFEND WALL STREET PROFITS!

Vol. III, No. 20 — February 1, 1940

Twice-Monthly Organ of The Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International)

167

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An Open Letter to the President:

AMERICAN YOUTH DEMANDS THE RIGHT TO A JOB AND A DECENT LIFE

Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:

It was with considerable fanfare that you and your administration announced the governmental budget for the coming year. This was to be, the American people were informed, a budget for an emergency period, of utmost importance to the American people.

With one thing we can agree with you—this budget is of the utmost importance to the American people, to the workers and the youth.

Over a year ago, we revolutionary Socialist youth wrote in our paper: The New Deal, with its attempt to bolster a tottering capitalist system by mild reform, is dead. Its place has been taken by the War Deal, the policy of preparing for an imperialist war in the near future.

This prediction has been confirmed to the hilt. Your latest budget is the latest step in this direction.

What does your budget propose to the American people?

Your budget is a budget of death; it is a budget of reaction. Your budget will mean renewed starvation for hundreds of thousands of workers. It will mean tens of thousands of youth thrown into the streets. And your budget will mean more millions thrown into the war-machine, a few steps nearer to getting into the war.

Your budget proposes:

that 650,000 workers be fired from WPA—

that 250,000 workers be fired from PWA—that government aid to youth be cut by \$72,000,000—

that aid to the farmers be cut \$400,000,000—

We want to know—What is going to happen to these people suddenly deprived of their livelihood? Where will they get the money to pay their butcher's bills, their rent?

You further propose that a total of \$2,300,000,000—pretty big number!—much money!—for war purposes. This is an increase of \$500,000,000 over last years war appropriations, which were themselves the highest peacetime war budget America has ever had.

No wonder that Ernest Lindley, Washington

columnist, wrote "the President's budget message might have been submitted by a Garner, Taft or a Vandenberg. . . ." Because there's not a particle of difference between your budget and the program of the reactionary Republicans in the Senate.

Relief, aid to youth, help for the farmers—



you, Mr. President, cut to the bone (and then you keep cutting). But you have plenty of money for death and destruction, for poison gas and bullets.

We, the youth of America, have been walking the streets for years now in search of a job. Your New Deal was going to solve our problems, you told us. But it hasn't. All we're getting from you is a smile.

What is going to happen to those boys who'll have to quit school because they won't get anymore NYA aid? What is going to happen to those boys and girls who won't even get the miserable pittance of WPA aid anymore? What is going to happen to those boys who are being kicked out of CCC camps?

You have no answer—except war, except the army. You are dooming a whole generation to misery, to demoralization, to hopelessness, and, tomorrow, to death in the trenches.

How glibly you talk about democracy . . . in Finland. Why don't you take some of the mon-

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What is the Truth on 'Gone with the Wind'

By MARTIN EDEN

Neither damnation nor eulogy. Neither awed praise nor hysterical condemnation. "Gone With the Wind" simply isn't worth judgment in extremes.

It has a theme of tremendous significance—the Civil War and Reconstruction Days. It's the story of an amazing woman, the beautiful and brutal Scarlett O'Hara. It's four hours of film with every hammy movie formula thrown in—the huge battles, gun play, a rugged hero, a triangle, women without men and vice versa, figures etched against the sky, a city ablaze—all the stock tricks and more.

In general, my reaction to the picture was "What's all the shooting for?" Only its length is out of the ordinary. It warrants no such hullabaloo as has greeted it. But one aspect of the picture deserves sharp and blunt criticism. The picture implies that the Old South was a land of genteel culture and gallant society where even the slaves enjoyed their lot. And after the Civil War the movie depicts the liberated slaves as swaggering barbarians who ran riot in their new freedom.

These ideas must be rejected as false and malicious. The Negroes, who kept the aristocracy alive with their enforced labor and suffering, hated slavery, rebelled against it many times before the war and fought for their freedom during the war. When they got

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Publicity Fanfare Opens Showing of Anti-Negro Film

With a fanfare of publicity, blazing spotlights, top-hatted celebrities and black limousines, the most discussed picture of the decade, "Gone With the Wind," hit the nation's screens.

The world premiere in Atlanta, Georgia, was a lavish display of Confederate Grey. "General Robert E. Lee rides again." In New York City the picture is playing at 2 Broadway theaters simultaneously. New York's police force currently acts as ushers for the long lines that await the theater opening each morning.

But the film met a different response from the Negro population of the country who saw in it a vicious attack on the Negro and a plea for the "good old days" of slavery. The Baltimore Afro-American and the New York Amsterdam News were among the leading Negro papers to attack the picture on this score.

LABOR LEADERS AID MINN. WPA TRIAL VICTIMS

A number of outstanding American labor leaders have come to the defense of the recently convicted WPA defendants of Minneapolis. The WPA trials in Minneapolis came as a result of the militant strike of WPA workers which fought against government layoffs. Since Minneapolis witnessed the most militant of such strikes, the government decided to clamp down on these workers with a special trial. This trial convicted the strikers of "conspiracy."

On this broad and vague charge, Oscar and Margaret Schoenfeld, leaders of the Youth Section of the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 (the organization of unemployed youth which fights for better conditions for such youth) were among those convicted.

The labor leaders who denounced the trial as being discriminatory against the workers included Joseph Padway, attorney for the AFL and James Carey, secretary of the CIO. Also, Joseph Schlossberg, secretary of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers; Ashley Totten of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Daniel Hoan, mayor of Milwaukee; Dave Reed, district president of the Progressive Miners of America; J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

Analysis Shows FDR's Budget a Step to War

1940 is an election year so both Democrats and Republicans are coming across with the goods for Big Business. In order to run an election you need a slush fund of 8 to 10 million dollars and the only people who have that much money are the Wall Street Big Shots.

Roosevelt started the ball rolling right on the nose of New Year by calling for "National Unity." "Let's all be friends," says smiling FDR. Let labor join hands with capital. Let's prepare for war without any disturbance and disagreement. Let's all just be good Americans.

The next day, Jan. 4, Roosevelt followed up his love-fest message with a call for war. That is the only way to understand his Budget message.

Roosevelt called for 2 and a quarter billion dollars for armaments and if all the hidden items in the budget, those that are put under all sorts of phoney titles, but really go to the war machine—if all these items were counted, the total amount going for war preparations would be closer to 5 billion dollars. 80 cents out of every dollar taken in by the US government goes for war.

Unemployed Suffer

Where is this money coming from? This money for war preparations comes out of the hides of the unemployed. For every penny added to the war budget there is at least one cent cut from relief. Roosevelt admits "we have not yet found a way to employ the surplus of our labor," which in simple language means that there are still 10 to 12 million unemployed. But that doesn't stop him from cutting WPA and NYA. If Roosevelt's cut

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Labor Fakers to Aid Finn Bosses

By ERNEST ERBER

An exceedingly instructive news item appeared in the New York World Telegram of January 16 on the work of the Hoover Finnish Relief Fund. The same story reports the following interesting facts:

1. "A contribution of \$1,000 by Father Charles E. Coughlin, in the name of the League of Little Flower, has been received, the relief headquarters announced. Mr. Hoover sent him a telegram of thanks."

2. "Under the chairmanship of John M. MacKenzie of Andersen & MacKenzie, leading marine contractors, have begun a drive for \$50,000 for the fund from contributions to the relief

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WAR--WHAT FOR?

Straight Talks to American Youth

The boss politicians like to refer to war as being some kind of natural catastrophe, like an earthquake, about which they, nor anyone else, can do anything and which harms all sections of the population equally.

In one sense it is true to say that the entire nation loses by war. But this is only in the sense that the loss of human lives and wealth impoverishes the nation and makes more difficult the task of the working people in building a system of plenty when a workers' government gets into power.

However, in the immediate sense of war-time gains, there is a definite section of the population *who really win the war*. These are the bankers and manufacturers who pile up huge war-time profits.

What the Record Shows

Let us look at the record of these people in the last war in which America participated.

The assets of the Dupont Company (manufacturers of gun powder, dynamite, and other explosives), in the year of 1913 were \$74,817,826. In 1918, at the end of the war, they were up to \$308,846,297.

Their gross revenues for the period of the war were as follows:

1914	\$ 25,179,948
1915	131,142,015
1916	318,845,685
1917	269,842,465
1918	329,121,608

Their war-time dividends equalled 458 per cent of the par value of the original stock.

The Dupont family, as is generally known, "owns" the state of Delaware and runs it like a feudal lord of the Middle Ages ran his estate.

Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company made \$450,000,000 in 1918 alone.

House of Morgan Makes Out Well

And J. P. Morgan made out very well too. The United States Steel Corporation, in which the Morgan clique holds the controlling interest, paid out dividends on stock for the war years of 1915 to 1918 inclusive to the tune of \$355,000,560. Starting with assets of a billion and three quarters in 1914, they ended up with assets of over two and a half billion dollars in 1918.

In addition to U.S. Steel, Morgan made millions on his other enterprises which include industrial giants like American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T), Radio Corporation of America (RCA), and American and Foreign Power Company.

In Ferdinand Lundberg's book on "America's Sixty Families" (from which figures here given on war profits are taken) he says the following of Morgan's profits

"The war time gains of J. P. Morgan and Company and its associated families were, indeed, so vast as to defy proper description."

The figures given by Lundberg include many other big industrial combines and show tremendous war-time profits for all of them. Among others they include Anaconda Copper, Republic Iron and Steel, American Sugar Refining, Central Leather, General Chemical, International Nickel, and International Harvester.

Government Grows Poorer

Unlike the rich who coined billions out of the blood of the poor, the government of the United States did not get richer as a result of the war. The national debt in 1914 was \$9.88 per person. In 1918 it shot way up to \$228 per person. The national debt consists chiefly of government bonds and other securities held by the bankers. The latter collect their interest on this stupendous sum, year in and year out. The government, of course, gets its revenue through direct or indirect taxes upon the mass of the people.

No wonder Morgan, Rockefeller, Dupont, and the others are so patriotic and love their country so much—particularly in time of war when they rake in the super-profits. But even their patriotism is only skin deep when they can stick their swinish snouts into the government trough. No matter how many American flags this gang of thieves uses to wrap itself in, their real character still shows through. When the Tea Pot Dome scandal was exposed in the early 1920's, it was revealed that even the idea of "national defense", before which the masses are to bow as a Mohammedan before his holy Koran, means nothing to this pack of wolves if it stands in the way of profits.

Plunder the Oil Reserves

A huge western oil reserve had been set aside by the government as a reserve for the Navy in time of war. A combine of Wall Street oil kings, consisting of Sinclair, Doheny, and Standard Oil, got the corrupt, oil-soaked Harding cabinet to turn the Naval Reserves over to them to plunder at their leisure.

In their patriotism, as in all else, the accent is always on the "pay". By stealing oil from the Navy, which exists for the sole purpose of defending their own foreign investments, the Sixty Ruling Families show that they are capable of stealing from their own grandmothers, let alone from the mass of the people.

Negro Youth

Five Negro youth were arrested in Alexandria, Virginia, for using the public library. Their great crime was that they dared enter a public building to get some knowledge. Maybe it's just a coincidence, but Alexandria is just 5 miles away from the nation's capital, Washington, D. C., where we pay Representatives and Senators to make speeches on liberty and freedom.

Tries to Die

Albert Conway, an unemployed youth living in Chicago, was tired of living. No job to be had, nothing. Three times he tried to jump off a bridge. Each time he was stopped by a bridge tender. But he got desperate and tried again. This time the bridge tender became annoyed, called a cop and the youth was arrested for . . . disorderly conduct. He might be able to eat if he gets a jail sentence. . . .

Hoover, Finland, Stalin, and the Youth

THE CRIMES OF STALIN IN HIS FINNISH WAR

By HARRY FRANKEL

It is now well over a month since Stalin began his Finnish adventure. Here, as in all things, he has demonstrated that Stalinism is the essence of stupid criminality. The beginnings of the Second World War have brought with them in Finland the irrefutable proof of the contention of the Fourth International that proletarian internationalists alone can defend the Soviet Union.

The Stalinist bureaucracy, product of the worldwide wave of reaction and the consequent decay of the worker state, leads a life of fearfulness and apprehension. Frightened by its image in the mirror of capitalist reaction in Germany, frightened by the impending world conflagration, it seeks to surround the Soviet Union with a bureaucratic shell in defense against the imperialists, similar to the shell with which it has surrounded the Kremlin in defense against the toilers. The same methods which we have seen applied so often inside the Soviet Union are now brought to bear in the struggle against imperialism.

We Shed No Tears

The great difference, it is true, lies in the fact that these methods are now applied in a war with bosses and not with Russian or Spanish workers. We can shed no tears for the hangmen's government of Finland. But it is precisely the callous disregard for the Socialist sentiments of a world of workers that is the best possible guarantee of the victory of the Finnish Mannerheims and American Hoovers and Roosevelts over the Soviets.

To find "safe" harbor for itself during the coming storms the bureaucracy has concentrated, in its foreign policy, on the accomplishment of three main tasks. It has sought to neutralize Japan. The outline of the results in this field is not yet altogether clear, but it is certain that the Chinese national struggle hangs in the balance. It tries to turn Hitler westward, and in this it succeeds temporarily by promising him that it will not become the eastern jaw in the Anglo-French pincers on Germany. And it seeks to establish a defensive domination in the Baltic area. The operations involved in the fulfillment of this last task are at present bogged down somewhere in Finland.

The imperialists, meanwhile, continue to take advantage of the situation created by the invasion of Finland to begin, in line with the development of the second World War, the second White Guard intervention against the Soviets. Roosevelt asks for larger and larger sums of money to be sent to Finland. The American bosses intervene directly through their associations, such as the marine transport bosses association and others. Stocks and bonds fall all over the world with every Red Army victory. Reports of Finnish victories in the war provoke a rise in, of all things, the bonds of the deposed Czarist government! The value of these bonds depends upon the chance of a Czarist restoration in Russia, and fell to a minute fraction of their former value after the Bolsheviks stabilized workers rule in Russia.

Imperialist Attack

Take these signs in conjunction with the actual military aid which the imperialists send in increasing volume to the Finnish bosses and you have the beginning of the full blown imperialist attack on the Soviet Union.

Throw out the Stalinist bureaucracy!

Defend the Soviet Union!



Hoover Talks for Youth But Collects for Finns

By IRVING HOWE

The air of the American political scene has lately been rent, with cries: "Support poor little Finland. Support their struggle for democracy." The hypocrisy of this maneuver is obvious. Those who are raising this cry are, for the most part, the most reactionary section of American political life. The leader of this campaign is none other than the old friend of America's unemployed—Herbert Hoover.

While we revolutionary socialists do not for one minute condone the invasion of Stalin, we do say that to call now for support to Finland is reactionary because (1) It means support to a capitalist government which is fighting as a reactionary stooge of British imperialism in a war against the Soviet Union, and (2) It means making more possible the involvement of America in the war . . . just as we were involved in the last war on the pretext that we were fighting for poor, little, democratic Belgium.

We say that there's plenty of things to be fought for right here in these United States: jobs, security, peace, etc.

POOR, LITTLE FINLAND

Now along comes Herbert Hoover, that outstanding progressive, and raves about aid to Finland. And one of his co-ravers is Governor Bricker of Ohio where people were starving lately because relief was cut off.

But surprise of surprises—at the same time that Hoover yells for dough for his friend Mannerheim, he makes speeches in America, at the YMCA, about how bad off American youth is, how "youth needs jobs and government help", etc.

Hasn't it ever occurred to Mr. Hoover that the money which he is collecting for the Finnish bankers could be used to help American youth? Instead of sinking dough into the pot of General Mannerheim couldn't it be used to give jobs to high school graduates, to unemployed young workers?

But these plutocrats never think of such things, or if they do they keep dammed quiet about it. The Hoovers—and his friends in Congress who want to aid Finland while accepting the proposed cut in youth aid in FDR's budget—are more interested in protecting their BROTHER RATS of Finland than in helping American youth.

If American youth will wait for the Hoovers to help them, then they're sunk. What's the old saying—God helps those who help themselves?

And don't forget—keep your eye on the ball. Don't let these phonies kid you into falling for this poor Finnish stuff. Answer them: We want jobs, not war loans; we want jobs, not guns!



After a month and a half of struggle to complete the quotas we set for ourselves in the Challenge drive, the staff has decided to extend until Feb. 15 the contest for Challenge subscriptions as well as the campaign to clean up back debts. LLL meetings which would have climaxed the drive, in most cases are being held toward the end of the month rather than at the beginning as we had anticipated. This factor, in addition to the slowness with which units have responded compels us to postpone the completion of a very serious task.

With this issue we will have maintained the Challenge as a twice-monthly for seven months. We expanded originally on the basis of a fund of five hundred dollars. The purpose of this fund was to pay the deficit which occurs upon the publication of each issue. During the past six months, however, that fund has been used for absorbing the constantly growing debts of the units and divisions. Today that debt has reached a total of four hundred dollars. Its complete liquidation would not only ensure the publication of the paper for several months, but would provide us with a substantial part of our original reserve fund. That is what we asked the units to accomplish by January 15th. A good start was made during the first three weeks after the announcement. Since then the response has fallen considerably. We must make another desperate plea to our members and our

supporters. Help us liquidate these debts

Due to a number of technical difficulties, among them a fire in the office, we are forced to publish this issue with a February 1st instead of a Jan. 20th dating. It contains a single and not a double number so that no subscriber will lose an issue. Every one of our readers will receive twelve or twenty-four papers depending upon the length of his subscription. From now on the paper will be dated the 1st and the 15th of each month; literature agents will have the paper several days in advance of the date so that sales can be efficiently organized.

Labor Fakers to Aid Finn Bosses

(Continued from Page 1) ship owners and shipping companies."

3. "Herbert Hoover, as national chairman of the Finnish Relief Fund, Inc., Mayor LaGuardia and William Green and Matthew Woll, the latter two representing the American Federation of Labor, today joined with 50 labor leaders in launching a nationwide drive among labor unions fund."

AFL Treachery

Every honest member of a trade union cannot but experience a feeling of utter disgust with the conduct of the AFL leaders as reported above. Every militant trade unionist knows that Green and Woll have betrayed and sold-out the working class through trickery and deceit in a thousand and one different labor struggles. But it is difficult to find an instance in which they so blatantly flaunted their disregard for elementary working class decency.

What does the support of Hoover's Committee by the trade union leaders really mean? It means the following:

1. They unite with a labor-hating fascist like Coughlin, who recently refused to disassociate himself from the arrested members of the "Christian Front" who plotted an anti-semitic pogrom.

2. They unite with the union-busting, scab-herding shipowners association which has cost the lives of many sailors and longshoremen by bloody assaults upon peaceful pickets.

3. They support Hoover whose hands are red with the blood of the bonus marchers, jobless demonstrators and strikers.

Money for Butcher

4. They send money for the armies of the bloody butcher while not raising a finger to fight for a decent relief program for the jobless millions in America.

The progressive members of the AFL and the CIO must wage a relentless and uncompromising struggle to drive out of office those labor leaders who make themselves allies of the fascist Coughlin and tools of Wall Street's spokesman, Hoover, by contributing the money of working people to Mannerheim, the butcher of the Finnish working class.

It is necessary for the members of the sailors' unions, above all, to wage a struggle against the reactionary designs of the AFL officialdom. The many bloody struggles which the sailors have been forced to wage to build up their unions against the reactionary ship owners have taught them that any move supported by the ship owners is not in the interest of the working people, either in America or in Finland. If the leaders of the sailors' unions cooperate with the ship owners in support of the butcher Mannerheim, the sailors cannot but expect them to cooperate with the ship owners in other matters which concern the interests of the men who go to sea.

CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

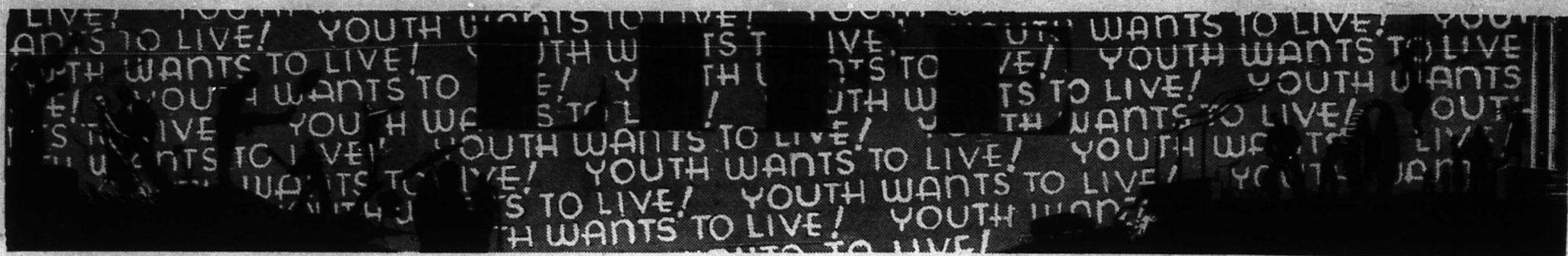
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their freedom they used it to pass the first progressive legislation that the South had seen. They began to pass legislation in the State legislatures, despite the reactionary attempts of the Northern carpetbaggers to hamstring them and the sabotage of the defeated slave owners, which was strikingly bold the division of the land and giving the land to the landless Negroes and poor whites. Anyone who wants some real information on Reconstruction and the Negro should read Du Bois' book on Reconstruction. The fault was not in excesses committed by the ex-slaves but that the Negroes did not completely wrest power from the reactionary aristocracy.

As a story of people the picture achieves a measure of success. Vivian Leigh is a total success as Scarlett. I found her acting quite intelligent and moving. Many individual scenes pack a genuine emotional punch. And the character she creates is a colorful, petulant, greedy, clever and entirely fascinating woman. Clark Gable, whom I have always found a rather boring smirk of a man, plays his part intelligently and is quite adequate. A host of other well known players, white and Negro, too numerous to mention, contribute capable and entertaining performances. Frankly, after two hours had gone by I found the love interest, the personal conflicts less and less interesting. But on the whole, I was interested in the characters.

ROUTINE HANDLING

As for the direction and general staging, very little can be said on the credit side. Despite the fact that they directly faced a mammoth problem, I think something other than routine situations, flat unoriginality in presentation could have been done. The battle scenes, the destruction of Atlanta, the sufferings of the people, and the intended highspots of the picture are boring and unexciting.

To illustrate the methods of the picture: the scene where thousands of wounded soldiers come pouring back into Atlanta. To show the suffering and despair, the audience is treated to five minutes of close-ups of mangled bodies, bleeding wounds, tattered uniforms, and the like. The scene ends with a long range shot of what seems to be literally thousands of dying men. But the effect is a total failure. The picture attempts to bludgeon you into emotions. And being bludgeoned is an unpleasant sensation.

This is nothing new from Hollywood. The comic and docile Negro, which the picture tries to create, is their favorite caricature. And as in every other case, these slanders must be vigorously combated in "Gone With the Wind."

MASTERPIECE

For New Yorkers only (unfortunately!)—If you want to see a truly excellent picture, one of the great masterpieces of the screen, go to see "Harvest." This French picture is a devastating refutation of the Hollywood hokum. Simple, unaffected, the picture rises to a splendid emotional peak in its depiction of the struggle of a lonely peasant and his wife to wrest a living from the soil. Despite certain reactionary implications of "back to the soil" as a solution for our problems, the picture as a whole is a thrilling work of art, etched in the deepest tones of human problems and emotions.

I Am Interested

Please send me more information on the aims and activities of the

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BOLSHEVIK YOUTH AT BERNE CONFERENCE:

The Story of the Socialist Youth Movement During the Last War

By WILLI MUNZENBERG The main question before the Berne Youth Conference was "The War and the Attitude of the Social Democratic Parties and youth organizations." The main report on this question was given by Robert Grimm, in the absence of the scheduled reporter, Wienkop. A resolution was presented on the question by Grimm, together with the Bureau and in collaboration with Comrade Angelica Balabanoff. Following a lively discussion that concerned itself most of all with the demand for total disarmament, the resolution was adopted unanimously in the absence of the Russian delegation.

The acceptance of this resolution was an important achievement for the Socialist youth movement. For the first time in the history of the proletarian youth movement, representatives of the socialist youth came to an independent decision on a political question and recorded their views in documents.

Attack the War The resolution of the Berne conference characterized the war as one of imperialist banditry and the result of capitalist politics and sharply attacked the lie of "defense of the fatherland." It condemned the policy of class collaboration and civil peace. The Berne conference demanded of the workingclass parties of all countries the execution of international resolutions that had pledged them to class struggle actions to bring an end to the war. The conference demanded of the socialist youth organizations an uncompromising struggle against war and militarism as the inevitable fruits of capitalist society.

At the beginning of the third session, a communication was read from the Russian comrades who had left the conference on the previous day in protest against the allotment of votes. Following an intense discussion, the conference decided to meet the wishes of the Russian comrades and arranged for an allotment of two votes for each country, with Poland being considered an independent country.

The Russian comrades accepted this arrangement and participated once more in the conference.

With the return of the Russian delegation, a new political discussion broke out between the conference majority and the Russian participants. The Russian comrades had worked out their own resolution on "War and the Tasks of the Socialist Youth Organizations" and motivated it in several lengthy discourses. They sharply criticized the resolution presented by the Bureau and accepted by the Conference on the previous day and demanded a decisive stand against the revisionists. "It is not enough to take a position against only this war, but rather against all wars of an imperialist character. Our resolution must state what means are to be used."

Lenin's Resolution After a long and exhaustive discussion, the resolution of the Russian delegates was rejected by a vote of 13 to 3. Amendments to the resolution adopted on the previous day which were presented by the Russian delegates were likewise

defeated by a 13 to 3 vote.

The resolution adopted by the conference majority had many inadequacies and weaknesses. It was, however, characteristic of Lenin's keen political insight and wise tactics that he refused to withdraw the delegates of the Russian central committee from the conference despite the rejection of the Russian resolution and permitted them to continue in attendance and work along with the majority. Lenin correctly declared that the adopted resolution, despite all errors and shortcomings, still signified an essentially progressive step in comparison to previously adopted resolutions in the youth movement. The further development of the youth movement justified this view. A few months later, the leaders of the centrist group who held sway at the Berne Conference, Robert Grimm and Angelica Balabanoff, were completely defeated in the Youth International and the whole International continued the spirited struggle under the banner of Lenin.

ADVICE TO YOUTH—FROM HENRY FORD AND MCGUFFY'S READER

From the lips of Henry Ford, open-shop advocate and union-buster No. 1, have come another string of political pearls—this time on the youth question.

Henry Ford once boasted that all he knew he had gotten from McGuffy's Third Term Reader . . . and when one reads some of the things he says one is inclined to believe him. For he is either an awful liar or he's awful dumb. Not much difference either way.

On the occasion of the beginning of the new year, Ford came out with what the N. Y. Times quaintly called "a message of hope for American youth."

Ford disposed of the problem of youth getting jobs by simply denying that there was even such a

problem! Very easy! What's wrong with youth today is that they haven't got the old door bell ringing spirit, he said. They want things soft, "a desk where they can push a pencil."

We want to ask Henry Ford: Don't you read any newspapers? Don't you know that American youth is desperately in search for any kind of work and can't find it? Don't you read the reports of rural youth and their inability to support themselves—reports which explode your silly theories about becoming a farmer?

But after all, we shouldn't be too harsh with Ford. All he knows is what he reads in McGuffy's reader and that doesn't even mention the word "depression" once.

Open Letter to F.D.R.-

(Continued from Page 1)

ey the government is slating for Mannerheim, the butcher of thousands of Finnish working people, and use it to teach those thousands of Southern kids who've never gone to school, how to read?

But you represent America's 60 Ruling Families, the stock coupon-clippers. And you are preparing to enter the war on the side of your English and French imperialist partners. You can't bother about such unimportant things as a future for American youth.

The tendency of your policy has been clear—more and more for war; less and less for life. We say: it's time to call a halt.

American youth has the right to expect something else than poppies in Flanders Fields. American youth has the right to expect some things more than the constant, deadening tramp from employment agency to employment agency. American youth has the right to expect something else than the doom of a "locked out generation"—forced to hang around the street

corners without any money or security or job; hopeless and demoralized.

WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO LIVE!

We demand that the money now used for war be appropriated to help American youth and the unemployed.

We demand that all cuts in relief appropriations be restored!

We demand that Youth WPA projects be instituted instead of NYA handouts; that NYA be increased to \$40 for college students and \$20 for high school students per month.

A government which can't give its people the right to live decently isn't worth a tinkers dam. Your government has not given this right to the people.

Mr. President, these are the legitimate demands of American youth.

This is our program. What is your answer? Young Peoples Socialist League (4th International)



VERDUN (Vol. 8 of Men of Good Will) by Jules Romains. Published by Alfred Knopf.

Guest Review by H. Jensen

To publish Verdun today is as grim a mockery, as putting up a monument to peace in the middle of No-Man's Land. This is the finest volume of Romains' gigantic and unfinished novel, Men of Good Will. It also stands by itself as perhaps the finest anti-war novel of our generation. That is why publishing it today in the beginning of the new World War is a mockery and almost indecent.

The first half of the book, the Prelude, opens in the beginning of 1915 when the peoples of Europe have given up their hope for a quick victory and a near peace, when the generals have given up hope for a decisive "knockout blow," when the French methods of offensives and attacks are proven ineffective, and the war has settled down into a war of "attrition." And what content Romains gives to this word "attrition"! In the trenches the enemy army must be regarded as a solid layer of millions of men to be patiently filed down, thinned out so that some attack may be made in the future. This means daily blood-letting, your own army filling up its own gaps, slogging through corpsy puddings, shoving under 5000 men a day.

At home the war of attrition means the ever-deepening corruption of war economy and society; everything, turned into cash to produce still more guns and still more shells. All economy, all life is swallowed up in the inferno of war.

The workers grow poor and the profiteers rich and the problem is reduced to: Which warring economy will soonest be exhausted. At General Headquarters, no one can clearly see the line of battle. The generals issue orders, read reports, take mild exercise. Perhaps an ambitious Brigadier sends a division over the top so that his name will be mentioned in the communique.

BOMBARDMENT BEGINS

So the Prelude to the Battle. On February 21, 1916, the unbelievably severe bombardment of Verdun begins. Part II of the book, the Battle, deals with the period from the opening of the German attack to the time of the launching of the French counter-offensive. And it is here that Romains analyzes the effects of the war upon men in the trenches. His hero Jerphanion has previous to Verdun decided that "nothing can be worth this. Nothing equals any conceivable argument. This equals the kind of life we are leading (with a hideous death forever hanging over us.)" He explains to his friend Jallez, who wants to know how they can go on, that the men in the trenches do not leave the trenches simply because of social pressure, they would not know where to go or what to do.

Life in the trenches becomes bearable only through the development of an unreasoning fatalism and an animal preoccupation with the means of life. Life becomes and remains for some time bearable but only at the expense of the sensitiveness which is the mark of civilized man.

PROFOUNDLY PESSIMISTIC

At this point in Men of Good Will, Jerphanion is profoundly pessimistic; he thinks that the spirit of rebellion is dead in man; he thinks constantly of possibility of continuance of the war and an escape with some of his men to live in a forest as an armed band against the world. This is his only "security" against the corruption of the world. With this as his only conception of a way out, he goes into the battles as the volume ends. For us, with the vantage of our place in history, we know of the real "out," that taken by the Russian workers in their revolution. Romains said that the only war worth fighting is the one to end war and his book makes it increasingly clear that unless this war is ended the way the Russian workers ended theirs the world will be cast into the terrible animal barbarism in which there will be no hope.