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R. M. Hamilton, Mgr. Fenelon Falls Branch

When Shall War Cease?

Pen-productions based on the folly of war are now being inflicted with ever-increasing frequency and severity upon the long-suffering reading portion of the genus homo; it seeming to be generally assumed in the literary perpetrations of these moralists that universal peace is so desirable a condition that, like the "absolute truth" and "eternal justice" upon which the early Utopians based their "Socialism," it has only to be exposed to the view of suffering humanity in order to be immediately embraced, and lo! war will end. Beautiful dream! but we have been afflicted so long with this sentimental twaddle that it is tiresome, to say the least.

The density of capitalist writers on the war question is equalled only by their ignorance of the general laws of sociology, and the law of capitalist production in particular. They invariably picture the working classes of the different countries as thirsting for each other's blood; or at least having naturally so little sense that they can be stampeded into war at a moment's notice, without rhyme or reason, by almost anybody who tries. The truth is that all the agitators on earth cannot cause a war if the capitalist class is opposed to it. However the capitalists and their puppets of Empire and Republic are represented as striving valiantly against tremendous odds to preserve the "peace" by holding in check the ignorant murderous masses and preventing their going to war.

But the plain truth is that the capitalist class, being in control of the means of life, purposely keep the wage slaves continually at the point of starvation in order to maintain their right to rule and rob. Thus the bread and butter (margarine) question is always paramount with the slaves, and when the ruling class wants a war—and it wants them all—it offers the slaves the means of escape from starvation by entering the army and navy. Far from thirsting for war, the slaves are always peaceful and contented when their living is secure; and the only reason they prepare for war is because that is the only way in which capitalism will allow them to exist—until they become cannon food. It is the masters and not slaves who primarily want war. Wars are always caused, as every careful student of Socialism knows, by economic conditions. Even the so-called religious wars have merely taken on the religious guise out of material necessity.

War is inherent in the capitalist system of wealth production, owing to the cut-throat competition of the various national sections of the international capitalist class for possession of the ever-narrowing world-market, the impossibility of getting rid of the surplus commodities which periodically choke production without recourse

to a destructive war, and the necessity of occasionally diverting the attention of the workers from their enslaved condition by keeping them patriotic. Capitalist production—now dominant in all the chief countries—gives back to the workers (slaves) just enough of their product to allow them to live and reproduce. The remaining part, which is the bulk of it, must be disposed of elsewhere because the producers have nothing with which to buy it; so the capitalists, after wasting as much as possible of it in high living, travel, jewelry, sport, maintenance of an army of flunkies and almost all imaginable forms of excess, finally scour the earth for markets in which to dispose of the balance. If they could get to Mars and a market were there they would seize it. As long as a market can be found the capitalist system may endure; but the world market is rapidly narrowing, owing to countries such as Japan, China and India, now providing markets, themselves embarking on the capitalist system of production. Soon every country on earth will have a surplus of commodities, and then the jig will be up. And then—exit capitalism.

The literary hirelings of the capitalist press are even more blind and ignorant of the underlying masses than their masters. They are in a hopeless muddle over the question, having no inkling of the actual situation. To them everything is confusion and uncertainty. Their imbecile screeds on "labor unrest" show their inability to grasp the cause and understand the outcome. The Socialist alone is clear-headed and serene, for he knows that labor's deliverance and the end of war is in sight. To-morrow the cry will go up from the throats of tens of millions of workers, "Capital the Great has fallen," and labor, after its age-long slavery, will come to its own, and war and capitalism—twin monsters—will be no more. For capitalism, in ransacking the earth to dispose of its commodities, has pretty well unified the human race. The slaves are fast learning to think internationally, and are rapidly getting so class-conscious it is doubtful if any considerable number of them would don the bloody uniform of human butchery if called to go forth to slaughter.

Shall war cease? Yes, when the enslaved workers of the world kick decadent, doddering, murderous, war-causing capitalism off the earth and institute a system of production for use instead of for profit—a system where master and slave are no more. It is up to the slaves. How long, oh! ye slaves? How long?—W. H. Anderson, in Western Clarion.

The working class is exploited for the benefit of the master class.

Even a dog would not vote to continue the fleas that infest his hide.

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