

Trade Unions Vote for Mars

At a recent convention of British trade unions—the oldest and strongest organization of workers in the world—the Government's rearmament policy was endorsed by an overwhelming vote. Also, the policy of non-intervention in the Spanish civil war was "deplored," since it barred the sale of arms to the Loyalists.

It has been the custom of pacifists to lay the blame for war at the collective door of munition-makers, diplomats, bankers. In the vote of British unionists we have a hint at the real cause for war—unemployment in times of peace. The workers want war because war provides jobs.

The cruel fallacy of a monopolistic economy is that providing of work is in itself a boon. Anything that enables labor to work (which it would do anyhow) is desirable in itself. Anybody who provides jobs must be a public benefactor. It is on this false premise that protection, that hideous twin brother of landlordism, thieves. It is on this false premise that workers vote for war measures.

Until workers realize that what they want is the wealth they pro-

duce, and not the privilege of working—until they realize that all this wealth comes from the land on which they must work—until they realize that monopoly of the earth deprives them of the produce of their labor—

there will be war. The workers will ask for it.

—F. C.

See: "Social Problems," pp. 75–77.
"Protection or Free Trade," p. 243.
"Teachers Manual (P. & P.)," L. 4,
Q. 21.