A Call to Action

To All American Writers, Intellectuals:

War rages in Manchuria. Not all the subterfuge and intrigues of the League of Nations, Secretary Stimson, French imperialism and the Japanese ruling clique can hide the fact from the working masses that with shell and shot the trail is blazed thru Manchuria, northward to the Soviet border. The repartitioning of China has begun. The war to crush the Chinese Soviets has begun. The war against the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics is about to begin.

Despite the sharp antagonisms among the various imperialist powers, they are effecting a temporary truce for a united attack upon the Soviet Union. Japan today is the spearhead of the imperialist attack, but the chief leader and organizer of the intervention is the U. S. A. bought-and-paid-for correspondents of the American capitalist press have been cabling reams of anti-Chinese and anti-Soviet propaganda designed to whip up the lynch sentiment that made possible the imperialist slaughter of 1914-1918. The stage is set. The directors are the Morgans, the Rockefellers, the Mellons and their puppets in the government. The intended victims are Soviet Russia, Soviet China and the working masses the world over.

The last war destroyed 10,000,000 and maimed millions more of the flower of the workers, peasants and intellectuals of the world. Most of the intellectuals who did not fight for "democracy" in the trenches fought for the imperialist rulers with their brains and creative talents. Without the loyal service of the writers, journalists, artists, musicians, etc., it would have been impossible for the ruling class to have fooled the masses for long. Now they are once more being mobilized to prepare and justify a new world war—the war by which capitalism hopes to "solve" the economic crisis by destroying the only country that knows no crisis, that has done away with unemployment, with human misery and degradation, the only country that is building a new free culture, the Soviet Union. The war against the Soviet Union is a war against all workers, both manual and intellectual, throughout the world. It is a war to maintain the rule of a corrupt and criminal system that has brought about not only the greatest economic crisis in modern history, but also the greatest cultural crisis.

Quick action is essential. Only the organized protests of all those who oppose any attack on the U.S.S.R. can turn back the war tides that rush on. The John Reed Clubs throughout the country, the organizations of the revolutionary writers and artists of the United States, call upon all writers, artists, teachers, scientists, musicians, etc., to refuse to participate in the ideological preparation of this criminal war. We call upon them to turn the weapons of culture against the imperialist war-makers. Demand *hands off the Soviet Union!* Demand the withdrawal of American troops and warships from China! Defend the world of tomorrow against the imperialist brigands of today!

John Reed Club of New York,
John Reed Club of Philadelphia,
John Reed Club of Chicago,
John Reed Club of Detroit,
John Reed Club of Boston,
John Reed Club, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Philadelphia

Die Naturfreunde, (English Section) are a newly organized group in Philadelphia, with 20 members, and meet every Friday at the Kensington Labor Lyceum, 2nd and Cambria. Our aim is to bring the workers from the shops and factories into contact with nature, to strengthen their body and mind for the daily battle against capitalism. Our purpose however is not hiking alone. As class conscious workers, we take part directly in all working class struggles.

We ask all those interested to join the English Sections of the only Workers' hiking organization, which is being organized in all cities our club has branches.

Comradely,

Philadelphia, Pa. *HANS HUNEKE,*
Die Naturfreunde, Inc., English Section.

William Siegel—who designed the cover for this issue is a contributing editor to *New Masses* since 1926.

M. Soderstrom—seaman-artist, active member of the Marine Workers Industrial League, made his first appearance in *New Masses* in the October issue.

Joseph Kalar—who has contributed often to *New Masses, Left, Rebel Poet* and other revolutionary publications, is a lumber worker and lives in Minnesota.

Herman Spector—now at the unpoetic job of linoleum wrestler in a warehouse, is author of a forthcoming book of verse, *Sweet Like Salvation.*

Alfred Kreymborg—lecturer, author, contributes to this issue from a book of verse *This Little World,* to appear in the spring.

Langston Hughes—is now on a lecture tour thru the South.

Philip Sterling—is a young New York journalist, now unemployed.

Hugo Gellert—contributing editor, lives in White Plains, N. Y.

Bennett Stevens—author of *The Church and the Workers* is also lecturer for the Workers Anti-Religious League.

William Gropper—is staff artist on the N. Y. *Freiheit.*

Gilbert Rocke—Chicago artist, is an active member of the Chicago Independents, Art Group, and of the John Reed Club of that city.

Louis Lozowick—art editor of *New Masses,* contributes the full page back cover cartoon for this issue.

Anton Refregier—born during the Russian revolution of 1905, in Moscow. Studied painting and later served as apprentice to a sculptor in Paris. Came to U. S. after the war, worked in textile mills in Rhode Island, washed dishes, worked in bakeries, house painter and Jack of all Trades. Later came to New York and has been applying himself to industrial and decorative art. Designed stage settings, costumes, jewelry, painted murals, etc. Returned from Provincetown this fall with a series of paintings which will be shown at various New York galleries during the winter. Staff artist for the *Office Worker,* contributor to *New Masses, Solidarity* and other revolutionary publications.

IN THIS ISSUE

Three new artists, all of New York, make their first *New Masses* appearance in this issue: *Jefferson Davis* and *Meyer Schlazer,* both commercial artists, and *Mary O. Johnson,* member of the N. Y. John Reed Club.

Charles Rumford Walker, and *Sam Ornitz,* writers, were members of the Dreiser Harlan Committe who were recently indicted for criminal syndicalism, after their investigation of the condition of the Harlan, Kentucky miners.

Norman Macleod—contributing editor, is now in Los Angeles, Calif.

Phil Bard—one of a group of John Reed Club artists and writers who accompanied the N. Y. Section of the National Hunger March to Washington, D. C., is now completing another story in pictures dealing with the present situation in America.

Whittaker Chambers—is author of a one-act play of a mine fight, which will appear in a forthcoming issue of *New Masses.*

William Hernandez—of Brooklyn, is at work on a series of paintings, as well as more of his satirical cartoons which will appear regularly in future issues.

E. Merrill Root—teaches in Indiana.

John Dos Passos—contributes more sections of his forthcoming novel "1919" to the coming issue of *New Masses.*