

ization are of the menshevik point of view and do not wish to enter into the decisive battle with the capitalistic class of their own country.

The actions of the anarcho-syndicalists of France and the parliamentary socialists and labor fakirs of Great Britain brand them as the most dangerous foes of the revolutionary proletariat. Instead of using the crisis which was called forth by the war and revolution to the advantage of the proletarian movement, instead of joining the ranks of the workers' army, the centrists and their followers betray the working class movement, using the ignorance, or insufficient political enlightenment, of the proletariat of their own country to serve the interests of the capitalist class against the workers.

These elements are to blame for the failure of the general proletarian demonstration on July 21st.

CIVIL WAR IN POLAND

From Poland, the land that Allied Imperialists so graciously appointed themselves mandatory for—with the gymnastic piano virtuoso, Paderewski, as the emissary who is to carry out their criminal designs—comes ever louder rumblings of revolt. From the heavily censored bourgeois press comes the information that the Polish parliament issued warrants for the entire Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party and that the committee, along with members of the Russian, Hungarian, Austrian and German Communist parties have been arrested and imprisoned. The government has also seized documents and money belonging to the imprisoned Communists. In all there have been 148 representatives of the working class arrested in Warsaw.

The morning of the day the arrests were made four distinct demonstrations started in as many different parts of the city. As the news of the demonstrations spread they merged into one huge demonstration on Marshalkovska, the main thoroughfare of the city. Over forty thousand workmen participated in this mass demonstration. The white guards were hurled against them and in a bloody battle, during which a number were killed and many wounded, that demonstration was suppressed. Undaunted by the defeat, the masses again came together in other streets, again merging into one huge demonstration, this time in front of the Theatre Place.

In the afternoon of the same day the workmen's demonstration assumed uncontrollable proportions and the House of Parliament was entirely surrounded and the army of the white guards rendered powerless. The workers entered the House of Parliament. The secretary of state and the president of the House of Parliament (sejm) appeared before the workmen and asked them to elect a committee to present their demands. The committee was elected and demanded the release of all prisoners in ten days, according to bourgeois press reports. It is more than probable that the time specified was much shorter than ten days.

It is plain that a revolutionary crisis is rapidly developing in Poland that may at any moment usher in the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

WILSON AND RUSSIA

Occasionally men are thrown against an historical background that magnifies their personality; because of their position they play a leading part in world history. These are the "great men of history," and because the same set of circumstances do not arise a second time it is difficult to demonstrate that other men would under similar conditions have done precisely the same thing. Because of this, the thoughtless are apt to hold certain individuals responsible for the events of history. Such is not the case. Forces more powerful than "great men" move them like manikins at the end of a string. So we commend Wilson's treatment of the Soviet Government of Russia to the merciful judgment of history.

We have long maintained that the driving forces in history are to be sought not in the ideas expressed by men but in the economic structure of society. Thus we were not surprised by the events which have transpired in the last two years.

When Woodrow Wilson sprang into prominence as the savior of humanity and the determining factor in the councils that were to liberate the world, many people of the so-called liberal type were taken into camp. Here was the Moses who would lead suffering humanity out of the wilderness. Here was the modern Christ who was to save us. His eloquent demands for justice for all peoples were accepted at their face value by the unwary. But what has happened? Like most promises these were made only to be broken. Wilson has been

a disappointment to all but the socialists. And in no other place has he given to the world a better picture of himself than in his attitude toward Soviet Russia.

We have been told that the Soviet Government cannot be recognized because it does not come up to the standard set by the great democracies of the world. It is a dictatorship that is based upon force and therefore cannot be admitted to the council of nations. The Bolsheviks are accused of atrocities against innocent and defenseless people. We are told that the Soviets do not represent the will of the majority of the Russian people.

These excuses, however, are nothing more or less than plain "bunk." The real reason why the Soviet government has not been recognized is because it is a government of the working class as against the governments of the capitalist class. This is the determining factor and all other considerations are subordinate. While the hue and cry of "a dictatorship by force" is raised against the Bolsheviks, these very people know that the Soviet government is no more based upon force than is any other government.

If this is not the case, then will Mr. Wilson or Mr. Lansing explain the recognition of the Finnish White Government, which is one of the most brutal military dictatorships the world has ever seen? The Finnish Workers Government was the lawful government of Finland but was overthrown by the reactionary, pro-German White Government, and thousands of workers were massacred. This government was recognized by Wilson, although it is openly pro-German, an objection that was raised against the Bolsheviks. The present government of Finland has been brutal beyond description, and yet it is deemed worthy of a welcome into the family of nations. We cannot, then, arrive at any conclusion other than that the avowed objections to the Soviet government are but a screen of words behind which is concealed the real objection.

If one desires further proof he has but to consider the cooperation between the government of the United States and the monarchist, Admiral Kolchak. Here we have another demonstration of the fact that a government does not have to be of the so-called democratic variety in order to secure recognition. But it must be avowedly capitalistic and guarantee to preserve the status quo of the robber class.

THE KETTLE CALLS THE POT BLACK

The last session of the international trade union congress held recently at Amsterdam, Holland, was marked by a spirited clash between Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Karl Legien, president of the German Federation of Trade Unions. After Gompers had tried to put over one of his pet reactionary schemes and had been defeated by the European reactionaries Legien accused him of "voting for the employers."

The press despatches declare that Mr. Gompers was on his feet and in a voice trembling with emotion and suppressed indignation said:

"I throw that remark back into your teeth and say that a man who would vote to support Kaiserism in this war is the spokesman of kaiserism, autocracy and militarism."

Sammy and his "voice trembling with emotion" is quite a familiar spectacle at the A. F. of L. and other labor gatherings held in this country when someone tells the truth about his activities as a servant of the employing class. All his crocodile tears will never wash away his record of infamy in the labor movement.

We readily agree that Karl Legien acted as the servant of the Kaiser and the imperialistic ambitions of the German ruling class, but Samuel should not belittle him because of that. Gompers in this country and Legien in Germany occupy the same position as betrayers of the workers. Gompers in supporting the American imperialists is equally as contemptible as Legien in supporting the German imperialists. Imperialism, whether German or American, is always the enemy of the working class and one who professes to speak for the workers and supports an imperialist war is a traitor and a disgrace to the working class.

While Legien was faithfully serving the imperialists of Germany, Gompers was just as faithfully serving the imperialists of England and America. If Legien supported kaiserism in Germany, Sam Gompers and his ignoble crew in control of the A. F. of L. machine supported the same tendency in this country.

The quarrel between Legien and Gompers is merely a case of the kettle calling the pot black.