In the grim headlines which come from Europe, the American people can see the hideous face of the imperialist crime against which the Communists, and their spokesman Earl Browder, have been warning.

The flames of the Allied-German war have now descended upon Scandinavia. The people of Scandinavia did not want to have anything to do with the Allied-German war. They feared it. They desperately sought to keep their neutrality. They opposed being the pawns of either side, and dying for London or Berlin. Yet, today their homes have become a battlefield, cheaply described by capitalist journalists as the "Northern Battlefield." They did not choose this fate; yet this fate has overtaken them. How? Why?

The latest events find their explanation in the warning uttered by Earl Browder only last week. In their rage at the Soviet-Finnish peace treaty, the capitalist governments, officially and strongly protested to the Allied powers against London and Paris "open breach of international law" and charged these governments with "infringement of Norwegian neutrality."

In the strongest terms, the Norwegian minister correctly characterized the Allied mine-layings as a deliberate violation of its neutrality. The Allied initiative was a deliberate attempt to compel Norway to capitulate to the Allies, to enter the war on the Allied side, to force Norway to go under neutrality. In spite of Norway's claus on aggression, Britain refused to permit Norway war materials. The British Government spurned Norway's protest as an obstacle to the British policy of simultaneous war. Norway's independent neutrality was an obstacle to the Allied plan, it was deliberately sacrificed.

Commenting on the latest developments, the London correspondent of the Chicago Daily News declared last night: 

"These possibilities must all have been foreseen when the British suddenly announced yesterday morning that they had laid three mine fields in Norwegian territorial waters. That move was construed as nothing more or less than a definite challenge to Germany to come out and fight, and the Allies in turn must have made preparations to follow up the challenge if it were accepted."

He continued:

"When the gauntlet was thrown in Germany's face yesterday morning it was assumed that the British wanted Germany to embark on some such expedition as that which they have undertaken--a war of aggression, an imperialist war--that they would come to grief. Even this morning's London papers state that a German naval expedition such as was reported in progress would be welcomed by the Admiralty." (N. Y. Post, April 9.)

Today, the inevitable consequences of this policy have descended upon the heads of the people. Britain, France, and Germany are spreading the fires of a criminal imperialist war, engulfing new na-

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