

## WHO WANTS WAR?

the Soviet Union urges the working people of all lands to abolish the private trade in arms, and to organize for international disarmament.

### THE CAUSES OF WAR ARE ECONOMIC.

How long will the peoples submit to be maimed and slaughtered in wars? To have their menfolk blasted to pieces by shells: to have men, women and children drowned by the explosion of mines, to have them diseased, tortured and exterminated by poison gases? In order that those who profit by war—the sale of arms, munitions and poison gases—may make fortunes from this business of wholesale murder.

There is no doubt these days that the causes of war are economic: a struggle between rival groups of capitalists for the possession of colonies, spheres of influence and the sources of raw materials. The business of the armament firms, nationally, consists in beating up these rivalries, and internationally, in arming both sides for battle, so that the war-making industry may flourish. The people, on either side of any Imperialist war, are simply gulled into allowing themselves to be maimed and slaughtered in the interest of the armament firms and capitalist profits.

Waking consciousness of the peoples of all nations to this fact forced organisation of the League of Nations. But constituted, as it originally was, the League of Nations became no more than "a camouflage for the autocracy of capital." The League represented the Imperialist Powers whose interests are wrapped up with those of the armament firms. The international ring of the armament firms successfully thwarted the will of the peoples, through the League of Nations, so that the League became a sepulchre for the hopes of those who are opposed to war as a means of settling international disputes.

The Council of the League in 14 years has held over 100 sessions, commissions and sub-commissions on the subject of armaments; 111 resolutions have been passed, but none of these resolutions have been effective. When Japan broke her pledge under the League covenant, the armament makers of Great Britain and France, signatories to the covenant, continued to arm Japan.

After the voice of delegates from the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics was heard in the League Councils it was realised that here was the expression of a Government funda-

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mentally opposed to war—to the system of Imperialism which makes war inevitable, and to the basis of Imperialism, the capitalist exploitation of weaker nations.

Against the Fascist aggression of Italy in Abyssinia, Litvinoff, the Soviet delegate, was first to take a definite stand. He announced that his government joined the League in order to collaborate in the cause of peace and is prepared to assume its responsibilities under the League Covenant. He declared that no fighting should take place except in self-defence. This implies procedure under Article 16 for economic embargoes to be used against Italy should the decision of the League be flouted by Italy.

It remains to be seen whether the Capitalist Powers will enforce this policy with the vigour required to make it effective, or whether as in the war of 1914-1918 the international ring of the armament makers and traders will be permitted to evade its application.

Certain it is, that only mass organisations of the peoples in their own countries to enforce respect for their opposition to war and fascism will strengthen the League of Nations. Growth of these organisations is already a factor which is influencing politicians and deliberations of the League Councils. It is recognised that if the League is to function as an instrument for the maintenance of peaceful relations between nations, it cannot condone the military aggression of one member against another. Those who work for peace are forced into the difficult position of either supporting the League—the weakness of which has been apparent in the past—or of aiding and abetting Fascist arrogance, and with it the perpetuation of a system which depends on war for its existence.

When the League attempts to check this arrogance, it must have the support of people opposed to war and fascism. Although the withholding of supplies to Italy and closing of the Suez Canal may be regarded as an act of war, strict application of the policy promises to prevent hostilities developing on a large scale and should have the desired effect. But only mass organisations of the people opposed to war and fascism in their own countries, by the pressure they bring to bear on their representatives to the League, will insure that the League interprets the spirit of its covenant and is not betrayed into mandates and concessions which defeat the purpose of its authority.

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We can give a better world to our children than we have inherited as the result of Imperialist wars and the domination of capitalist interests. Let us unite, men and women of Australia: let us work energetically to create that better world.

### PREPARATIONS THEORY EXPLODED.

Before 1914, H. G. Wells writes: "It was still possible to argue that to be prepared for war was the best way to insure peace. But now everyone knows better. The war has come. Preparation has exploded . . ."

"The World War has proven that armaments are an incentive, one of the main causes of war and no guarantee for peace; that preparedness is the best way to get war; that profits and not patriotism is the motive of the armament-makers and their subsidized patriotic societies."—George Seldes.

"The Navy League upon close examination would appear to be little more than a branch office of the house of J. P. Morgan and Co. and a general sales promotion bureau for the various armour and munition makers and the steel, nickel, copper and zinc interests. At least, they are all represented among the directors, officers, founders, or life members of, or contributors to the Navy League."—Hon. Clyde H. Tavenner, of Illinois, in the House of Representatives, U.S.A., 1915.

The moral to be drawn from the Great War is surely "if you want war, prepare for war." The answer of everybody who suffered by that war, and of the working and middle-class who always suffer by war, both in its immediate results by death, mutilation and misery and by its aftermath of unemployment, destitution and disease, should be: "We want peace and will prepare for peace."

"The peoples of the world have in the past trusted kings, nobles and plutocrats, and each of them has failed. It is now for the people to trust themselves. The workers of the world have no animosities; they have no jealousies; they have no diverse interests. All they want is freedom to work and the right to enjoy the fruits of their labour. I say again, we echo, in the same sentiments as our comrades in the French parliament and the German Reichstag, our determination to do what we can to change national opinion and national ideas on this subject question and I do not despair of our doing so."—Phillip Snowden, House of Commons, 1914.

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### MOVEMENT AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM.

Do you know?

That the only way to stop Fascism, war and the war-mongering of the armament firms, lies in your own hands.

That it lies in the organized power of the people to refuse to make, move, or transport arms and munitions.

That each, and all of us, can use that power when we join an organisation which exists for the purpose.

That the Movement Against War and Fascism is the only international organization of the working class with a practical programme to oppose war and fascism. To it are attached workers and intellectuals, writers, artists, students, and trade unionists all over the world.

In 1933, when Germany demanded that in accordance with the Treaty of Versailles the United States, Britain, France and Italy should disarm, or permit her to re-arm, a petition, signed by over 1,000,000 Germans opposed to war, was forwarded to the League of Nations. Hitler's delegation urged the Secretariat to refuse to accept the petition. In Italy, strikes and demonstrations against war have occurred—and although they have been ruthlessly suppressed, will occur again, under the banner of the Movement Against War and Fascism.

The Movement Against War and Fascism was inaugurated at an International Congress held in Amsterdam in 1932. It was attended by 2,196 delegates from 30,000 organisations representing 30,000,000 people. An International Congress of Women held in Paris last year, under its auspices, was attended by 1,500 delegates. At the Congress of Students held in Brussels in December, 1934, over 2,000 delegates were present. The All-Austrana Congress Against War and Fascism, which was held in Melbourne during November, 1934, registered over 300 delegates, representative of 50,000 people.

Join the Movement. Add your voice and energy to the mighty surge of peoples in other lands, determined to put a stop to the private traffic in arms and the manufacture and sale of poison gases.

Don't delay! Join NOW, and help to make this Movement the irresistible force it will one day be against War.