

The League of Nations

None thought so much of the organization of the League of Nations, none fought so energetically for the abolition of wars and for the establishment of a general peace as the Socialists. But, nevertheless, or rather to be more exact, for that very reason true Socialists will be enemies of that League of Nations which was organized by the powers gathered at the Paris Peace conference.

A Convenient Theory.

At the preliminary meeting of this conference on the 15th of February the plans of the League were made public. We do not yet know what form this beginning will take in the end. But even now we can judge that the worst can be expected from the imperialist powers and that the League of Nations will prove to a noose for liberty and the peace of peoples.

Where are all the pretty words of the Wilsonian program? Where did the high sounding words of the rights of nations, small ones and large ones, of self-determination and the freedom of the seas, disappear to? We would be naive if we would look for the least bit of truth in these words and expect to find them in the plan of the League of Nations set up by Wilson, Lloyd-George and Pichon. The only thought which, like a red thread, runs through the whole protocol summarizes in the forced safety of the conditions existing after a four-year period of war, the safeguarding of the powers, their victories and all that they gained, and to prevent any change to be made in the present state of affairs.

Mutual Insurance.

First of all, the exalted imperialist powers seek to insure each other and to assure themselves a quiet digestion of their victories. The parties drawing up the treaty assure each other to respect and take care of all internal trouble in the nations belonging to the League and assure political independence for all governments taking part in this League. So, if Ireland wishes to put into life Wilson's program and to stand by her rights of self-determination, she will have to deal now not only with the English lords and capitalists but with the armed forces of the whole League of Nations.

Slavery of the defeated peoples by the world sharks will last forever under the League of Nations. Especially is this true of the so-called colonies who are, truthfully speaking, the majority of humanity. It is self-understood that the bourgeois Pharisees who came together at the Peace Conference least of all thought of giving the nations the right to decide their own destiny. Even those colonies which the Allies took from the Central Powers are divided among the victors. And which rule will be the worst for these colonies, the old or the new, remains to be seen.

The League of Nations represents an international company of life and profits insurance of the nations which are its organizers. The question of accepting any other nation into this League is to be decided by its organizers. It is clear that they will accept only those who will co-operate with them in the assurance

of their safety and their interests. Now since Germany became a counter-revolutionary bourgeois republic, destroying its own proletariat, its chances of being admitted are a great deal more certain, and it may happen that on certain conditions, or unconditionally, it will be accepted into the League of Nations. We may be sure that the more important partners will not accept Soviet Russia into their midst, if the Russian Republic would deign to ask admission.

To Outsiders a Punitive Expedition

But what will be the position of the governments which will have no chance whatsoever of being accepted as shareholders of this League? The treaty foresees this question also. It clearly states that in case there arise misunderstandings between members of the League and governments not members of the League, the Executive Committee of the League will be the high court which will render the final decision. The treaty does not state, however, whether the League will intervene at the request of the interested governments or without their wish in case these governments do not happen to be members of the League. It is clear that the League takes full power into its own hands to judge all international conflicts. The executive committee will invite the concerned parties to carry out their decisions. In case they refuse to do so, they will take action against those governments, beginning with an economic blockade and ending with armed intervention.

Not a bad prospect is it? Now imagine how will it be in the case of Soviet Russia. It will be enough for any power which is a member of the League, not speaking of France or England, but even Roumania, Poland, Finland (they will of course be admitted into the league) to have anything against Soviet Russia, to have the League start action against this government which does not acknowledge it. And as the five most important governments of the league recognized all the counter-revolutionary governments of Russia, and are on very friendly terms with most of them, therefore, it will be enough for any Kolchak or Krasnow to protest against the Soviet to have the League take action.

The Preparation of Objects for Intervention

It is absolutely clear that the powers of the League will accept into the League all sorts of small nations for the reason that with their help they will always be able to create trouble among the nations not admitted in order to have reason for intervention into their affairs. Such despotism, such full power by a group of governments, the world has not yet seen.

Phariseic Spirit

The London Times, organ of the British imperialists stated that in the decree of the League of Peoples an English spirit was seen. Yes, and English spirit of the Bourgeoisie, the spirit of force combined with Phariseism and hypocrisy, in short the spirit of the English Kent is clearly seen in this document. Of course, the document speaks of the co-

operation of peoples, of honesty among peoples, of justice; the murderous colonial policy it tries to cover with false words of the supreme duty of civilization. The ultra-millionaires and exploiters who drew up this document had nerve enough to speak of justice and humanitarian conditions for the working class.

And what does all their drivel come to—it is shown in English telegrams received, together with the document of the League of Nations. One of the first steps taken is the robbing of Russia. Japan and the United States agreed to take over the control of the Siberian Railroads. The Siberian Railroads belong to Russia. The Eastern-Chinese are placed under the control of an Inter-Allied commission at whose head, for public opinion's sake, a Russian chairman has been appointed. That Russia's permission has not been asked in this enterprise is self-understood. The League of Nations is above such formalities.

Fearful Dangers

The people of the whole world must know what awaits them. The League of Nations has been compared to the Holy Alliance. But it is worse and more harmful than the Holy Alliance a thousand fold, because it is much stronger, better organized and broader. The Holy Alliance was a conspiracy between the priests, monarchs and landowners against free peoples, but against it were not only the laboring masses but also the bourgeoisie. In the League of Nations the Bourgeoisie goes hand in hand with the monarchs, priests and landowners against the laboring masses. And besides, it controls all the means of present day technique and is expert in all the ways of fooling the masses.

The League of Nations does not prevent wars but declares war upon the working class and defeated peoples. It assures peace only to the victors, the imperialists. That is the reason why all real friends of peace and justice, and all true enemies of war must with all their might fight against the devilish plan of world untruth hidden under the bright colors of the League of Nations. And this hypocritical bourgeois league the proletariat will combat with Social Revolution, without which honesty between peoples can never exist.

U. STEKLOV,
of the Russian Soviet Government.

Superintendent of Detroit police department says he relies upon the good sense of the patrolmen to break up their union.

You mean "lack of sense," don't you, Mr. Superintendent?

"Congress to crush Bolshevism, \$2,500,000 appropriated for that purpose."

Dirt cheap. If properly approached, undoubtedly Kolchak will donate a few kopecks to the fund. Maybe the Czar, too, if he were still with us, would contribute his share.

"Priests strike for more pay." We still don't see the necessity for this. Couldn't this be obtained more easily by praying for it?

—The Proletarian.