Fourteen years after the Bolshevik (October) Revolution the achievements of the Russian Workers show the way out of the capitalist crash.
TOWARDS THE WORLD OCTOBER

The Fourteenth Anniversary of the Russian (Bolshevik) October Revolution

by

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(1931)

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The Meaning of the October Revolution

"The world-wide significance of the October Revolution is not only that it stands for the great initiative of a single country in making a breach in the imperialistic system, not only that it creates the first base for Socialism in the ocean of imperialist states, but also that it is the first stage in the advance of the world revolution and a mighty foundation for its further development."

(STALIN: The October Revolution as the beginning and pre-requisite of the world revolution, 17th October, 1924).

Fourteen years have now passed since the Bolsheviks, under the leadership of Lenin brought to pass the Great October upheaval. This upheaval was carried through at a time when humanity was bleeding to death, when those hellish forces of destruction, which imperialism had let loose, were raging unchecked. The Red Flag that, in October 1917, spread like lightning over Russia, rent the grim darkness of imperialist war. It showed the working class of the entire world each year more clearly that only by the erection of the proletarian dictatorship could the basis be laid for the liberation of labour and the victory of Socialism over world capitalism.

The international character of the October Revolution found its clearest expression in the pressure brought to bear on the Soviet Union by international capital. The imperialist robbers proved that they had realised the sense and significance of the triumph of proletarian revolution in this epoch of great social upheavals. The Soviet Republic, the fruit of triumphant rebellion on the part of the workers and peasants under the leadership of the Communist Party, the embodiment of the greatness and power not only of the Russian working class but of the proletariat of the entire world, had, from the first day after the October victory, to sustain a hard fight not only with counter revolution at home but with all the forces of world imperialism.
The first years were filled with the struggle against the counter-revolution, whose repeated attacks on the morale and on the activity of the Communist Party led by Lenin and on the masses of workers and peasants behind the Party, all came to nothing. But the years since 1921 have been filled with creative economic work, with development of the powers of production in the interests of the working population. The task was not only to rebuild the economy which war and civil war had destroyed, but to create the foundations of a new economic order, that of Socialism. In the Five-Year Plan the working masses of the Soviet Union were set the greatest and mightiest of tasks. To-day, after 14 years of victorious struggle for power, the Soviet Union, despite blockade and intervention and without the investment of foreign capital, has not only completed the programme of reconstruction but laid firm, unshakable foundations for Socialist construction.

Each new success on the front of Socialist construction means a fresh blow at world capitalism. Each day makes more clear the superiority, the triumph of the Socialist economic principle over the "heaven-sent" capitalist order of economy. And with each day the country of triumphant Socialism takes a more and more important place in the struggle to liberate the working masses in capitalist countries. To the same degree as world capitalism is learning to fear Socialism the working masses are learning that the mighty successes in the Soviet Union have a world-wide significance for the international proletariat. The anniversary of the victorious October Revolution is thus not only a day of jubilee for the great victory, not only a day of celebration for the working masses of the Soviet Union, but also for the exploited classes of the whole world.

Up till now the anniversary of the October Revolution in capitalist countries was signalised by reviews of the forces fighting capitalism: this year it must become, more even than in the past years, a day not only for reviews but for battle.

The proletariat of the capitalist countries is in the midst of a desperate struggle for existence. The bourgeoisie is trying by means of a mighty offensive against the working class to find a way of escape from the economic crisis which has shaken the countries of the capitalist world to their very roots. "Bolshevism is the path to chaos"—"Bolshevism means civil war!" is the daily cry of the capitalist and Social Democratic press. But, meanwhile, each day shows more clearly how the capitalist world is plunging into chaos, while the Soviet Union is building up planned economy, and how, in the capitalist countries, the bourgeoisie, with the support of Social Democracy, is organising and waging civil war. In this situation the working masses must more than ever before study the experience of the victorious October Revolution and the lesson it has to teach, and, by the heroic example which has been given them by the working masses of Soviet Russia, under the leadership of the Party of
TOWARDS THE TRIUMPHANT COMPLETION OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The fourteenth anniversary of the October Revolution coincides with the finish of the third and decisive year of the Five-Year Plan. The year 1931 was a year of Socialist offensive along the whole front, the year of the completion of the foundation of Socialist economy.

But the completion of the foundation of Socialist economy means the final victory of the Socialist elements over the capitalist; it means the creation and the building up of a national economic system of the Socialist type; it means the liquidation of those sources from which class and capital originate; it means the creation of material and economic conditions which “lead direct to the abolition of classes.”

This mighty task could only be faced and solved on the basis of a previous upward economic drive in the Soviet Union. It has been solved despite all obstacles placed in its way by the capitalist cordon round the U.S.S.R., the accentuated class struggle at home, the systematic sabotage in industry, together with deviations of the right and left opportunists in theory and practice from the Bolshevik line of policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and, despite the general backwardness of the country. It has been solved at a speed unparalleled in history.

The course of Socialist industrialisation of the country has raised the entire national economy and at the same time solved the most complicated problems in the building up of socialism. The question: Who is the victor? has already been decided. Unemployment has been liquidated, the standard of living of the working masses is improving month by month despite greater demands, the grain problem has been solved, the kulaks have been liquidated as a class on the basis of general collectivisation, the level of culture is advancing continually hand in hand with the material improvement in the lot of the workers.

The third year of the Five-Year Plan brought some mighty tasks. Five-hundred and eighteen new or re-constructed enterprises, with an average capital for each enterprise of 84 million roubles, and, in the case of 27 enterprises, of 140 million roubles; 1,040 new machine tractor stations with a total power of over half a million h.p.; all-round increase in industrial production to the tune of 45 per cent. in comparison with last year, collectivisation of 50 per cent. of the poorer peasant farms—such were the most important tasks of Socialist construction in the third and decisive year of the Five-Year Plan.

The fulfilment of these hard tasks means the creation of a heavy industry in the country, the erection of industrial giants designed for increased production; it means organising a mighty technical basis for the entire national economy of the country, making firm
the fundamental lines of the Socialist sector in industry and agriculture. The fulfilment of these tasks has created the conditions necessary for making economic construction in the Soviet Union completely independent of the capitalist world which surrounds it. The year 1931 fully betokened the struggle to solve these problems.

Every day new factories, mines and shafts are being enrolled on the production front. The giants of machine construction have already been set in operation—the Stalingrad Tractor Works, from whose conveyor will come 100 tractors a day, and the latest departments of the agricultural machine works in Rostov, whose capacity alone is to surpass, and will surpass, that of the total agricultural machine construction of the pre-war period. The tractor workshop of Putilov works is already at work and has delivered over 20,000 tractors.

The first workshops of the Ural machine construction giant have been set in operation; after completion this giant is to provide machines to the total value of 150 million roubles yearly and provide for the entire industry of the Urals. To the great power stations which have been set going during the course of the last few years nine further power stations with a total of 216,000 kilowatts have been added during the first half of 1931. The zinc works in Belov with a capacity of 12,000 tons are now at work. The work of fitting up the giant enterprise of “Uralmedstroi” is approaching its completion.

The giant smelting works of Kuznetzk are likewise approaching completion with a capacity of one million tons of cast iron. The work of building the giant Magnitostroi whose first furnaces will begin to function next month, is likewise being pushed forward at impetuous speed. The automobile works in Nizhni-Novgorod is on the eve of completion and will show a yearly capacity of 140,000 machines. On 1st October the reconstructed AMO works in Moscow and the tractor works in Kharkov, with a yearly production fixed at 25,000 motors and 50,000 tractors, began work. From among the great number of other new enterprises, already enrolled upon the production front, mention must be made of a great transmission works with a yearly production to the value of 15 million roubles and the cement works in Shurovo, where the capacity of one furnace runs up to 400,000 barrels of cement.

All these giant enterprises are only a part of the main achievements of the third and decisive year. They are landmarks in the story of Socialist construction. They bear witness to the mighty enthusiasm, to the unconquerable strength of the working class in the country of liberated labour. In the struggle against all difficulties of growth, against all enemies without and within, the Socialist offensive is developing ever fresh powers and the working class is storming one position after another in the Five-Year Plan. Many great enterprises of the Soviet Union have finished their quarterly plan, which expires at the end of September, ahead of
time. The Moscow works, "Syatya Gas," thus fulfilled its quarterly plan on the 25th September; "Krasnaya Sarya" on the 26th; the chemical factory "Stalin" at Berbeisensk on 25th September (and at the level of 102.8 per cent.); the Krasnokhobinsk leather factory on 25th September (at 101.5 per cent.); the Podeolsk sewing machine factory had already delivered 1,880 sewing machines by 26th September, whereas the plan only provided for 1,610. In the same way, coal getting in the Donbas has been further increased. In the first five-day week of September an average of 98,000 tons per day was obtained, in the second week 104,000 tons, in the third 108,000 tons, in the fourth 110,500 tons, in the fifth 113,200 tons, whereas the average production in September last year was only 77,200 tons.

By the aid of the new methods of Socialist work—socialist competition, shock brigades, Bolshevik self-criticism—the workers of the Soviet Union in victorious advance are overcoming the difficulties and obstacles in their way.

The same successes are to be seen on the Socialist front in agriculture. Here, too, the Socialist sector has attained a decisive strength. Already 70 per cent. of the whole cultivated area is comprised of collective farms and state farms. In a number of vital corn-growing districts all-round collectivisation has been carried out almost up to 100 per cent. The peasantry, organised on the collectives has become the central figure of agriculture, just as the collectives themselves have become the chief producers of agricultural products.

The tractor has begun its victorious advance along the whole front. In the year 1931 the machine and tractor stations cultivated an area ten times that cultivated in the previous year. In August this year 1,000 new machine and tractor stations were already at work. Their present capacity assures the cultivation of roughly a third of the entire cultivated area by the aid of tractors.

The growth of the state farms may be seen in the extent of the cultivated area, which has more than doubled—8 million hectares in place of 3.2 million. To an ever larger extent the state farms are coming to play a prominent part in the solution of the cattle problem, and the enormous increase in the stocks of horned cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry during the past year show what mighty work is being accomplished in providing for the masses of workers.

The net output of agriculture for the year 1931 has gone up 56 per cent. in comparison with the previous year, in the sphere of grain, 77 per cent. in beet sugar and 61 per cent. in cotton. The turnover in retail trade has risen from 94.5 per cent. to 97.6 per cent.

By these mighty successes of Socialist construction are created the conditions necessary for a steady increase in imports and exports, although the great mass of production of the growing Socialist industry and agriculture is used to satisfy the needs of the working masses of the Soviet Union.
The same mighty advances may be seen on all other sectors of the Socialist construction front. The third year has raised the work of all scientific institutions to a level hitherto unattained. The method of proletarian collective work is thrusting aside the old method, hitherto in use, of the scientist or savant working in isolation at his writing desk. Brigades of young and old scientists in close contact with the workers from the factories—Soviet-Russian and foreign workers alike—make one valuable invention after the other. In this respect the Soviet Union has already overtaken the advanced capitalist countries and in certain departments outstripped them. Whereas in capitalist countries science is placed solely at the disposal of capital, in the Soviet Union it serves the building of Socialism and the common weal. In the capitalist countries science is the private property of those who can sell themselves for money, *in the Soviet Union it is the property of the whole people.*

After the final liquidation of unemployment, which should have been the goal of the Five-Year Plan, but which has actually been achieved in the second year of the plan—the Soviet Union is faced with another mighty problem. Two million workers have to be mobilised for the process of production. And this task is already solved by mobilising the labour forces rendered surplus by collective agriculture and the women and young people. The giant growth of industry, the introduction of the seven-hour day and of the combined shift system, the thorough re-organisation and mechanisation of agriculture, the rapid advances made in the cultural revolution, the exclusion of bureaucracy from the state machine, the reconstitution and development of co-operative societies—all these measures demand new and extensive levies of labour, from specialists and scientists to simple workers.

This task on the cultural front has already been tackled in the third year of the Five-Year Plan. The most important condition necessary for its solution was the elimination of illiteracy, the mastery of technique by the working masses, the training of new levies of leading, middle and subordinate industrial leaders and technical staff, the instruction of hundreds of thousands of new workers of the younger generation, and of the housewives of yesterday, to be skilled workers. The factories which, in capitalist countries, are placed exclusively at the disposal of the profit-making employers, have in the Soviet Union become technical academies, while the technical academies have become factories. The school has been made a department of the factory. The boys and girls in the elementary schools vie with the young people in industry in the study of technique. Polytechnisation—the combination of theoretical study with living practice—forms the kernel of the training given to the youngest pioneers of Socialist construction. In this way the conditions necessary for a new mass instruction of millions of human beings, unparalleled in history, have been created.
Hand in hand with the mighty successes in industrialisation, collectivisation and mass education, there is going on a steady rise in the standard of living of the working masses. The decisions of the XVIth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union categorically demand the development of light industries, which directly cater for the wants of the masses of workers and peasant. The decisions further demand the re-constitution of the entire work of the co-operative societies, so that they can meet the great demands made on them as a result of the growing needs of the working masses. The co-operative society must become a department of the factory—that is the general directive which has already been successfully tackled and which creates ever increasing possibilities for satisfying and improving the material needs of the working masses.

NEW CULTURAL LIFE

Of no less significance are the decisions of the June plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on municipal development. For the masses of workers in the industrial centres, and first and foremost in Moscow, the Red Capital, the conditions necessary for a real cultural life are to be created. In a brief space of time the whole Asiatic negligence of the old régime is to be swept aside. Let us recall, in this connection, the great speech which the leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Stalin, made before the industrial leaders, and in which he unfolded the programme for the radical alteration of the form of material compensation for the workers. (New Conditions: New Tasks, 2d., $.05). The equality which leads to the skilled workman sometimes earning less than the unskilled, to the shock-brigadier who devotes his whole strength to Socialist construction, earning less than a dilatory worker, must vanish once and for all. Responsibility for work, for tools, for the work-bench, for damaged goods, for idle time, for non-fulfilment of the production and finance plan, for bad organisation, in a word, for the responsibility for the task assigned, must be borne by all, each for himself, from the highest director to the executive worker, in common and at the same time. The principle of economic productiveness must be applied to the last inch. Such were the new directives of Stalin. The task of putting them into practice has in these last few months been tackled with feverish energy all along the line.

All these problems show that there is still a mighty work to be accomplished before the end of 1931 is reached. The successes obtained up to date on all sectors of the Socialist construction front give us the assurance that the new tasks set for the third and decisive year of the Five-Year Plan are going to be accomplished. The growing activity of the working class, the development of Socialist competition and shock-brigading, further reconstruction of the work of the Party, economic and trade union organisation, resolute struggle against all right and left opportunists who deviate from the Leninist
line of policy, against disorganisation in industry and against sabotage—all this combined must and shall assure the fulfilment of the gigantic Five-Year Plan in its fourth year. In this way the working masses of the Soviet Union under the leadership of the Party are laying an indestructible basis for the final victory of Socialism in the Soviet Union!

FLAMING SIGNS OF THE WORLD OCTOBER!
FROM WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS TO FINANCIAL CATASTROPHE.

The fourteen years of life of the fatherland of the workers and the oppressed of all countries—years which were filled by the storm of civil war and the triumphant overthrow of the predatory attacks of white guardist and imperialist intervention, by mighty sacrifices made by the working class in the struggle of proletarian dictatorship for Socialism; years which bore witness before the proletariat of the world to the inexhaustible strength, to the invincible will to victory and to the creative labour of the working masses—these years betoken the irresistible victory of the world of Socialist construction over the old, accursed capitalist order of society, built up on hunger and oppression.

For years on end, the ruling class in the capitalist world had pinned its hopes on the breakdown of the supremacy of the workers and peasants in the Soviet Union and prophesied the bankruptcy of the Socialist economic system. For years, world imperialism has been feverishly arming in order, by means of new and violent intervention, to drown the dictatorship of the proletariat over one-sixth of the world in a sea of blood. For years, international Social Democracy has tried to mobilise the working masses of capitalist countries against the Soviet Union by carrying on an anti-Soviet campaign, increasing from year to year and preparing the way for the attack by the imperialist robbers.

To-day, not only the world imperialism but also international Social Democracy is faced by the iron fact that all their plans for struggle against the Soviet Union have failed miserably in face of the revolutionary will and strength of the Soviet workers, and the ever growing realisation among the working class in capitalist countries that the Soviet Union, under the leadership of the Party of Lenin, is building Socialism and has become the greatest source of strength for the international proletariat in its struggle against capitalism and its auxiliaries, Social Democracy and Fascism.

THE CAPITALIST WORLD IS CRUMBLING

To-day world imperialism, and with it international Social Democracy, are both faced with the fact that, in the same period as the Socialist Soviet Union, under the supremacy of the workers and peasants, has made its victorious advance, the "heaven-sent" capitalist order of economy, now shaken to its very base, is heading
for collapse. The capitalist world is cracking in every joint. Events follow each other thick and fast. The world economic crisis which is part of the general crisis of capitalism, is taking on dramatic forms. What absorbs the whole world to-day is tomorrow preserved and forgotten. The foundations of capitalist economy are slipping. Deficits in the national budgets reach enormous dimensions, banks crash, trusts are collapsing. The circulation of whole countries is numbed.* It becomes every day more open and notorious that it is not a question of a seasonal crisis of capitalism, as the bourgeois and Social Democratic economists, theoretical and practical, try to paint it, but of the crisis of capitalism.

Just as the economic crisis has gripped all countries of the capitalist world, so the crisis of finance and credit is now breaking in with its annihilating results on the mightiest countries of the capitalist world, tearing down the symbols of the supremacy of capitalism. The earthquake of capitalism has set in. World empires are beginning to crack! Every day there flare up new signs of the downfall of the capitalist world.

THE LANGUAGE OF FACTS AND FIGURES

The world economic crisis has entered upon a new stage in its development. All attempts hitherto made by the bourgeoisie to find a way of escape from the crisis at the expense of the working masses, not to mention the efforts of international Social Democracy to rescue collapsing capitalism, have not succeeded in checking the intensification and extension of the crisis. The productive apparatus of international capitalism is already working at only half its capacity, and in the vital branches of industry to an even less extent. Thus the degree to which the steel industry in the United States — the land of "white socialism" — was occupied in June, 1931, was only 41 per cent. and by the beginning of July it had dropped to 23 per cent. At the same time the factories of the United States Steel Corporation were only occupied 25 per cent, those of the other big trusts scarcely 21 per cent.

A still greater decline was to be seen in the United States in the building industry. Whereas, in 1929, in the most highly industrialised States building permits were issued to the sum of 3,668 million dollars, the figure had dropped to 2,638 million in 1930, and in the first half of 1931 to 1,808 million. These manifestations of

* Thus the London Economist, respectable and usually optimistic, writes: "It is clear that the suspension of the gold standard in Great Britain is having widespread and in many ways unknown repercussions ... the 'gold rush' is demonstrably creating disturbances which render uncomfortable the position of even the central banks most solidly entrenched on gold. The breakdown of the gold exchange standard is in itself sufficiently serious, for it intensifies the world demand for gold and is calculated to depress gold prices still further, to the detriment of world trade." — (October 24).
decline can be found almost to the same extent in Germany and a number of other capitalist countries.

In Germany, where the working week averages 42 hours, the enterprises were only occupied 48 per cent. in June, 1931. Germany's total industry was in August, 1931, only occupied to the extent of 43 per cent. as against 70.2 per cent. in August, 1929. In France, hitherto least touched by the blows of the crisis, 122 blast furnaces were at work in July, 1922, as against 129 in June and 147 in July, 1930. In regard also to the falling off in the building industry, Germany, England and France show the same tendency to still further decline. In Germany the number of building concessions for dwelling houses for March, 1931, had decreased by 62 per cent. as compared with 1929. In France building has likewise undergone even greater shrinkage in the year 1931.*

An exception to this unprecedented shrinkage in production which has gripped all branches of industry in capitalist countries, is formed by the war industry which is not only everywhere occupied full time but is unceasingly extending and gathering strength.

WORLD PRODUCTION INDICES.
(1928 = 100).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>U.S.A.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1929 Average</td>
<td>111.6</td>
<td>109.4</td>
<td>101.8</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>122.7</td>
<td>106.0</td>
<td>107.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930 Average</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>110.2</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>119.1</td>
<td>97.9</td>
<td>87.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930 1st Qtr.</td>
<td>100.1</td>
<td>113.1</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td>134.6</td>
<td>105.1</td>
<td>94.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Qtr.</td>
<td>101.2</td>
<td>113.1</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>79.9</td>
<td>124.9</td>
<td>97.7</td>
<td>93.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Qtr.</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>109.4</td>
<td>79.4</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>114.3</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>83.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Qtr.</td>
<td>86.7</td>
<td>106.3</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>110.9</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>76.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931 1st Qtr.</td>
<td>84.9</td>
<td>104.4</td>
<td>70.2</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>108.5</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>77.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Qtr.</td>
<td>84.3</td>
<td>101.3</td>
<td>74.9</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>79.3</td>
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THE AGRARIAN CRISIS AND ITS ANNIHILATING RESULTS

Hand in hand with the increasing aggravation of the capitalist economic crisis a deepening and accentuation of the agrarian crisis is proceeding. This has its outward and visible sign in the huge surplus of grain and the catastrophic sinking of prices for agricultural products occasioned thereby, and in the ever increasing restriction of the sown area. According to the Sunday Express the wheat supplies already amounted to 5,500 million bushels in the spring of this year. Reckoned on the basis of the present demand these immense quantities should be sufficient to satisfy all demands for two years to come. The new harvest, which increases the supplies of wheat still further, has resulted in a further sinking of prices. There are also huge supplies of cotton, tea, sugar and coffee left over from the previous year. This year's harvest brought, for these agricultural products too, a catastrophic decline in wholesale prices.

* World trade has shrunk since 1929 by about 40 per cent. and since 1930 by about 25 per cent.
Nevertheless, the sinking of the wholesale prices did not by any means lead to a drop in retail prices. On the contrary, while the world is choking with surplus wheat, prices are rising and the masses are starving.*

The madness of the capitalist economic order cannot better be illustrated than by the fact that in the midst of a superfluity of raw materials millions of human beings are delivered up to misery and death by starvation—wheat is rotting, sugar is being destroyed, coffee thrown into the sea, maize set fire to, cotton burnt and all the time millions of human beings are without the most indispensable foodstuffs and necessaries of life.

Even the capitalist press cannot hush up this fact. The Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, an organ of heavy industry, published on Sept. 4th, 1931, an article “World Surplus of Twelve Million Tons of Wheat” in which it was verified than in America, wheat is being burned under steam boilers, while in China and India literally millions of people are starving. In Brazil, the greatest coffee country, a million sacks of coffee—i.e., 59,875,200 kilos—were destroyed up to Sept. 1931. In the Frankfurter Zeitung we read that for this purpose a railway has been built out into the sea in order to tip the coffee direct into the water. But the tide drove the coffee to the shore where it slowly rotted and infected the air. Then the coffee was piled up mountain high, petrol poured over it and fire set to it. But as this process was too elaborate, special machines have been constructed to grind the raw coffee so that it can be employed as a manure. In the Wiener Arbeiterzeitung, of August 13th, 1931, a photograph was published with the following caption: “Near Vsetaty in Czecho-Slovakia 80 thousand kilograms of cucumbers were destroyed by pouring petrol and lime over them. Why? In order to maintain the shamelessly high price of cucumbers.”

The percentage fall in agricultural products prices between June, 1929 and June, 1931 was about 40%: in British retail prices it was 9%—and now it is rising.

In September this year it was reported from Oslo, in Norway, that many hundredweight of salmon had been burned there, since it had been found impossible, despite considerable reductions in price, to raise buyers for it. In Germany innumerable hundredweight of sugar were carted to the fields in order to procure a rise in price with the remainder and so compensate for the “loss” many times over.

These last reports are taken from the Social Democratic paper, Volksstimme, of Chemnitz. All these announcements not only confirm the madness of capitalism but demonstrate at the same time the whole lying Social Democratic theory of “organised capitalism” which the Social Democratic press has itself illustrated, and with which the social-fascist and reformist leaders try to stupefy the working class.
UNEMPLOYMENT FOR MILLIONS

But the full extent of the capitalist absurdity is made plain when we contrast with these facts the million figures of unemployment in all capitalist countries. Even the official figures, which by no means reflect the real state of affairs, show that by the beginning of autumn last year's record numbers of unemployed were already reached, in some cases even surpassed.

Unemployment is not only continually gripping fresh millions of workers, but is sweeping ever increasing numbers of government employees and officials into misery and distress. By restriction of production in freight traffic, seafaring and building industry and by the increasing capitalist rationalisation, new masses of workers are always being thrown on the street. In the same proportion the number of part-time workers is increasing.*

In Germany, 50 per cent. of all workers are already unemployed or working part time. The total number of unemployed in Germany in the coming winter is forecast even by the bourgeois economic statisticians at seven or eight million. It will in reality be much higher. The number of unemployed in Germany is highest in the building industry, where it reaches a figure of 60 to 62 per cent. Then come the metal industry, where 50 per cent. were already counted in August. In the wood-working industry it is 41 per cent.

In the United States there are already calculated to be more than 10 million unemployed. In England we see a rise in unemployment from week to week. The three million figure has already been reached, and everything points to a further rise. In Italy it is also more than three millions. In France the number of unemployed, according to Government reports, is now 10.7 per cent. of all workers employed in normal times, that is to say in other words, there are already over 900,000 totally unemployed persons as against 426,000 in January this year. The number of part-time workers in France has gone up from 1,540,000 in January to 3,602,000 in September. The same catastrophic development is to be seen in all other capitalist countries, but especially in the vassal states of French imperialism. These figures are the most grave indictment that can be brought against capitalism.

* The official figures of the percentage unemployed in the middle of 1931 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In colonial areas, mass poverty and unemployment reigns. The latest official figures for the United Kingdom are 2,766,746 (mid-October), and for Germany, 4,355,000 (September 30th), but the official figures exclude large sections of the workers and petty bourgeoisie. Also, they are becoming less useful for comparative purposes, as hundreds of thousands of workers are being knocked off as not eligible, etc.
But capitalism is not content with throwing millions of its slaves upon the streets; at the same time, it deals blow upon blow at the workers who are still engaged in the process of production, combined with ever fresh attacks on the last remnants of the unemployed benefit.

**WAGE-CUTS AND SOCIAL REACTION**

The general attack of the employers on wages—by which means capitalism is seeking an avenue of escape from the crisis—has set in on all fronts. The wage robbery accomplished in all capitalist countries up to date is regarded by the capitalists as nothing but a prelude to a grand wage-reduction campaign. The fight for world markets leads to ever-repeated attacks on the standard of living of the working class.

William Green, President of the American Federation of Labour, in a speech he delivered in April this year, stated that the total reduction in the amount of wages in the U.S.A. in 1930 as compared with 1929 is estimated at over 10 billion dollars. This amount includes losses through unemployment, part-time work and wage reductions. The income in real wages of all workers employed in industry was 29.4 per cent. lower in January, 1931, than the average of 1929. The real wages of a worker who kept his job were in January, 1931, 6.8 per cent. lower than in 1929. In this figure losses through part-time work are included, but not losses through unemployment. The cost of living has dropped 10 per cent., the earnings of the individual worker 16 per cent., the total earnings of all workers in active industry 36.5 per cent.

The year 1931 has further accentuated this tendency towards a pronounced fall in the standard of living. In England, during the first eight months of 1931, 2,600,000 workers suffered a reduction of wages amounting to £334,750 per week. The Labour Government gave further impetus to this campaign of plunder during the course of 1931. Under the leadership of MacDonald, at the head of the so-called "National Government," a fresh campaign of robbery is at present, with the aid of inflation, being conducted against the pockets of the English workers.*

In Italy, according to a declaration by Mussolini, wages have already been lowered "to the last limits." Nevertheless, an attack is being let loose by the employers against the present starvation wages. In Poland a wage reduction of from 30 to 50 per cent. has been effected in certain industries. In Germany one wave of wage reduction has followed the other since 1930. Despite the fact that no less than 6 milliards of marks (£1,300 million) have been extracted from the proletariat by means of wage robbery, part-time

work, taxes and insurance contributions during the first seven months of 1931 alone, the employers declare the wage reductions hitherto effected are still wholly insufficient, and that a real reduction in wages can not yet even be discussed. At the end of September and the beginning of October, in 1931, the existing wage contracts for some three million workers in the various groups of industry in Germany, were cancelled by the employers. This affected, first and foremost, the miners, longshoremen and textile workers. The object is to effect an all-round wage reduction varying from 12 to 20 per cent. The accomplishment of this fresh act of robbery would mean that the wages of the German workers would reach a depth of debasement even lower than that of the workers in the Balkan countries. At the same time, the all-round attack of the employers on the wage agreements generally is beginning. The Kölnische Zeitung, a leading organ of the German heavy industry, categorically demands an emergency decree by which the existing agreements are to be abolished, and steps taken towards a comprehensive lowering of the wage standard of all German workers.

A free hand in the arrangement of wages—that is the cry of the capitalists to-day, not only in Germany but in all capitalist countries. A free hand—that means, in other words, make an end of the wage agreements and give the barons of the trusts and the big concerns a free hand for further robbery.

The position of the working class in capitalist countries has been rendered still worse by the unparalleled offensive of the capitalists against the miserable remnants of social insurance. By means of the "reform" of social welfare organisation, the way is being paved for a continual reduction in unemployment insurance. Soup-kitchens for the unemployed, unemployed settlement colonies, forced labour and militarisation—such are the prescriptions by which capitalism proposes to cure the unemployment problem. In the same proportion as the attacks on wages and unemployment benefit are being intensified, the attacks on pensions for ill-health and accidents are likewise being re-doubled. By this means the victims of war and of labour are being given up to complete misery and distress, so that the daily number of those who, in desperation, resort to suicide, is showing a terrible increase. On top of this comes new mass taxation and fresh increases of tariff duties, by which the prices of the vital necessities of life are being forced up!

DISTRESS IN TOWN AND COUNTRY

This development is affecting the small farmers and the masses of working peasants in just the same way. The results of the aggravation of the agrarian crisis are borne exclusively by the small and middle peasants. The raising of the tariff duties for imported agricultural products is solely in the interests of the great agrarians. To give one example, the introduction of the state monopoly for
maize in Germany has produced the result that whereas on the
world market a ton of maize for animal consumption costs 85 marks,
or with duty 115 marks, the price has, by means of the maize mono-
poly, been forced up from 215 to 245 marks. The credits and
subventions granted by the state for the "alleviation of distress" and
for the "salvation of agriculture" likewise benefit for the great
agrarians. The poverty-stricken villagers who, like the workers, have
to bear the full brunt of the crisis, get nothing at all. That is not
only so in Germany but in all capitalist countries. According to
official reports the farmers' incomes in the United States have
dropped 22 per cent. in comparison with last year. The result is
that numerous small farmers are being wiped out of existence. The
bailiff who impounds the last cow from the poor peasant's stable,
has become a symbol of the distress of the masses of working
peasants.

The progressive lowering of the purchasing power of the broad
masses of peasantry, coupled with the fall in prices of agricultural
produce, is leading on the one hand to immense supplies of goods
being deprived of their value, and, on the other hand, to a further
deepening of the industrial crisis. This combination of industrial
and agrarian crisis falls with especial force on the masses of workers
and peasants in colonial and semi-colonial countries, and increases
their distress beyond what they can bear.

**LOWER MIDDLE CLASS DISTRESS**

No less catastrophic than the distress of the working classes and
the masses of working peasants is the distress among the petty bour-
geoisie. With the rapid development of capitalism in the post-war
period to ever more gigantic dimensions—huge trusts, great banks,
warehouse concerns, etc.—the ruin of the commercial middle class
has been accelerated to an extraordinary degree; their independence
on the capitalist class has become more and more oppressive and
their role in industry subjected to increasing attrition and con-
striction. Manufacture and retail trade are coming year by year
more and more under the domination of great industrial cartels and
trusts by whom they are supplied with material and who prescribe
to them the conditions of payment and to a certain extent even the
customers and limit of earnings. This complete dependence of the
middle class has had the result that, at the beginning of the economic
crisis, the middle class elements were hardest hit, next to the
working masses in town and country. For example, the German
State Institute for Statistical Research has estimated as follows
the decrease in turnover for the year 1930, as compared with the
year 1929: for retail trade 3 milliards of marks, for manufacture
1.5 milliards. The decrease in turnover for the hotel and public
house business can likewise be estimated at a minimum of 1.5
milliards.
Thus even according to the conservative estimates of this institute, we have a total decrease of 66 milliards of marks, about £3,300 million, for three main branches of business belonging to the commercial middle class. This catastrophic decrease in turnover has increased the general distress of these sections of society to an extraordinary degree. It finds expression in the immense number of bankruptcies.

Here, too, we are dealing with an international phenomenon. It is evident that capitalism is not in a position to give the ruined middle class a fresh lease of life. Even for the middle class there is no salvation to be found in capitalism but only greater distress. The more the economic crisis deepens and the more catastrophic becomes the lot of the middle class, the more rapidly advances the process of pauperising and proletarianising these sections of society and of forcing them to take their stand beside the workers in their struggle!

FROM FINANCIAL CATASTROPHE TO FASCIST DICTATORSHIP

For two years now the economic crisis has raged over the capitalist world. For two years the parasites of the capitalist economic system have diverted the annihilating results of the crisis on to the heads of the working masses, in the hope of thus finding an avenue of escape.

Now, not only the big concerns but the banks too, are crashing. The bank magnates are swept into the whirlpool of disaster along with the trust kings. The economic crisis is changing for the worse, into a universal crisis of finance and credit.

On May 13th the Austrian Kreditanstalt crashed and its downfall shook the whole of Central Europe.

On July 13th German capitalism collapsed, the banks and exchanges in Germany, Austria, Hungary and Rumania closed down and the shock affected all Europe.

On September 21st, the Bank of England, the acropolis of the British Empire, shook too, and took steps which denied its functions in order to save an appalling crash; the earthquake gripped all capitalist countries of the world.

In October, the Comptoir Lyon-Alemand, a French bank, closes; Bank für Handel and Gewerbe, Leipzig, suspends; the Franklin Trust Company of Philadelphia suspends; as does the County Trust Bank, and a prominent firm of New York brokers and many minor banks and bond dealers in the U.S.A. Hoover forms an immense consortium of 500 million dollars, by which the big banks are going to "save" (and swallow) the smaller ones which are bankrupt.

Meanwhile, the Scandinavian countries, Rhodesia and Canada (Oct. 19th) go off the gold standard.

These are but outward signs of ever increasing strain on the whole structure.
Thus the *Economist* writes: "The development of the latest phase of the crisis is the indication of growing banking strain—not only in the 'distressed' countries, but even in centres where gold stocks are largest, and where the stability of currencies seems *prima facie* most assured."—(October 3rd).

The shaking of the stability of the mark followed the collapse of the pound sterling. The dollar also is questioned. All capitalist countries have already been swept into the whirlpool of this financial crisis, monarchies and republics alike, the democratic-parliamentary countries, together with those under fascist and dictatorial government. As far as capitalism stretches, we see everywhere the same picture; crisis, bankruptcy, distress among the working people, murderous chaos in a world going to pieces from its own inherent contradictions and differences.

As a result of this development the question of a new partition of the world among the imperialist powers has come up again as a current issue, and this has conjured up the danger of a new war of imperialist robbery. The economic contradictions and the competition between the various capitalist trusts and states are accentuating to an increasing degree political and all other differences; bitter armament rivalry prevails. The "peace conferences" which are held from time to time, serve only as so much painted scenery behind which the race in armaments can go on. The pacifist cry by the bourgeoisie and the Social Democrats can to-day no longer blind people's eyes to the feverish preparations which are being made for a fresh imperialist war and first and foremost a war against the Soviet Union. *The capitalists see in a new war an avenue of escape from the crisis.*

**STORM IN BRITAIN**

With what uncanny rapidity events are hurrying onward, is shown by the developments in Britain.

The so-called British Labour Government, the darling of the 2nd International, went down in the storm of crisis. The new "National United Front" from MacDonald to Baldwin strives to ride the storm of crisis by means of a comprehensive economy programme at the expense of the working masses. All measures taken by this government reveal the desperate case in which British imperialism now finds itself. The immediate result of the accentuation of the crisis in England is an aggravation of the class-struggle, unprecedented in English history up to the present day. In the labour strongholds of England tens of thousands of workers are demonstrating daily against MacDonald's programme of "salvation." The office of the *Daily Worker*, the leading organ of the revolutionary proletariat, is occupied by the police. Everything betokens a storm.

In Germany one emergency decree after the other is hailing down upon the working people. The bourgeoisie is endeavouring
to utilise the English inflation for a new piece of thievery in the way of wage reduction. The Brüning government proclaims court martial against the working masses. The bourgeoisie answers the starving cry of the unemployed for work and bread with rubber truncheons, machine guns and imprisonment. The fear of the proletarian revolution leads to the employment of ever fresh methods of fascist violence. As is the case in the fascist countries, in Italy, Poland and Hungary, so in Germany the state of siege has become a fixture, since it is the only means of crushing the revolutionary workers. Even in the other "bourgeois-democratic" countries, in Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, etc., the open use of a system of violence on the part of the bourgeoisie is assuming more and more prominent form as a means of keeping down the working class.

The bourgeois and Social Democratic press publishes one cry of anxiety after the other.—" How can we get through the winter without barricade fighting?" asks the troubled voice of the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, a leading organ of heavy industry. "The end of the world as it is, is approaching," writes the organ of the Polish government, Kurjer Poranny.

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS CLOSE-UP

Fear of the proletarian revolution is driving the social fascist leaders closer and closer to the front of the class enemy. The Social Democratic ministers and police chiefs are disclosing themselves more and more clearly as pliant instruments in the hands of capitalist dictatorship. As the capitalists are not able to extricate themselves from the crisis alone, but rather aggravate the crisis by every step which they take, the Social Democratic leaders are coming all too readily to their aid. We must save capitalism—that has become the slogan not only of German Social Democracy but of the whole 2nd International.

Social Democracy is trying to veil its treacherous policy, which is dictated to it solely by the interests of the bourgeoisie, from the eyes of the working masses by an ever-changing series of fraudulent manoeuvres of a "radical" sort. To this end it has—as the latest events in Germany show—seized at the expedient of creating a new "left" agency among the workers in the hope that the masses of Social Democratic workmen may thus be restrained from straying off into the ranks of the Communist Party.

In Britain, the Labour Party "opposition" adopts the same tactics, perhaps even more shamelessly. Its old leaders carry out the cuts, to which its present leaders had agreed (except for a few million—not the entire unemployed cut by any means; indeed their proposed cut had been a larger aggregate), and all the time they protest their financial integrity, i.e., their complete uniformity with capitalism. But, by a show of words, nobly aided by the capitalist press and their late trusted Mr. Snowden, who are so angry with them, and pretend they are so dangerous(!) His
Majesty's Opposition hopes to keep the workers lulled to trust for a new General Election (!) and from mass protests. In this the I.L.P. as a further "left" noise hope to add their little distraction.

The reformist trade union bureaucracy offers itself to finance capital in more and more shameless fashion as the appointed steward of its interests. In addition to their function of *organising strike-breaking* the reformist trade union leaders have now assumed the role of "state mediators." The process of making Social Democracy fascist is proceeding at a quickened speed. And the "left-wingers" are assuming the same function in regard to the Social Democratic leaders as the latter assume in regard to the bourgeoisie!

*Censorship of the press, prohibitions of newspapers, suspension of the right to hold meetings, decrees of shooting, and courts-martial against the revolutionary working class—such are the symbols of the rule of the bourgeoisie.*

At the same moment as the bourgeoisie in the capitalist countries is organising and conducting civil war against the workers, the *flaming signs of a new imperialist world war* are blazing up in the Far East. Armed expansion in the Far East and the invasion of China by Japan does not only mean that a war has there flared up against the Chinese people and the Chinese revolution. It signalises the fact that the imperialist differences have come to a head on a vast scale, and that a new world war is threatening in the Far East. *But it means first and foremost that unheard of provocation is there being prepared against the Soviet Union.* Behind this provocation it is not Japanese imperialism, but world imperialism which looms. The events in the Far East emphasize afresh the danger of an anti-Soviet war, which could become an immediate threat to the proletariat of the whole world.

To sum up briefly once more: *Increasing aggravation of the world economic crisis, which has already turned into a crisis of finance and credit in a number of capitalist countries, collapse of the strongest pillars of the supremacy of financial capital, continued decrease in production, the unemployment of millions, ever-increasing wage robbery, catastrophic distress of the working masses, state of seige, courts-martial, provocations for a new imperialist war and preparations for a new intervention—such is the aspect of the capitalist world to-day, a world which by all tokens is in for a stormy future.*

**SOVIET RUSSIA SHOWS THE WAY**

In view of the developments in the countries of the capitalist world, the working class is faced with great and responsible decisions. The question: *Who Remains the Victor?* to which the Soviet Russian workers have long ago given a positive answer, now faces the working class of the capitalist world in all its greatness. It must face the decision: Ruin in capitalist barbarism
or liberation from the yoke of capitalism. Every day is bringing the working masses nearer to the realisation that neither the bourgeoisie nor its agents, fascism and Social Democracy, can lead them out of the annihilating capitalist crisis or free them from the yoke of international finance-capital. Every day shows them more clearly that there is only one force that is carrying on the fight against capitalist exploitation and points to all working classes the revolutionary way, the only possible way, out of capitalist anarchy to the battle for bread, work and freedom—

the Communist International and its sections in the various capitalist countries.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party the revolutionary upthrust in the capitalist countries is mounting irresistibly higher. Under the banners of the proletarian revolution the Red class front is being spread and organised for the fight, against the dictatorship of capital, for the dictatorship of the proletariat. Mighty mass demonstrations, strikes, mutinies among the soldiers in imperialist armies, revolutionary street fighting—all signalise the growing revolutionary will to fight. In a number of countries, in Germany, Poland and England, the wave of revolution is already assuming the character of a stormy mass movement. While international Social Democracy is everywhere in decline, the Communist Party is growing irresistibly, and its influence taking root in ever broader sections of the working masses.

Full of hope and trust, millions of people to-day are turning their eyes to the Soviet Union, the only country that remains untouched by the desolating economic crisis, by storms on exchanges and crashes of banks, or by the spectre of unemployment. They know that there is neither reduction of wages or of cultural or social welfare, neither stoppage of industries nor destruction of the harvest. They know that Soviet Russia is the land of victorious Socialism. They know that the Soviet Union has become the pattern for the working masses of the whole world.

This knowledge carries with it an obligation. It obliges the working masses in capitalist countries to throw their whole strength into the task of parrying every blow which world imperialism aims at the Soviet Union as the Fatherland of all workers—of parrying it and countering it with a return blow—which will finally smash the already rotten and crumbling system of capitalism.

The signs betoken a storm! The working class of the capitalist world understands these signs, and is arming for an intensified struggle of the revolutionary masses, relying on the experiences of the victorious October Revolution, towards the victorious World October!