

cause of the hatred for our country on the part of the imperialistic governments, for outside of a highly developed working force, Latvia has no other wealth. But in this case, let the powers that attack us state frankly that their object is to crush Socialism with shells. Let the toiling masses of those powers know that their governments send warships and desants to a neutral

country, such as Latvia, in order to restore the feudal-baron regime here, through the bodies of the working population there; for they know too well that in Latvia there can be either the government of barons or the government of the workers, and any other government is merely a passing event. Our Soviet Government, supported by the workers of the population who comprise over

four fifths of not only the city, but also the rural population, in order to heal the wounds of the war, which so greatly affected Latvia, through incessant labor desires to work out its internal reconstruction peacefully. Therefore it is willing to negotiate with any of the powers, and to come to some sort of an understanding.

But it will offer the most desperate resistance to any at-

tempt at forceful invasion, and in this it counts not so much on its own forces as on the support of the toiling masses of all countries which follow the same path toward the new world.

The Soviet Government of Latvia.

Chairman of the Soviet Government of Latvia,

P. STUSHKA.

Lithuania and White Russia

On February 27th in Vilna an event took place that is destined to play an enormous part in political life: the two Soviet republics formed on the territory of the former Northern-Western region of the Russian Empire—Lithuania and White Russia—fused into one Lithuanian-White Russian Republic. In the process of organization and strengthening of the proletarian power in the region, only recently freed from German occupation, this fusion should play a great role. This union is also extremely important from the viewpoint of military situation, considering the coming clashes with bellicose bourgeois Poland. For the purpose of learning the objects and significance of the fusion which had already taken place, the success, and the outlook for the near future, the correspondent of the *Ivestia* interviewed A. F. Miasnikov, from whom he obtained valuable information and statements.

The Microbe of Chauvinism.

"One of the saddest characteristics of our region," he said, "is the nationalism which is greatly developed among the population, assuming the form of Chauvinism. The variegated composition of the population of the region has been brought up in an atmosphere of national enmity, the oppression of one nationality by another. This nationalistic element is not easy to get rid of. Indeed, even the socialistic movement in this region is confined to nationalistic organization: Jewish, Lithuanian, White Russian, etc. And unfortunately, we are forced to admit that even in circles which regard themselves as Soviet organizations, nationalism is still strong. We were faced with this circumstance even during the Vilna conferences."

Our party will have to battle these tendencies; our party cannot allow the class consciousness of the toiling masses to be clogged with nationalistic ideas. In the union of White Russia with Lithuania, and in the fusion of the White Russian Communist Party with the Lithuanian Party, we see the beginnings of the victory of class consciousness over nationalism. No doubt a united proletarian organization will smooth out the nationalistic contradictions and chauvinistic instincts sowed among the masses of the people by bourgeois ideologists. In White Russia the nationalist prejudices are not manifesting themselves so glaringly as in Lithuania. White Russia passed through the school of revolution; before the German invasion the region had lived for a year in an atmosphere of revolution, and for three months under the Soviet power. On the other hand, Lithuania, almost entirely, from the Czarist regime of forcible Russification and artificially fanned hatred between the various nationalities, went over under the rule of Wilhelm's generals, who yet more skillfully poisoned the minds of the people with the poison of nationalism. This complicates the task of our party in Lithuania, but we believe that in this great and important work the party will succeed in killing the microbe of Chauvinism, which is one of the most serious dangers to the proletarian cause."

Economic Peculiarities.

Being an enthusiastic adherent of a united and common economic policy, Miasnikov points out the economic and social peculiarities of the region, which force us to make a few digressions from the general program.

"We had to reject the nationalization of commerce, and perhaps for a long time. In the cities and towns of White Russia and Lithuania, a considerable part of the population is occupied in trading, and this trading is very petty here; the struggle with it would be very complicated and troublesome. Then we have to consider the fact that the city poor are the traders, and once out of the trade this element will find itself at sea, since the poorly developed industries are not capable of absorbing this mass of unemployed. We do not introduce nationalization of trade also because we are still lacking the state apparatus of normal interchange of commodities, and of distribution. In the cities of White Russia, only the drug stores, dry goods stores, and book stores have been nationalized. In Lithuania trade is free in all spheres without restrictions.

As regards the general economic situation of the region, it is, of course, far from being brilliant. Industry is poorly developed. The region, having been an arena of military operations for five long years, is disrupted. Germans have ruined large landed estates; the

peasantry, though well-to-do in the majority of cases, cannot produce a sufficient quantity of bread even for domestic consumption, saying nothing of exportation. The only region in White Russia which is rich in bread is Slutsky County, and our food supply organizations have centered their attention on that country. However, without help from Ukraine, the food crisis in White Russia cannot be solved, and we are working now to effect an exchange of commodities with Soviet Ukraine.

Military Situation.

If, comparatively speaking, there is a lull on the Polish front, we may expect serious complications. No doubt the Allies will conduct their main attack through Poland. Poland itself, with its claims for territories of White Russia and Lithuania, is a danger. The petty bourgeois and even bourgeois elements, having suffered under the heel of the German occupation for a year, values so much the liberation brought about by the Soviet power, that it is ready to offer active help in the struggle with the bellicose Polish-German imperialism. Volunteers came in great masses to our war commissariats, and we could have formed an army of these volunteers.

In any event, with such an attitude of the local population towards us, and with the strengthening of the front, we fear not the future.

(Moscow "Izvestia.")

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opposition to the N. E. C. For weeks the struggle went on for control of the paper, until, finally, Dreifuss and his associates found some minor reasons, or rather misrepresented facts to use as camouflage, and discharged these two editors. Germer seems to have won the battle. But it is not over. With the discharge of the editors the struggle for the control of the paper has only begun. The German comrades, those "unintelligent" but true and class conscious proletarians, are de-

termined to succeed at any cost. It is their intention either to have complete control of the paper or see to it that no one else is able to use it. The N. E. C., which is the hope of Dreifuss, is "broke" and will not be able to cover the financial losses of the paper, if it succeeds in resisting the demands of the membership.

Already many readers have discontinued their subscriptions, and the followers of Dreifuss, or rather of Germer, are becoming constantly fewer.

Now, if we take into consideration that the 30th of August will hardly see a convention of the dying Socialist Party, as the treasury at 220 S. Ashland Blvd. is more than depleted, I may safely say that the greater part of the German comrades will take the only road left to them and come straight into the ranks of the Communist Party, where they rightly belong. They will see that the greatest service they can render to the movement is to let the dying party of the Scheidemann's die in peace.