

At the time this issue is prepared for press Comrade Ruthenberg is still on trial at Cleveland, on the charge of assault with intent to kill, arising out of the great May Day demonstration in Cleveland. News from the trial is that the prosecution is having a hard time making even a pretence of showing for bringing this outrageous charge. (Later: Verdict of Not Guilty directed by Court).

Organization news will be brought up to date in next issue, and details will be given of the meeting of the Central Executive Committee. In the meantime charter applications, as well as organization and defense donations, are coming in unabated.

The Russian Press on Versailles Treaty

Continued from page 9)

European countries, but it also elevates into law the bloody colonial system that has lain as a curse over the whole world for the past twenty years. The Versailles peace will become a symbol for slavery, not only for the German and Austrian proletariat, but for all the workers in the whole world—for all the people of the world who are oppressed by European capital. The whole proletariat of the world, and all the people of the world who have experienced the heavy hand and the galling chains of England's, America's, and France's colonial policy, will take up the struggle against this peace.

Karschewzew call "the League of Nations" a "League of violation."

"This peace treaty," he adds, "with its violent character, is without comparison in history, yet it tries to proclaim co-operation among the peoples. The following paragraphs regarding the war tribute and the Saar District illustrate this cooperation. In the League of Nations only selected countries are included. All resolutions of the league must be unanimously accepted. That is, no decision can be made against the will of the great powers, and no pressure can be exercised on them. It is very plain that it will be easy for these powers to win such a majority in their ability to compel the smaller states to subordinate their own wills.

The League of Nations proclaims that it will limit the armies and make an end to war. But even this promise contains a few exceptions. The armies will be limited to 'the minimum, as the national safety demands.' Again we shall hear those same old phrases about self defense, and again, most naturally, the question of 'national safety' will be treated in the interest of the present victors, and the minimum army will be decided according to the discretion of the makers of cannon and munitions.

"Having scarcely reached the point of talk of reconciliation, the authors of the peace treaty begin already to speak about more wars. Of course these wars cannot begin before certain preliminaries are complied with, nevertheless it is always a war, finally, that will decide the future destiny of the world, according to them.

"A court of arbitration has been appointed to decide the conflicts between the powers, but only unanimous decisions will oblige the members of the league to refrain from war. In other words the new treaty gives every great power the privilege of declaring war against an adjacent state and forcing it to submit itself to the will of the great power.

"Accordingly all the paragraphs of the treaty in reference to the League of Nations mention the establishment of an armed trust of the great powers which

may, by force and violence against the smaller nations, decide whatever is most profitable to Allied capital.

"This peace treaty is actually a league of violence which makes war and the exploitation of the smaller nations by the great ones, a law.

"Russia will not belong to the League of Nations. The peace conference has decided to put the 'Russian question' aside for the present time. 'The Russian question'—which long ago became a giant exclamation mark... 'will not be tried by the conference.' ... 'Its examination,' a radio from Paris says, 'will be handed over to the League of Nations when opportunity allows.' Of course they will not discuss the Russian question. That will be decided by Foch, and with his help, by Kolchak, Denikin, et al.

"If they succeed in crushing Soviet Russia that would be the 'opportunity' of which the radio speaks. After that they would begin to discuss the question. They are prepared to speak with the Russian bourgeoisie, but the Russian workers and peasants they intend only to shoot.

"The Imperialists assembled in Versailles have decided to sit in judgment upon the originators of the war. — 'They all fall upon Wilhelm the Second. 'They will sentence Wilhelm the Second,' writes Bergman, in "Izvestia". 'England who has trodden upon the Hindus, Boers, and Australians; France, whose capital has advanced over the bones of the Algerians; Belgium, of whose humanity the people of the Congo can tell most unbelievable things!

"'Wilhelm is guilty, and after Carl, Ludwig, and Nicholas he will suffer their fate. Krupp is guilty, but it is neither the duty nor the responsibility of Clemenceau and the Allies to sentence them. 'They themselves are guilty—and they too will be sentenced some time'."

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