

1931 Will Be a Year of Sharpened Class Struggles

By **WILLIAM Z. FOSTER**

The capitalist press is crammed with New Year proclamations by prominent industrialists, bankers and boss politicians to the effect that the crisis is on the way towards liquidation in the new year. This is not borne out by the actual state of affairs. Production in the steel industry has now dropped to 25 per cent. Among the miners half of the workers have been unemployed for a year or more. The decline in production and employment is general throughout the industries. The agrarian crisis grows deeper and more widespread. There is no sign on the industrial horizon indicating a lessening of the crisis, but every sign points to its sharpening, not only in the United States but throughout the capitalist world.

More Hunger for the Workers.

Never in the history of America have the conditions of the workers been so rapidly worsened as at the present time. The army of unemployed is at least 9,000,000, and is quickly mounting. Wage slashes are going into effect in practically every industry. The workers who have jobs are collapsing at their places because of the ferocious speed-up. On the farms millions face famine

conditions. The so-called relief measures of the capitalists are a crime and an insult to the workers and poor farmers. Mass starvation spreads all over the country. To this horrible debacle of mass pauperization has come American capitalism with its boasted theories of high wages, steady employment for all, the abolition of poverty, etc.

The Workers Will Fight.

It would be absurd to expect that the workers will submit passively to this wholesale reduction of their living standards. In the past year, counting unemployment, wage-cuts, stagger systems, and part time employment, the wage income of the American workers has been reduced at least one-third. A wave of radicalization spreads among the workers. During the coming year undoubtedly this will find expression in the bitterest of strike struggles and hunger demonstrations of the unemployed despite the growing terror of the employers the jailing of militants, the wholesale lynching of Negroes, and despite all efforts of the strike-breaking American Federation of Labor and the socialist party. So desperate is the position of the

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unemployed that unquestionably the next few months will see hunger riots in various American industrial centers.

A Future of Struggle.

The perspective for capitalist society in America in 1931 is one of sharpening and deepening class struggles. The same holds true for the capitalist world as a whole. Nineteen thirty-one will bring a great intensification of the revolutionary struggles in China, India, Latin-America and Europe. The developing mine and textile strike in England are the struggle symbol of the coming year. Nineteen thirty-one may well see disaster to the capitalist system in some countries.

Advance of the Soviet Union.

While capitalism plunges deeper and deeper into crisis, the Soviet Union blazes forward from victory to victory in the building of Socialism. Its success strikes terror to the heart of capitalism and is a growing inspiration to millions of hunger-stricken workers in the capitalist world. Every capitalist paper contains articles and statements by leading employers and politicians that the capitalist system in this crisis is now on trial and fighting for its life. The openly recognize that the real issue, growing sharper every day, is—Communist vs. Capitalism!

armed invasion of the Soviet Union. This murderous conspiracy was defeated by the Soviet Union. But the capitalist world, with American imperialism as its strongest center, is eagerly seizing on every issue and every situation to bring nearer the moment when, in an attempt to liquidate its own internal crisis and to smash its great revolutionary enemy, it will launch its armies against the Soviet government. In 1931 the working-class must prepare by all revolutionary means to smash the war plottings of the bosses.

Growing Tasks of the Future.

The general situation is one that must inspire every revolutionary worker to renewed efforts. Capitalism is rotting at the heart throughout the world. Socialism is flourishing in the Soviet Union. The workers are awakening everywhere. The best way to prepare for the great revolutionary struggles looming ahead of us is militantly to fulfil the every day tasks. We must redouble our efforts to build the revolutionary unions of the Trade Union Unity League, to secure unemployment by militant strikes and above all to build our revolutionary Communist Party!

War Preparations Increase.

Nineteen thirty-one finds the capitalist nations in the midst of a feverish program of war preparations against each other and against the Soviet Union. It was this year that France had chosen to begin the