

MAY DAY MANIFESTO

SOCIALIST WORKERS' LEAGUE

CANADIAN SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

MAY 1, 1944.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

MAY DAY, 1944, the fifth MAY DAY of the second imperialist war finds the workers of Canada still and passive, overwhelmed by the capitalist war machine and betrayed by their leaders. While the workers are regimented in their jobs and afraid to speak what is in their minds, the bosses are attempting, through the wage freeze and unbearable tax burdens, to make the workers pay the whole cost of the war. While the living standards of the masses steadily decline, while they are paralysed by the treacherous policy of the trade union bureaucracy, the capitalist class grows fat on soaring profits. "cost-plus" contracts and government subsidies drawn from the pockets of the workers. The campaign of lies and slander against the CCF is, in reality, only the opening gun in a general campaign against all labour and against the TRADE UNION movement. Frightened by the growing power of the workers as revealed in CCF gains, the capitalist class is consolidating its position for a final assault on the living standards and democratic rights of the masses.— after the war. For the bosses,— continuing profits and more intensive exploitation of the workers. For the workers themselves, piece work, company unionism, unemployment and pogey.

MIS-LEADERS OF LABOUR

MAY DAY, the day dedicated to the international solidarity of the working class, will pass unnoticed by the mis-leaders of labour the Labour Progressive Party and the CCF. The former act as strike breakers and are now 100% supporters of capitalism. Their slogan of "national unity" means— unity with the exploiters and war mongers. The CCF has abandoned the Regina Manifesto and has forgotten its middle headed pacifism of the pre-war years; it silently aids and abets the labour bureaucrats in organising the workers for the imperialist slaughter. Its leaders are in the process of forgetting their radicalism as the plums of parliamentary office come almost within their grasp. To the foul slanders of the capitalists they reply with— speeches to Rotary Clubs and other organizations of the bosses where they try to prove that they are really no threat to the bosses' position.

THE ONLY ROAD

Hamstrung on the economic front, faced with the betrayal of their political leaders, the militants in the labour movement are coming slowly but surely and with ever increasing tempo towards the position of the Fourth International. This is the only road for the Canadian workers — the road of International Socialism. Without it there will be no peace. Without it there will be no jobs.

THE IMPERIALIST WAR

On the shores of England, the finest section of the Canadian working class are poised for the invasion of Europe. What this will mean has already been made clear in North Africa and Italy where the "democrats" have entered into pacts with Vichy-ites, fascists, reactionaries of all stripes. The smoke screen of the Four Freedoms has evaporated in the face of the realities of imperialist power politics. At Quebec, Cairo and Teheran the leaders of the so-called United Nations with a behaviour worthy only of Oriental despots have laid secret plans for the division of the plunder. But already the fictitious unity of the allies is breaking down. American and English capitalists quarrel over international airways over oil rights in Arabia, while the Kremlin bureaucracy pursues its own contradictory aims.

On one point all the warring countries, Axis and Allied alike, are agreed—the suppression of the worker's revolution in Europe and Asia. From this flows the collaboration with the reactionaries Darlan, Giraud and DeGaulle in North Africa and with the fascist Badoglio in Italy. To this aim Stalin committed himself at Teheran.

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THE COMING REVOLUTIONS

A force greater than the vaunted power of the imperialists, rotten with internal decay, will say the final word. As a result of the heroic struggle of the Red Army and the Soviet workers in defence of the gains of the October Revolution, the fascist war machine is fast weakening. Already the forces of socialist revolution are on the march in Europe. On the eve of the invasion, England, one of the most powerful of the imperialist nations, is torn apart with militant strikes against the bosses and against the Bevins and Morrisons, the fakers and class collaborationists of the Labour Party. In Italy the revolution is held in check only by Anglo-American guns in the south and German guns in the north, aided by Allied bombing of the workers' quarters in Milan and Turin. A manifesto issued at Bari by the Communist Internationalist Party (Fourth International) calls for a militant struggle against "democratic" and fascist imperialists alike. In Germany, in spite of ten years of fascist terrorism, a new revolutionary communist centre is being organised. To the fascist "NEW ORDER", to the plans of the allies for reactionary and semi-fascist regimes supported by allied bayonets, the workers of the world counterpose the slogan, United Socialist States of Europe.

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

In all countries the capitalists strike first at the vanguard of the workers the inheritors of the traditions of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky, the Fourth International. In the United States, eighteen trade unionists and leaders of the Socialist Workers' Party were sentenced to prison on the day of Pearl Harbour. In England, on orders from Morrison (who ordered the release of the fascist Mosley) the offices of the Revolutionary Communist Party (Fourth International) were raided and their files seized. In Japan, the government has suppressed food riots, dissolved the Japanese Farmer's Union and forcibly broken up a mass meeting of the Japanese Worker's Party of Tokyo.

Lashed by unbearable internal contradictions, capitalism is driving the whole world to the edge of the abyss. In all countries the workers die in droves while the profits of the bosses continue to rise. It will end only when the workers of Great Britain and Germany, of the United States and Japan extend to each other and to the workers of the Soviet Union the hand of comradeship and drown the barbaric roar of imperialist cannons and bombing planes with the cry:

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

DOWN WITH THE IMPERIALIST WAR!

FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS OF EUROPE UNDER THE FASCIST YOK!

ALL AID TO THE INDIAN, CHINESE AND COLONIAL PEOPLES

FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST IMPERIALIST ATTACK!

FORWARD TO SOCIALISM UNDER THE BANNER OF MARX, LENIN AND TROTSKY!

LONG LIVE THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL!