

Sundbey
Box 3(ii)

- WAR - MANIFESTO

FELLOW WORKERS,

Once again the European capitalists have resorted to war to settle their differences over the question of the right to control certain territories and to exploit the workers therein.

As in 1914 the fundamental cause of the present conflict is the clash of capitalist interests and IN NO WAY WHATEVER IS THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS INVOLVED. Your masters do not tell you this; they veil the question with lies about Democracy versus Hitlerism. However, Mr. Chamberlain and other spokesmen of the British ruling class have stated "We have no quarrel with the German people"; obviously then, the quarrel is admittedly between the rulers of the belligerent countries.

In typical war fashion the issues are camouflaged and you, Fellow Workers, are urged to fight out a quarrel which does not concern you. While the facts of the situation are carefully concealed we hear much from the politicians about what they call 'the issues at stake'. Labor politicians re-echo the studied statements of the avowed representatives of the capitalist class, statements designed to fool the workers and lead them to the slaughter. Thus do the treacheries of peace-time politics lead inevitably to betrayals in war-time.

With the Government and the Labor Party stands the Communist Party whose 'Leaders' re-echoing Chamberlain's words, "We have no quarrel with the German people" urges the Australian workers on to war. (See Communist papers Sept. 5th. & 6th. Melbourne and Sydney.)

In 1914, the Socialist Party of Great Britain issued a statement on the outbreak of war. In the confusion created by betrayals and deception on the part of Labor, Communists and Nationalists, the SOCIALIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA sold out the Socialist position as outlined by our companion party twenty five years ago.

Socialist Party of Australia

(MANIFESTO CONTINUED)

"WHEREAS the capitalists of Europe have quarrelled over the question of the control of trade routes and the world's markets, and are endeavouring to exploit the political ignorance and blind passions of the working class of their respective countries in order to induce the said workers to take up arms in what is solely their masters' quarrel, and

"WHEREAS further, the alleged Communists and labour 'leaders' of this country, in common with their fellows abroad, have again betrayed the working-class position, either through their ignorance of it, their cowardice, or worse, and are assisting the master class in utilising this thieves' quarrel to confuse the minds of the workers and turn their attention from the Class Struggle.

"THE SOCIALIST PARTY of Australia seizes the opportunity of reaffirming the Socialist position, which is as follows:—

"That Society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labour alone wealth is produced.

"That in Society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a CLASS WAR, between those who possess but do not produce and those who produce but do not possess.

"That the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers.

"These armed forces, therefore, will only be set in motion to further the interests of the class who control them—the master class—and as the workers' interests are not bound up in the struggle for markets wherein their masters may dispose of the wealth they have stolen from them (the workers), but in the struggle to end the system under which they are robbed, they are not concerned with the present European struggle, for it is their masters' interests which are involved, and not their own.

"THE SOCIALIST PARTY of Australia pledges itself to keep the issue clear by expounding the CLASS STRUGGLE, and while placing on record its abhorrence of this latest manifestation of the callous, sordid, and mercenary nature of the international capitalist class, and declaring that **NO INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE JUSTIFYING THE SHEDDING OF A SINGLE DROP OF WORKING CLASS BLOOD,** enters its emphatic protest against the brutal and bloody butchery of our brothers of this and other lands who are being used as food for cannon abroad while suffering and starvation are the lot of their fellows at home.

"Having no quarrel with the working class of any country, we extend to our fellow-workers of all lands the expression of our goodwill and Socialist fraternity, and pledge ourselves to work for the overthrow of capitalism and the triumph of Socialism."

"THE WORLD FOR THE WORKERS!"

"WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS, YOU HAVE A WORLD TO WIN!"

..... Marx.
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