





Hitler & the Prospects of War

Disarmament and War-V.I. Lenin

(Copyright Harpers Magazine) (Continued from last issue) Z. A. Revealing Document

Trotsky Warns Against Nazi Designs on Soviet Union

zollern: Papan and his colleagues are only the epigones of the theatrical policy of Wilhelm II, with this fundamental difference, that the Kaiser had a first class army, whereas they have only the memory of it. Hitler hits a bull's eye here.

arming Germany, not by petty corrections" in the Versailles treaty. Parallel to this, will be developed the program of "defense" against the East.

H Hitler is preparing for war. His policy in the domain of economics is not dictated by the abstraction of autarchy, but primarily by a concern over the maximum economic independence of Germany in case of war.

The four-power pact, deciding nothing fundamental in advance, can only organize the mutual contact of the largest states of western Europe: it is a guarantee against hazards of a secondary order, but not against fundamental antagonisms.

Richard Rall Comrade Richard Rall, an active member of the Left Opposition in Kansas City, passed away Monday August 28.

Up to the time of sickness, comrade Rall was the organizer of the Kansas City branch of the Left Opposition and the study class of the Spartacus Youth Club which, under his able tutelage grew from twelve to twenty.

Richard Rall

Comrade Richard Rall, an active member of the Left Opposition in Kansas City, passed away Monday August 28. Pneumonia was the official cause but the bosses speed-up—the real murderer.

Imperialist War and Class War are Sharply Contrasted

ministry up to participation in the war committees of industry. The concealed opportunists, the Kautskyans, are more harmful and dangerous they hide the defense of their

The adherents of disarmament are opposed to the point in the program on the "arming of the people" for this reason among others, that the latter demand is supposed to lead more easily to concessions to opportunism.

There is no doubt whatever about the fact that this struggle is the most important question on the agenda of the International. A struggle against imperialism, which is not indissolubly connected with the struggle against opportunism, is nothing but an empty phrase or a swindle.

The sincere form of opportunism is frankly and openly opposed to the revolution, and to the beginning revolutionary movements and outbreaks, it is in open alliance with its government, no matter what different forms this alliance may take, ranking from participation in the

to a certain social situation and which can have an influence on a certain social milieu, and which does not merely remain the circle of an individual or of a caste, has, unusually "calm" conditions of existence of a few small states, which have stood aside from the bloody road of the war for a fairly long time, and hope to continue to remain on the side. In order to be convinced of this, it is sufficient to visualize the line of reasoning of the Norwegian adherents of disarmament: "We are a small country, we have a small army, we can do nothing against the great powers (and therefore they are powerless to resist being forcibly drawn into an imperialist alliance with one group or another of the great powers!); we want to continue in peace in our little corner and carry on our little corner politics and demands of disarmament, compulsory courts of arbitration, eternal neutrality, and the rest"

It consists in the fact that the concrete question of the connection of the present war with the revolution and other concrete questions of the revolution are passed over in silence, are veiled over or are treated with reservations as to police prohibitions. And this is done—irrespective of the fact that, before the war, unofficially on innumerable occasions and officially in the Basle Manifesto the connection of precisely this coming war with the proletarian revolution was pointed out.

The main defect of the demand for disarmament consists precisely in the fact that in it all the concrete questions of the revolution are evaded. Or are the adherents of disarmament in favor of an entirely new kind of unarmed revolution?

We go on. We are in no way opposed to the struggle for reforms. We do not want to ignore that disarmament possibly, that if the worst comes to the worst, mankind will live through yet another imperialist war, if, irrespective of the numerous outbreaks of the ferment among the masses and their discontent and irrespective of our efforts, the revolution fails to develop out of this war. We are in favor of a program of reforms, which is directed against the opportunists too. The opportunists would be only too happy if we were to leave to them alone the struggle for reforms, and betake ourselves to the misty distances of some "disarmament" in order to save ourselves by flight from the sad reality.

The petty effort of the small states to remain on the side—the petty-bourgeois wish to remain at all costs far from the great battles of world history—and to use their relatively monopolistic position to remain in an ossified passivity—this is objectively the situation which can obtain a certain success and a certain circulation for the idea of disarmament in a few small states. It is self-understood that this effort is reactionary and rests on illusions alone, since imperialism is drawing the small states after all, in one way or another, into the whirlpool of world economy and world politics.

We can illustrate this by the example of Switzerland. The imperialist situation prescribes for it, objectively speaking, two directions for the labor movement. The opportunists are trying to make an alliance with the bourgeoisie, to make Switzerland a republican-democratic monopoly federation, to make money out of the tourists of their monopolistic bourgeoisie, and to be able to use this "peaceful" monopoly position all the more profitably and all the more quietly. In practice, this policy of the alliance of a small privileged layer of workers in a small country, itself in a privileged position, with the bourgeoisie of its own country, is opposed to the masses of the proletariat. The genuine social-democrats of Switzerland are trying to use the relative freedom of Switzerland, its "international" position (as interposition to the countries of the highest civilization), as well as the circumstance that Switzerland, thank God, does not speak its own independent" language but three world languages for the broadening, consolidation and strengthening of the revolutionary alliance of the proletariat of all Europe.

"Let us help our bourgeoisie to remain in the monopoly position of dealing in the quietest manner possible its beauties of the Alps, for a long time to come; perhaps then a few penury will fall for us"—this is, objectively speaking, the content of the policy of the Swiss opportunists. "Let us help the alliance of the revolutionary proletariat among the French, the Germans and the Italians to overthrow the bourgeoisie"—that is the object-content of the policy of the Swiss revolutionary social-democrats. Unfortunately this policy is still only inadequately carried through by the "Lefts" in Switzerland, and the excellent and the excellent decision of its party congress in Aarau in 1915 (recognition of the revolutionary mass struggle) for the time being still remains on paper. But that is not the question now.

The question which interests us can be posed in this way: Does the demand for disarmament correspond to the revolutionary direction among the Swiss social-democrats, or not? Obviously this is not the case. Objectively speaking, the "demand" for disarmament corresponds to the opportunistic, narrowly-national, line of the labor movement, limited by the horizon of a small state. Objectively speaking, "disarmament" is the most national, the specifically national, program of the small states, and in no way an international program of international social-democracy. —N. LENIN.

P. S. In the last issue of the English magazine, The Socialist Review (September 1916), the organ of the opportunistic "Independent Labour Party", we find on page 287 the resolution of the Newcastle Conference of this party—"refusal of support to any conceivable war of any conceivable government", even if this war should "nominally" be a defensive war. And on page 205 we find in the editorial the following statement, "We do not approve the insurrection of the Sinn-Feiners (the insurrection Ireland in 1916). We do not approve of any armed insurrection altogether, just as we do not approve of militarism and war no matter what kind of form it may take".

"It is absurd to think," Hitler explained to Papan, "that the power which disarmed us, will today seriously also disarm itself without being forced to do so." It is just as absurd to wait for France to agree some fine day or other to the rearmament of Germany. Its enormous military preponderance relieves France of the necessity of an entente with a vanquished foe on the basis of equality of rights.

"It is absurd to think," Hitler explained to Papan, "that the power which disarmed us, will today seriously also disarm itself without being forced to do so." It is just as absurd to wait for France to agree some fine day or other to the rearmament of Germany. Its enormous military preponderance relieves France of the necessity of an entente with a vanquished foe on the basis of equality of rights.

"It is absurd to think," Hitler explained to Papan, "that the power which disarmed us, will today seriously also disarm itself without being forced to do so." It is just as absurd to wait for France to agree some fine day or other to the rearmament of Germany. Its enormous military preponderance relieves France of the necessity of an entente with a vanquished foe on the basis of equality of rights.

Inflation Hits the American Working Class

When President Roosevelt was granted the power to reduce the gold content of the dollar by one half and to inflate currency the inter-relationship of politics and economics was clearly seen by the stimulation this act gave to the increase of the prices of commodities.

The commodities that the workers buy have increased greatly in price and average over 30 percent in many cities. Many economists deny this and inform us that inflation amounts to only about 1 percent. One of the many tricks their use is the method of taking an average of about 300 commodities, the majority of which the workers do not even buy once a year.

Again the question of currency inflation is coming to the fore. This time directly in relation to the NRA. General Johnson correctly informs the public that unless the machinery for credit is organized as fast as the codes are being signed, the NRA will not function properly. This means increased credit inflation now, to be followed by currency inflation later.

The objectivists of capitalism are systematically propagandizing the general public to the effect that there is no inflation. This is true only in the sense that the technical financial machinery of inflation has not been put into motion on a broad scale.

When President Roosevelt was granted the power to reduce the gold content of the dollar by one half and to inflate currency the inter-relationship of politics and economics was clearly seen by the stimulation this act gave to the increase of the prices of commodities.

The commodities that the workers buy have increased greatly in price and average over 30 percent in many cities. Many economists deny this and inform us that inflation amounts to only about 1 percent. One of the many tricks their use is the method of taking an average of about 300 commodities, the majority of which the workers do not even buy once a year.

Again the question of currency inflation is coming to the fore. This time directly in relation to the NRA. General Johnson correctly informs the public that unless the machinery for credit is organized as fast as the codes are being signed, the NRA will not function properly. This means increased credit inflation now, to be followed by currency inflation later.

The objectivists of capitalism are systematically propagandizing the general public to the effect that there is no inflation. This is true only in the sense that the technical financial machinery of inflation has not been put into motion on a broad scale.

ica is the world's creditor nation has a tendency to force the dollar toward par. But further measures against this tendency have been taken by the government.

Nevertheless, the government measures that is: the conferring of power to inflate currency, the going off the gold standard, the embargo on gold, the power to reduce the gold content of the dollar by 50 percent, the public works projects, the credit inflation and the fall of the dollar on the foreign exchange by 30 percent, all this has had the effect of causing prices to rise rapidly. Senator Thomas, who sponsored the Farm Adjustment Act amendment, said in behalf of his proposed inflationary measure: "If the kind of inflation we are having brings back the 1926 price level, then perhaps we may not need to resort to physical inflation of currency"

The currency policy of the government is now following up its farm relief and R. F. C. policy by having the Federal Reserve increase its purchases of government securities in the open market. Since this leads to the replacing of Federal Reserve notes, backed by a minimum of 40 percent gold, by notes, backed by what is called sound collateral, this leads to a form of inflation.

The general result is that since the Roosevelt government took office, there have been over a hundred million dollars of the new Federal Reserve Bank notes issued, but this has been more than counterbalanced by the heavy decrease in the old Federal Reserve notes outstanding. The further expenditure of public funds under the recovery plan will stimulate the recovery of credit, started under the Hoover administration.

ica is the world's creditor nation has a tendency to force the dollar toward par. But further measures against this tendency have been taken by the government.

Nevertheless, the government measures that is: the conferring of power to inflate currency, the going off the gold standard, the embargo on gold, the power to reduce the gold content of the dollar by 50 percent, the public works projects, the credit inflation and the fall of the dollar on the foreign exchange by 30 percent, all this has had the effect of causing prices to rise rapidly. Senator Thomas, who sponsored the Farm Adjustment Act amendment, said in behalf of his proposed inflationary measure: "If the kind of inflation we are having brings back the 1926 price level, then perhaps we may not need to resort to physical inflation of currency"

The currency policy of the government is now following up its farm relief and R. F. C. policy by having the Federal Reserve increase its purchases of government securities in the open market. Since this leads to the replacing of Federal Reserve notes, backed by a minimum of 40 percent gold, by notes, backed by what is called sound collateral, this leads to a form of inflation.

The general result is that since the Roosevelt government took office, there have been over a hundred million dollars of the new Federal Reserve Bank notes issued, but this has been more than counterbalanced by the heavy decrease in the old Federal Reserve notes outstanding. The further expenditure of public funds under the recovery plan will stimulate the recovery of credit, started under the Hoover administration.

—HUGO OEHLER.

—N. LENIN.

