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FAILURE THE ONLY CRIME

The capitalist press has been so full of lies about the situation in revolutionary Europe that it has been with difficulty that we have been convinced of the collapse of the revolutionary government of Hungary. Bela Kun had been overthrown so many times that one had to be skeptical of the truth of the stories that came of the overthrow of the workers' government. But at last it appears that the workers of Hungary have committed the unpardonable revolutionary crime—they have failed. For that they will not be forgiven. Revenge will be visited upon them by the "Great Democracies" of the world.

The pen prostitutes of the capitalist press chortle with glee at the downfall of the workers' government. They have been trying to magnify the event into a victory over which they might boast with some justification. Their victory, however, is small consolation. That the workers of Hungary have been able to hold out as long as they did has been very encouraging to the workers of the world. With a population consisting of only about eight millions, at no time were they able to muster more than two hundred thousand soldiers, while Rumania alone was capable of throwing half a million men against Hungary—not to speak of the other countries that surrounded her. Equipment for these soldiers of reaction was furnished by the Allies.

The Allies did not dare to act openly in suppressing the workers' government of Hungary and used many subterfuges to cover their activities in this connection. Bela Kun and his associates relied to a considerable extent upon this fear of the Allies to act. Taking advantage of the delay, the Communists struck a blow at the invaders from Rumania that they will remember for a long time, and for a time it looked as though the workers would be able to maintain themselves against the combined opposition of the Allies. The task, however, was too great, and they had to give way before superior numbers and equipment. Given half a chance and they would have proven their ability to beat the forces of reaction man for man.

In spite of the mighty forces that are arrayed against them, the Communists are not yet defeated. If the Rumanian forces are withdrawn they will spring back into power, and the indications are that they are still in control west of Budapest.

The fall of the Communist government of Hungary has proven one thing if nothing else, and that is the "Great Democracies" of the world prefer anything, no matter how reactionary, to a working class government. Those who have labored under the delusion that the Allies intended to establish a "Democracy" have had a rude awakening. Those who understood have long said that the Allies would institute black reaction wherever they secured control, and it has been proven by the recent developments in Hungary that these prophecies were correct. The yellow socialist element and labor fakirs who assisted in the overthrow of the Soviet government have been shown their proper place in the estimation of the Allies. Joseph now sits upon the lid in Hungary. The country is on the way to monarchy. A member of the degenerate family of the Hapsburgs is more acceptable to the associated powers of "free peoples" than a soviet government. The American members of the "peace" conference claim that they have been betrayed by France and England in this deal. A short while ago we would have been sent to jail if we had said such things about our "Allies." The American members of the conference will have a hard time making this bunk go as proof of their love for the oppressed peoples of the earth. They may not

have seen the trend of the Allied interference. That is possible. But when we consider this and at the same time remember the aid that the United States is giving to that other monarchist, Kolchak, we are reminded of the old saying, "There are none so blind as those that will not see." Their protestations of ignorance as to what was going to be the outcome in Hungary must be classified as plain hypocrisy. Nothing more and nothing less. Now they will stand by and shed crocodile tears while the workers of Hungary are slaughtered in revenge for their attempt to emancipate themselves.

We will not forget the lesson. Nothing can be gained by the workers from bourgeois governments, be they monarchistic or democratic. The workers have no one but themselves to depend on. They must not fail. To fail is a crime. Any means that they may employ to avert failure is in perfect accord with revolutionary ethics and is good tactics.

CUTTING THE "HIGH COST OF LIVING"

The "high cost of living" has been a nightmare to the working class ever since the capitalist system came into existence, and has become particularly acute in recent times. The problem presents itself to the minds of the uninitiated as the wilful and unwarranted advance in prices on the part of certain individuals. The facts of the matter are, of course, that the general rise in the price of commodities is due to the depreciation of the value of money. The inflation of currency has caused the bottom to drop out of the money market and the dollar will not buy what it did before. Thus has come about an automatic reduction in the real wages of the working class. The efforts of the capitalist class to reduce the prices on the so-called necessities of life merely diverts the attention of the workers away from the real issue—their robbery at the point of production. Anything that will divert the attention of the workers away from that is, of course, beneficial to the capitalist class.

The general revolutionary trend throughout the world, and particularly in Europe, has frightened the capitalists of this and other countries and they are making frantic efforts to pacify the workers by reducing the price of living. Their efforts to solve this inherent problem of capitalism are ludicrous to say the least.

With great gusto, our estimable President has devoted much attention and thought to this mighty problem. Visitors were turned away from the White House because, forsooth, the President was thinking—about the high cost of living. The weighty machinery of congress has rumbled up to the problem. Their efforts are yet to be proven useful in coping with the question. Profiteers are going to be jailed; some have been fined already. Even the mighty packers of Chicago are now to be prosecuted. We are reminded of the "successful" prosecution of the Standard Oil Company and the "successful" collection of the \$29,000,000 fine. So you will pardon us if we are a bit skeptical about the prosecution of the packers.

The government, however, has another card to play in this game of beating the "high cost of living." It is going to sell surplus army supplies amounting to several million dollars to the "dear public" in order to reduce the cost of living. This card is deuce high in a dirty deck, and is one of the best laughs that has been pulled off in a long while. If the whole of the surplus supplies were to be distributed free to the population of the country it would only amount to about a dollar and a half per capita. A wonderful bearing that will have upon the situation, isn't it?

The fact of the matter is the capitalists cannot solve the problem of the "high cost of living." That problem awaits the ascension to power of the proletariat.

CZARISM IN AMERICA

After comrade Alexander Stoklitsky was arrested in Detroit and held for the immigration authorities, agents of the Chicago branch of the Federal Department of Justice raided the headquarters of the Communist Party and seized a number of documents and other material. Although there was nothing in any of the material seized by them that would warrant further investigation, a number of individuals connected with the language federations have been called before these inquisitors and subjected to the usual brutalities they inflict upon people who have incurred the hatred of the ruling class. An experience with the people who are in control of this arm of the federal government would almost convince one that the country had been scoured for the purpose of securing the vilest bullies to browbeat decent people who happen to have intelligence enough to disagree with the powers that be.

Whatever justification may have existed in dealing with