

## Recent Development of Japanese Labor Revolt.

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workers in one factory after another, throughout the country. On the fifth of October 7,000 workers in the Osaka Iron Mill started a passive sabotage, and 3,500 of the Kobe Steel Works entered upon a sabotage of more violent character.

This is the best method for winning labor demands, because a strike without strike funds and without support of well organized unions is a dangerous fight against the capitalists who command legal as well as financial aid. The strikers may defy the law which condemns them. The company cannot fire the men without declaring a lockout in which case there is the obligation to make a certain dismissal payment to the employees. Thus under the present conditions in Japan sabotage is adopted by the workers as the best way to attain their objects.

At this stage of development we cannot predict what counter-move will be adopted against sabotage by the employers and authorities. But this much is certain, that the government publicly announced that it will introduce a trades-union bill to the coming parliament. By this declaration the government practically recognizes the labor union.

The labor movement of Japan has been assuming more and more radical character and class-consciousness. Even that yellowest of labor organizations, Au-Ai-Kai, has changed from the autocratic rule of its president, Banji Suzuki, to a democratic administration under the new name of "The General Federation of Labor". The executive work of the Federation is entrusted to 25 directors including two women. There are still a few advisers, mostly bourgeois economists or professors from the universities, but the big capitalists and members of the House of Peers and many others have been dropped or have stepped out of their own choice since the organization assumed a class-conscious character. The Federation is growing steadily into the ONE BIG UNION of Japan. Already the Printers Union has joined and the Authors Union of Comrade Sakai and others. It is a great change for the Federation to invite the Bolshevik Socialist Sakai to address the annual meeting, to the applause of the members present.

The Federation has adopted a rather radical platform and manifesto in which it declared labor and political agitation its work hereafter. In fact there are quite strong radical and Socialist elements in the directing personnel. Indeed its official organ "Labor and Industry" has been publishing in its pages the life of Karl Marx. This is an encouraging omen for the future of the Japanese labor movement.

This hopeful change of the labor movement, however, does not by any means open the way for its peaceful progress. On the contrary it will be prosecuted and obstructed by the reactionary government which has an increased Prussianized gendarmerie to put down any labor or Socialist movement that tends toward the Bolshevik ideas.

While the peaceful attempts of the Moderates are making some progress, the vast masses are profoundly interested in the revolutionary aspirations of the Russian soviet system. Like the Russian peasants they are slowly but surely making a mighty stride from feudalism to Communism. One sign of this transition in Japan is the utter loss of faith in the hitherto most supreme and divine ruler of Japan. Take away idols or fetish from heathen and the old order of society will and must inevitably crumble to

pieces. That is now happening in Japan in response to the world wide revolutionary movement of all mankind.

It is appropriate to conclude this review with the manifesto of the new monthly "Emancipation":

"The world is about to be re-constructed. The dawn of the new civilization begins to glimmer. The bell of Emancipation rings to tell us that the dawn breaks our long dream. At this time the magazine—"Emancipation"—is born!

We proclaim: Emancipate humanity from the pressure of militarism and autocracy! Emancipate the nationalities of the world from aggressive Czarism! Emancipate the life of civilized peoples from chains of gold, iron and fire! Emancipate the workers from poverty and overwork! Emancipate women from the iron heel of men! Emancipate young people from obstinate and superstitious old men! Emancipate all classes of people from misrule! These are the principles of EMANCIPATION that we will

hold forth as our aim and ideal.

We believe that spiritual submission follows material submission. If we desire to obtain complete spiritual emancipation we must seek to obtain fully material emancipation. Desire for material freedom first reveals in the minds of people the earnest desire for spiritual freedom. Only where there is fervent desire for spiritual freedom there grows firm resolve for material freedom. Therefore, we, the new men of the new age, must seek after emancipation from traditional, age-long customary and reactionary old ideas. This is the real duty, mission and raison d'être of "Emancipation". The EMANCIPATION, indeed, is born with such high spirits and ambition."

This represents fairly the spirit of the Japanese ideas, and there are against as new progressive ideas and movement forces well organized and powerful which are becoming more conservative, oppressive and utterly inimical toward the new enlightenment. When will the crash come between these two forces? We do not know just when, but we know it will surely come—and that time will be the dawn of the social revolution!

## On Which Side of the Barricade are You?

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for the Soviets, said to Arthur Ransome, the correspondent of the London Daily News: "We are willing to starve another year for the revolution" and as soon as the Bolsheviks are left alone by the Allied bandits "I will be the first to pull them down!"

We are not blind to the fact that Russia is ruled by a political party rather than industrial unions and this is, to my humble opinion, the cause of all opposition at home and abroad. But the labor unions are co-operating with the Bolsheviks and the only phase of the revolution so far has been the marvelous re-organization of the system of production. The mechanism of Russian industry was dislocated and sabotaged long before the Bolsheviks assumed the helm of state power. Nay, since then the reactionaries and wild visionaries from the left have contributed much to its demoralization. Under such conditions it is doubtful whether any single political or industrial group could make a dazzling success.

For two whole years the revolution has survived the vicious attacks of the imperialist mercenaries from outside and counter-revolutionary obstruction from inside. To a remarkable degree the new regime has overcome the handicaps of the abnormal state of affairs and now can safely boast of its singular victory over capitalism.

And if the Bolshevik government is willing to make concessions to the Allied plunderers, it is the fault of the revolutionary workers of the strongholds of capitalism, America, England, Japan and France. We have failed to live through the struggle of the toiling masses of Russia; we have even gone so far as to sneer at their mistakes in the gigantic task—the overthrow of capitalist exploitation which they assumed upon themselves. Their idealism and devotion to the common cause of the working class has failed to inspire us with the lofty vision capable of obliterating the petty frontiers of dogmatic differences.

Those of us who remember the heroic struggles of the militants of the General Confederation of Labor in France about 1906, the most revolutionary epoch of its picturesque history, will recall the fateful words of the arch-demagogue Clemenceau,

then prime minister, who was trying to crush the C. G. T. Being reminded of his revolutionary past, (having taken part in the Paris Commune), by a delegation from the labor unions, he arrogantly replied: "Gentlemen, do not forget that I am on the other side of the barricade!"

The Russian Revolution has crystalized a new alignment in the revolutionary labor movement. There is no middle ground, there is only one alternative—either with the Bolsheviks against capitalism and yellow Socialism, or with Imperialism with its masked defenders, hiding behind red screens, Syndicalists, Socialists and Anarchists.

It will be a painful blow to our Communist friends the world over to hear that the Industrial Workers of the World is not with them in the most critical and trying moments in the history of the class struggle.

The revolution is our only creed, our only principle. Let us extend our hand of solidarity and fellowship to our Russian fellow workers and join them in the heroic struggle against the exploiters of mankind.

## Mexican Communists Make Progress

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the United States and Canada, and also visited England and other countries. For 3 years he was imprisoned in Leavenworth for revolutionary activities against Diaz.

The national convention of the party, at which a permanent organization will be effected, will probably take place in February. It was originally called for November but the date will be postponed so that organizations may be effected in all the states before the gathering.

Locals in Mexico City, Tampico, Monterrey, Guadalajara and other cities are very active, and study classes in the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky are conducted regularly each week.

Local Mexico City adopted resolutions demanding that the Mexican government refuse to accept the "invitation" of the Allied powers to join in the blockade of Russia. So far, President Carranza has not replied to the note.