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DUTCH EAST INDIES
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MEXICO
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Other relations in :

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BRAZIL
BULGARIA
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
GERMANY
GREECE
ITALY
JAPAN
LATVIA
POLAND
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
and other countries

AN URGENT TRADE UNION TASK

THE second year of the Nazi-Fascist war has begun. This is not the only war in being ; another rages in Asia. And the theatre of war may at any time extend to other parts of the world.

The end of the second world war is not yet in sight. It will come some day ; but when ? It is repugnant to human reason to think that the carnage can go on for longer than a few years. And it is impossible to avoid a presentiment that both the present wars will end more or less at the same time. One Fascist breakdown will bring others in its train.

We do not know what kind of a world we shall have then, but we do know what kind of a world we want to build after the war.

The organized workers cannot leave the building of the new world to the " others." If they do not wish to be eternally the losers, they must take an active part in the organization of the peace. They must be on the spot when the Peace Treaty is framed ; they must be there to propose their solutions of the problems arising, and they must be in a position to back the words of their spokesmen by trade union action.

Why ? Because the end of the war will bring the world one of three things : Democracy with its vast possibilities of economic, social and cultural progress through the organized co-operation of free peoples ; or a limping peace on the Versailles model with its gloomy prospects of economic stagnation, social and political retrogression and new wars ; or Fascist domination on a world-wide scale. *The victory of the democratic powers will not automatically bring a democratic peace.* On the morrow of the present war the saying of Jaures will be more applicable than ever : " The peace of the world depends on the unity of the workers."

Until such a time as it will be possible to unite all the workers, including those who to-day are governed or subjugated by tyrants, it is necessary to unite for the tasks that lie ahead, such workers as are free to unite, the workers of all the free countries of the world, organized in trade unions which are independent of the State or of any foreign country.

This unity still hangs fire. The number of trade unions still living in national isolation is very large, so large, in fact, that the trade union movement of the free countries would at present be incapable of action on a grand scale, even if all other conditions were favourable for international action.

Neutrality ? There is no worker nor trade union movement in the world whose lot will not be affected by the " peace aims " which will be pursued by those who hold the reins of power on the morrow of the war. There will be no neutrality about the peace, and, be it a good one or a bad one, it will also have profound effects on the economic, social and political lives of those who succeed in remaining neutral during the war.

THE BRITISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS

The annual meeting of the British Trades Union Congress took place on 7 to 9 October. It was attended by over 650 delegates.

The General Council presented a report covering the T.U.C.'s activities during the first year of the war. During that year the industrial mobilization of the country, which had been slow at the beginning but had come into stride since the defeat of France, raised many problems, which had to be solved by means of agreements between trade unions and employers, between trade unions and government authorities, and between employers and government authorities. Some of the problems had necessitated the enactment of a vast body of wartime legislation. "We have tried," explained Sir Walter Citrine, general secretary of the T.U.C., "to balance our policy and to direct it in the national effort to bring this country through the present tremendous ordeal. At the same time we are trying, as best we can, to widen the ambit and the influence of the trade union movement in this grave period."

The debates centred largely around three problems: the independence and autonomy of the trade union movement, the war effort in the industrial field, and the social policy of the war period.

The necessities of the war made it imperative for

An Urgent Trade Union Task—*continued*

All militant trade unionists in all the free countries should apply themselves immediately to the task of uniting the organized workers who are free to pursue their own peace aims. They should be united in the International Federation of Trade Unions and the international industrial federations. To postpone the matter until later may save the affiliation fees to the international organizations, but it is the surest possible way of making impossible or ineffective any action to realize the workers' peace aims.

The peace aims of the organized workers of the free countries must be brought into harmony and embodied in a common programme. It is not necessary to produce this programme immediately, but its formulation should be undertaken without delay. Our experience of international discussions has taught us that when a common course of action is to be agreed upon between workers' unions of a large number of countries, it must be preceded by a great amount of extremely complicated and long drawn out technical work. If we await the end of the war before making clear to one another what we want, exchanging ideas and opinions, and trying to work out common peace aims, there would be great danger of the job being so badly done as to fail in its purpose. It is of paramount importance, therefore, that joint deliberations take place as soon as possible.

the trade unions and employers to try to settle conflicts without resorting to strike or lockout action and to conclude agreements on questions not arising in peace time. In dealings with the Government, also, it was necessary always to reach agreement or, at least, to smooth out difficulties. Critics who are or pretend to be ignorant of this compelling necessity imposed by the war, or rather by the desire of the British trade union movement to ensure the victory of the allied arms in this war, can talk glibly about the trade union movement's submission to employers and Government. Actually the movement has strengthened its position. William Holmes, president of the T.U.C., could with reason say: "We have secured for trade union principles a fuller measure of recognition, a more extended application of these principles and, I believe, a more generous understanding and appreciation of them than ever before." Referring to the future, when class antagonisms might reappear, he said, "We have established for the trade unions relationships of influence, responsibility and authority" which will survive this war. Sir Walter Citrine declared that the co-operation with the Government and the consultations with the employers did not mean that the T.U.C. had sunk its point of view and buried differences. Rather was the Council by those very practical means prosecuting its own policy of trying to see that what the nation did was as democratic as it could possibly be made. The presence of trade unionists in the Government did not mean that the T.U.C. accepted blindfolded all that the Government did. "Without sacrificing one scrap of our individuality or independence," said Citrine, "we have tried to preserve an attitude of watchful though cordial collaboration."

The trade union movement not only desires to retain its independence, to increase its influence and authority, but also it vigorously demands extension of the rights of the workers' organizations and restoration of rights which have been abolished in the past. A strong demand was voiced for amendment of the Trades Disputes Act of 1927 curtailing trade union rights and forbidding the civil service unions to belong to the T.U.C. or international organizations. Sharp criticism was expressed of the banks and insurance companies which withhold union recognition and support company unions, and the T.U.C. may be expected to call for legislation to deal with recalcitrant employers of this type.

The industrial effort in the interests of the prosecution of the war also raises problems, such as the training of large numbers of men and women for new war industries now largely solved. To counteract enemy aerial activity designed to slow down industrial production, it is necessary not to interrupt work at every alert announcing

the approach of enemy planes, and to reduce to a minimum the interruptions necessary for the safety of the workers. To meet the situation factories must be provided with special look-out posts and the workers must be prepared to accept risks. The T.U.C. examined the technical aspect of the question, of which the solution must be adapted to the requirements of each factory, in consultation with the workers concerned. It also considered the social aspect and demanded adequate provision for workers and their families in case of injuries or fatalities resulting from bombardments of factories.

It was decided that an investigation should be made into the working of the scheme of compulsory arbitration which had been in existence for the past four months, before agreeing to its continuance after 1940. Attention will also be given to the situation arising from the employment of women labour in industry and the demand for equal pay for equal work. A demand was made for improvement in air raid precaution services and arrangements and better provision for the victims of air raids. Other resolutions demanded measures to protect public health standards.

The general resolution expressing approval of the General Council's report, and reaffirming the grim determination of the trade union movement to carry to a victorious conclusion the struggle against the aggressive powers, was attacked by three delegates inspired by Communist propaganda. Each, however, had to declare that he spoke for himself and that the delegation of his organization would vote for the resolution.

The Congress was addressed by two ministers. The leader of the Labour Party and member of the War Cabinet, R. C. Attlee, stated that if for the present the Government preferred not to discuss the reconstruction of the world after the war, they were nevertheless giving thought to the matter. The new world, he said, would have to be based upon the principles of the labour movement, viz. freedom, democracy, collective security and social justice. Ernest Bevin, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union and Minister of Labour and National Service, in an inspiring address explained what effort the working class would have to make to win the war and why. He summed up the difficulties which have to be overcome and the reasons why victory was certain.

A message of sympathy and encouragement was received from the American Federation of Labour.

Trade Union Concentration in Canada

The Canadian trade union movement was originally an extension of the American. The old corporate organizations of North America call themselves "international," and draw their members from Canada as well as the United States. The Canadian local and regional sections of these organizations are united in the Trades and Labour

Congress of Canada. Others, prominent among them the Canadian sections of the big railway craft brotherhoods, are independent. The Trades and Labour Congress of Canada is, so to say, for that country what the American Federation of Labour is for the United States.

There exist in Canada also a number of trade unions which have no connections with the international organizations with headquarters in the United States. These bodies are united in the All-Canadian Congress of Labour, whose aim is to embrace all organized workers in unions confined to Canada. It is opposed to the principle of Canadian workers being organized in organizations established in the United States.

Some years ago a split took place in the United States trade union movement. Under the leadership of John Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, several "international" organizations instituted a movement which resulted in the constitution of the Committee for Industrial Organization—which later became the Congress of Industrial Organizations—and a breakaway from the American Federation of Labour. The Canadian sections of the breakaway organizations formed a Canadian branch of the C.I.O., moving thus towards the foundation of a third central trade union body in Canada. In 1939 the Congress of Industrial Organizations decided to grant complete autonomy to the constituent Canadian sections in "all economic and legislative" matters. These sections were then faced with the following choice: (1) To constitute a Canadian Congress of Industrial Organizations; (2) To seek an understanding with the Trades and Labour Congress; (3) To seek an understanding with the All-Canadian Congress of Labour. The third of these policies was chosen.

Negotiations which took place resulted in an agreement to amalgamate the Canadian Committee for Industrial Organization with the All-Canadian Congress of Labour. The amalgamation congress took place from 9 to 12 September last at Toronto and formulated the Constitution of the new organization, which was named Canadian Congress of Labour. The new Congress will comprise the Canadian sections of thirteen "international" organizations operating from the United States. It will cover organizations catering for the same industries, between which there will be no competition, but understanding and co-operation. The constituent bodies of the new Congress will establish federations on a provincial scale.

The Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees and Other Transport Workers was the leading organization in the former All-Canadian Congress of Labour. The re-election of its president, A. R. Mosher, as president of the new Congress, and of its treasurer, M. M. Maclean, to the governing body, shows that the amalgamation has changed nothing in this respect.

THE SEAMEN AND THE TRADE UNIONS IN WAR TIME

When in April and May last several countries were overrun by the German armies, the International Transport Workers' Federation, in association with the International Mercantile Marine Officers' Association, called upon the seafarers of the countries concerned not to obey the orders of the oppressors of their countries, but to bring their ships to allied ports, thereby saving them from falling into the hands of the Nazis and ensuring their being used in the fight against Hitlerism.

With the help of the British unions, the continental seamen's unions were kept in being by the establishment on British soil of new headquarters for the Norwegian, Danish, Dutch, Belgian, French and Polish seamen's unions. *Prompt action was taken to maintain the trade union spirit and to provide the seamen with an instrument for safeguarding and improving their social conditions. The newly elected secretaries began their activities in difficult circumstances, but the seamen themselves facilitated matters by enrolling in thousands in the reconstituted unions and by paying contributions and arrears, so that to-day, after six months have elapsed, it may be said that the seamen's unions of the countries concerned are as strong and as representative of the seamen as ever.*

When the war was carried into countries which had hitherto been neutral, an entirely new situation arose. The seamen of these countries were cut off from their homes, relatives and friends. Their national currencies became part of the German monetary system and were no longer recognized in unsubjugated countries. It therefore became necessary to regulate anew the position of the seamen concerned. Apart from questions such as social insurances, machinery for the settlement of differences, and shore leave, the first task of the unions was to negotiate new collective agreements dealing with conditions of employment in ships in the light of British conditions. The results secured in the negotiations which took place must be admitted to be satisfactory by all who understand the situation. As a matter of fact if the men's representatives had been as nervous as many of the men themselves, who were only too eager to receive British pay instead of wages in their own money, which very soon dropped in value, the conditions secured would have been worse than they are to-day. With comparatively few exceptions, mainly due to misinterpretation of the agreements, the seamen accepted and appreciated the emergency solution which was arrived at.

Yet some trouble has arisen and may continue to arise in the shape of efforts to hold up ships lying in non-British ports. In countries such as Portugal and Spain German agents are trying to induce seamen to leave their ships by threatening

that reprisals will be taken against their people at home and promising them high pay if they will take their ships to the home country. There are still seamen who yield to such threats, and possibly some who believe in the promises of favourable conditions.

Then, in the United States, for example, forces of a different kind are at work. These pretend to be strongly opposed to Hitlerism, but at the same time they incite seamen to leave the ships or to refuse to take them to sea because the conditions offered them are unsatisfactory. It is stated that since the invasion of the neutral countries the I.T.F. and the seamen's unions of these countries have gone out of existence, and that those who have negotiated the new agreements are in the pay of, or at any rate are the tools of the shipowners.

In New York a body calling itself the Organization of European Seamen has been established with the aid of the National Maritime Union of America. The N.M.U. is well aware that the I.T.F. is carrying on its work, and that the seamen's trade unions have also been kept going due to the foresight and initiative of the I.T.F. Yet the N.M.U. allows itself to be represented as a sponsor of the so-called Organization of European Seamen. A wire of the I.T.F. asking them for an explanation remained unanswered.

The establishment of the Organization of European Seamen, with the backing of the N.M.U., is an act of treachery of the worst kind. Those who read the publications of the N.M.U. and the bodies associated with it, cannot avoid the conclusion that a rival seamen's organization has been established with the object of hampering the allied war effort.

We do not fear the new organization established in the United States. Its influence is small and will soon disappear altogether. One of the organizations associated with the N.M.U. is the Scandinavian Seamen's Club movement, mainly composed of Norwegian seamen trading in American waters. Following the invasion of Norway, the Scandinavian Seamen's Clubs issued the statement that the invasion had been provoked by the Norwegian Government, and that the Norwegian seamen desired to remain neutral. But what about the other countries? Did the Danish Government provoke the invasion of their country? And the Dutch, and the Belgian and the Polish?

The policy of the Scandinavian Seamen's Clubs is clearly Communist, and stands for isolation and for the conclusion of peace with Nazi Germany. We have read recently a manifesto supposed to emanate from the Communist Party in Germany in which the conclusion of immediate peace is demanded. The Norwegian Communist Party has published a programme on the same lines. This is all very nice, and if the Communists of Germany,

or Norway, or the United States, or of Soviet Russia for that matter, were to-day capable of securing a peace based upon the destruction of the Nazi regime, no one would hesitate to follow their lead. They are, however, neither able nor willing to do so and are simply playing Hitler's and Mussolini's game, who have every reason to be content with the moral help they are getting. Because it is clear to all that to discuss peace with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, who in fact may themselves launch a peace offensive any moment, would only mean another strengthening of these totalitarian countries; would mean the total destruction of the Socialist movement, the complete subjugation of the countries occupied to-day, and the prelude to another war, a war which would be waged for world hegemony. If the advocates of appeasement were logical they would also call for the conclusion of a peace between China and Japan. But for some reason the Communist Party of China does not give prominence to such a programme. Nor does Moscow. In fact no one is more indignant than the Communists when it is considered that China gets insufficient help to carry on her struggle to shake off the Japanese yoke.

Just as the Chinese workers want to fight for their freedom so the European workers and peoples want to continue the struggle until victory has been won.

We passionately desire peace to return to the world, but we hold that there can be no peace, no prosperity, no basis for the uplift of the working classes, until the totalitarian regimes of Germany, Italy and Japan have been brought to their knees, and swept aside by the working peoples of these countries.

Therefore, we support the allied war effort; but we wish to retain our independence, believing as we do in a free as distinct from a State-controlled trade union movement. We are determined to fight on, and have no doubt that the coming generation will understand and will be grateful for the stand we made. The seamen who are serving the allied war effort are rendering a great service to humanity. May they always be conscious of the part they are playing, and never allow themselves to be misled, on any pretext whatsoever, to betray their own interests and ideals and thereby to extend the life of Fascism and National Socialism.

To all whom it may concern

From a speech made at Nuremberg and reported by the "Sueddeutscher Voelkischer Beobachter" of 15 July, 1940:

"We wish to stress that our victory is not the final one. Our victory means not the close but the dawn of a new era."

DR. ROBERT LEY

Fuehrer of the German Labour Front.

Transfer of Dock Labour in Great Britain

The necessity of transferring dock labour from port to port is likely to occur often during the time a country like Great Britain is at war. The British dockers' trade union has negotiated an agreement providing for the enrolment of volunteers who are willing at short notice to travel to any port of the country with a view to carrying out vital work and maintaining essential services and supplies.

The outstanding provisions of the scheme are as follows:

Only volunteers are transferred under the scheme, no worker is transferred from port to port unless he has volunteered and given his written consent. Men are not asked to travel to other ports unless there is a reasonable prospect of at least six days' continuous employment. Free travelling facilities are provided, and the men receive 6s. 6d. for each day upon which they travel. Arrangements are made at the Receiving Port on their arrival for lodging accommodation. Whilst working away from their home port a daily subsistence allowance of 5s. a day is made. Wage payments are made at the rate and under the conditions applicable to the port to which the transfer is effected. Whether it be on a daily minimum rate or on a payment by result arrangement it invariably follows that men transferred are at least able to earn the minimum daily rate of the port. In the event, however, of the actual earnings on any day amounting to less 10s., which might occur in the case of broken time, the amount is made up to a guaranteed minimum of 10s. by the Government with a minimum payment of £3 for the week. Men are not usually required to remain for longer than six days in a port, but if they do they continue to qualify for the guarantee of 10s. per day until the completion of their employment. On the homeward journey the worker is entitled to free travel, with an allowance of 6s. 6d. a day. With the guaranteed minimum and the subsistence allowance each worker transferred receives a minimum payment of £3 10s. for the six days work.

The British Transport and General Workers' Union has for many years been pressing for the essential features of these arrangements: free travel for dockers moving from one port to another, transfer allowances and an adequate minimum wage. The wartime conditions have undoubtedly facilitated the enforcement of these trade union demands, but the dockers are determined to consolidate their wartime conquests when peace comes.

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AUSTRALIAN RAILWAYMEN AND THE WAR

The railway workers of Australia organized in the Australian Railways Union have expressed in various resolutions adopted by the Union's Australian Council, apprehensions with regard to the political and social consequences of the war. They fear that the war will be followed by a period of political reaction, bringing a lowering of standards of living and a restriction of democratic liberties. They fear that the chief war aim of the democratic governments is to preserve the capitalist and colonial system. Some of them believe that the governments of the democratic powers aim to convert the war against Germany into a war against Soviet Russia.

To parry the danger of the war being diverted from its real aims, that is to say, the aims the workers and combatants have in mind, the Australian Railways Union calls for a public formulation by the democratic governments of the war aims which they pursue in addition to the overthrow of the Hitler régime, and upon the basis of which peace negotiations can be conducted. They further urge that such a public declaration be followed by a conference to discuss the terms of peace and lay the foundations of a system of collective security.

As to the social aspects of the war, that is to say the future lot of the working classes, the Australian railwaymen call upon the workers to intensify the struggle for the realization of Socialism. The relevant resolution is couched in the following terms:

"That this Australian Council, recognizing the breakdown of the capitalist system, its failure to provide the necessities of life to all the human family, and the growing menace of Fascism, calls upon kindred political and industrial organizations to intensify the fight for Socialism."

* * *

The Australian railwaymen are not the only ones who are uneasy about certain aspects of the war. This uneasiness is found also among trade unionists in America and elsewhere.

The defence of living standards is a purely material question. It is a question in which the workers' organizations must show both their strength and their wisdom. Consumption cannot exceed production. The millions of men and women whose time and energy are devoted entirely to the war and the war industries consume without producing articles of consumption. The standard of living of a nation at war can only be maintained in so far as the available forces and means of production are capable of meeting requirements, and in so far as it is possible to increase the production of essentials and stop that of non-essentials. These possibilities vary greatly from one country to another.

Workers' organizations desiring a victory for the armed forces of their country, and as early a

victory as possible, must consider what part of the country's resources should be devoted to the war effort and what part to satisfying the daily needs of the population. They must decide what restrictions of consumption, if any, are necessary in the interests of the war effort; they must decide what sacrifices called for by the Government, in the interests of the prosecution of the war are acceptable, and what, if any, are not.

In this connection no programme can be laid down which is valid for the workers' organizations in all the countries involved in the war. The limits to the war effort and to the possibility of maintaining living standards depend upon the ability of each belligerent country to do two things at the same time: wage the war and produce for consumption. (The unemployed are an important reserve of productive force).

The maintenance of democratic liberties is of capital importance. If such liberties had existed in Germany and Italy we should probably not be at war. If such rights could be introduced now in either of these countries, the end of the war would be in sight. If democratic rights had not been curtailed in France this country would probably not have suffered such a crushing defeat, and certainly would not have surrendered. If there were any democratic rights in Soviet Russia, and a free and enlightened public opinion, practised in making use of them, there would certainly have been no war against Finland.

The suppression of democratic rights does indeed involve the danger of the war being diverted from its real aims, and of the people being unable to prevent it.

The maintenance of democratic rights, and their establishment or re-establishment in countries where they do not exist, is one of the primary aims of the war. This interpretation of their declarations will certainly not be challenged by any one of the democratic governments. All those whose wish it is that the peace shall not be diverted from its aims will join with the Australian railway workers in inviting the governments concerned to state how they propose to organize world democracy after the war, and how they propose to solve the colonial problem in accordance with the precepts of democracy.

We stress the question of the maintenance and extension of democracy because therein lies the only real guarantee of peace. We insist upon them also because democracy is the only real guarantee of social progress. No one less than the founder of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics declared: "Without democracy there can be no Socialism."

The solution of all the economic, political and social problems raised by the resolutions of the Australian railwaymen is, at present, bound up with the issue of the war.

THIS IS THE PEOPLE'S WAR

by JOHN MARCHBANK, *General Secretary, National Union of Railwaymen*

This is our war—the people's war. If there were ever any doubt about it, the tragic events of the last months have brought the truth home to working people. Trade unionists knew, before the war began, what Hitlerism meant for the German, Austrian and Czecho-Slovak peoples. It reduced them to a state of slavery. Their magnificent Trade Union organization was destroyed by the same smashing blows which shattered the foundations of free citizenship and wrecked the collective agreements and social legislation which had protected workers and their families.

Slave workers

Industrial servitude, forced labour on bare subsistence wages, a penal code of discipline, the loss of every effective means of protest against degrading conditions of employment—these were the immediate consequences of Hitlerism.

It is a slave system, more ruthless, complete and aggressive than any form of serfdom which existed in the Middle Ages. The tortures of the concentration camp and the Gestapo terrorise the people.

Nazi tyranny extends to the inner life of the people. A venomous philosophy justifies the worst excesses of racial persecution, and strives by every device of propaganda to uproot the humane instincts and decent kindly feeling of the people. It sows suspicion, fear and hate in the very bosom of the family. None dare trust his neighbour with his inmost thoughts, or speak freely even in his own home. To seek the truth in free discussion or by listening to foreign broadcasts is a criminal offence. The authority of the State, of the Nazi party, or the ruling clique amongst its leaders, is absolute. No freedom of thought or action, no voluntary association for any economic, social, political or cultural purpose.

Australian Railwaymen and the War—continued

Peace must be organized on lines which will prevent the recurrence of wars if social progress is to be lasting. Whether the economic order be socialist or capitalist or something else, guns will come before butter, and bombing planes before old age pensions, so long as wars remain possible and, therefore, probable.

Democracy is the primary condition for peace. So long as the peoples remain unenlightened and without the right to act and impose their will upon the governments, war will remain an ever-present danger.

And as the *Railways Union Gazette*, one of the trade union journals of the Australian railwaymen, rightly emphasizes in its issue of 10 July last, to secure "the kind of peace in the world wanted by the workers" requires "as a starting point, the overthrow of the Hitler régime and the triumph of the Allies."

The terror draws near

As trade unionists we knew all this. Refugees from the Nazi terror gave us authentic details about it. Through the underground channels of our international Trade Union and Labour movement we received continuous information of the process of enslavement of the German, Austrian and Czecho-Slovak workers.

But the terror and tyranny were remote from us. We sympathised, we tried to help the exiles, and to fortify the courage and faith of those who remained in bondage: but we said, "It Can't Happen Here."

Then came the armed invasion of Poland, which left its towns and villages in ruins and placed its people under the same iron regime, with all its cruelties intensified a thousandfold. Poles, without distinction of sex or age, were driven into slavery, to work for their Nazi masters under conditions of oppression and ill-treatment that the serfs of antiquity never knew.

The real fight

When Denmark and Norway, Holland and Belgium, and at last even France, fell victims to the same plague of violence, betrayed by treachery from within and overcome by the armed power of the Nazi dictator, the real nature of the struggle in which we were involved became apparent. *The people of our own country know now what the menace is that we are fighting and must defeat if freedom is to survive.*

This is our war, because our liberty, our life, our free citizenship, our democratic organizations are threatened with destruction. We have risen as a nation to defend them.

It is our war, because our kith and kin are serving in the army, the navy, the air force, the mercantile marine. From the homes of our people the fighting forces have been recruited.

A people in arms

It is our war, because the risks and responsibilities of national defence have fallen upon us. The men of the Home Guard, the A.R.P. (air raid precaution) workers, the auxiliary firemen, the ambulance units, every section of the civil defence organization from part of our mobilized nation. We are in arms as a people, to repel any invasion of our soil and preserve our homes.

It is our war, because the working people have flung their energies into the work of equipping the fighting forces, have surrendered for the time being vital safeguards of normal industrial life, in order that the war trades shall be kept in continuous production and to ensure swift and ample supplies of every essential weapon. Transport workers of

all grades are equally indispensable and are giving their whole energies to the cause.

It is our war, because the possibility of establishing a just and enduring peace lies in the strength and tenacity of purpose of a united nation. Were we to falter as a people and lose courage, the last fortress of freedom would fall. All Europe would relapse into savagery. We should share the fate of Poland.

It is our war, because we elected as a free people to oppose Hitlerism and are fighting with a clear conscience, not for ourselves only but for the liberation of oppressed and plundered peoples; not to dominate, exploit and destroy other nations but to create the conditions under which all nations can live in security and share equitably the material wealth of the earth.

Bond or free?

It is our war, the people's war, because this war will decide whether we are to live under Governments of our own choosing or be delivered, bound hand and foot, to tyrannical rulers who know no law except their own cruel caprices. Through centuries of political and social struggle the people of Britain gained the right to choose their Governments, and control them through freely elected representatives in Parliament assembled. In the countries under the heel of the dictators, men without conscience and without faith acknowledge no single right of free association, free thought, or free speech. They deny to the people any voice in the framing of laws and decrees which affect their life and their labour.

IT IS OUR WAR, THE PEOPLE'S WAR, BECAUSE THE PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING TO SECURE A REBIRTH OF FREEDOM, SO THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH.

World Problems and American Labour

Dr. Charles Stelzle, one of the most outstanding writers in the American labour press, may be considered to express the views of the most thoughtful section of the American trade union movement. Under the title "World Problems and American Labour" he writes in the journal of the International Association of Machinists, of which he has been a member for thirty-five years:

"Every day brings fresh evidence that practically the whole world is undergoing a great change not only in form of government, but in the economic and social principles by which it will be controlled. In some countries this will mean a complete revolution in methods of living and in human relationships.

That our own country will be influenced by these changes, no one who is following the course

of events can deny. These changes will take place no matter who will win the World War. Values of commodities will be cheapened in other lands and as international exchanges will be based upon such cheapened commodities, it will follow that American Labour will be placed in competition with underpaid and underprivileged workers in these low-standard countries.

Because of these undeniable facts, it is foolish for Americans to assert that "this war is none of our business." There was never a world situation which was more our business. It is therefore the height of folly—and, may we say, of stupidity—to declare that it doesn't matter what happens overseas.

We are being warned not to become 'hysterical' about the war. This is undoubtedly good advice. Hysteria isn't going to help anybody. But if Americans are not stirred to the very depths of their feelings by the facts that now face us, then we will have forsaken the finest instincts of the human race. But more than this, we need to consider how the war is going to affect us economically. This is particularly true of Organized Labour. To be indifferent to the problems of the workers overseas would be going contrary to its entire history. The workers of America have consistently expressed their feelings regarding the sufferings of workers in other lands.

We have frequently disagreed with European workers in our political and economic programmes, but we have also disagreed as Americans in such matters. In the present situation we are fighting a common enemy. We need unitedly to help sustain the highest standard of living for workers everywhere. In the face of this situation, how can we say that it doesn't matter what happens to the workers overseas? We will rise or fall together. Not to the same degree, of course—but how many of us are ready to accept a radical cut in all our comforts and privileges—and to work on without any hope for betterment in this generation? For we may as well face the fact that the damage already done will compel the greater part of the world to live at a lower standard than any other generation has ever experienced.

In such an hour as this, when what is now happening will go down in history as one of its most vital periods, those of us who believe in the principles of democracy, of freedom and of liberty for all mankind, will squarely face all the facts which confront workers everywhere. In any case, one of two things may happen to America. Either we will become the saviours of democracy for the world, or we will become victims of a catastrophe which will affect all nations. Meanwhile, we need to hold fast to the fundamental principles which have guided us successfully from the beginning of our history."