

The Trial of the Czar's Assassins

(The following translation of a Russian document from the Moscow Communist newspaper "Pravda" (the document having reached this country via Warsaw) throws an interesting light on the charge frequently repeated in the American bourgeois press to the effect that the Bolsheviks killed in cold blood the ex-Czar of Russia and his family. This document shows that not only were the Bolsheviks not guilty of anything of the sort, but that the murder was committed by a political opponent of the Bolsheviks to discredit the Soviet Government. The man, Yakhontov, who was responsible for the order, evidently got himself elected to a high Soviet position in order to be able to accomplish this treachery; but he was finally discovered and punished for the cold-blooded assassination. The party to which Yakhontov belonged, the Left Social-Revolutionaries, is generally considered as the most treacherous opposition to the Bolsheviks, and this party was, before the establishment of the Soviet regime as well as since then, a terrorist party, which by its deeds of violence against individuals has always been discrediting all constructive revolutionary movements. It is interesting to note that when members of this same party killed in a similar manner Count von Mirbach, the Allies praised them to the skies.)

THE Revolutionary Tribunal presided over by Comrade Matveyev, after a two-day examination, finished the case of the murder of ex-Czar Nicholas Romanoff.

(From the Moscow paper "Pravda".)

of his wife Alexandra nee Princess of Hesse, of their daughters Olga, Maria, and Anastasia, and of divers persons with them.

As the results indicated, 11 persons in all were killed. The number of defendants was 28; three of them, Gruzinov, Yakhontov, and Malyutin being members of the Yekaterinburg Soviet, two of them, Maria Apraxina and Yelizaveta Mironova, being women, while the rest were officers of the guard.

After a long examination of the witnesses and defendants the complete picture of the murder was revealed. The ex-Czar and the rest were shot and were not, according to plan, subjected to any ridicule. Yakhontov, the chief defendant, ex-member of the Yekaterinburg Soviet, admitted that the murder of the ex-Czar's family was organized by him for the purpose of discrediting the Soviet regime in the interest of the Left Social-Revolutionaries to whom he belonged. According to Yakhontov's evidence, the murder of Nicholas Romanoff was attempted when he was at Tobolsk, but the watchful guards prevented the plan from being carried out. At Yekaterinburg, when confusion reigned among the Soviet authorities due to the approach of the Czecho Slo-

vaks to the city, he, as chairman of the extraordinary commission, gave out an order to shoot the imperial family and those around them. Yakhontov declared that he was present at the execution and, in any case, took the responsibility on himself, but was not guilty of the robberies that followed the murder. In his evidence Lokhontov specially emphasized as the last words uttered by Nicholas Romanoff: "For my death, my people will curse the Bolsheviks."

The other defendants, including Gruzinov and Malyutin, declared that they did not know of Yakhontov's treason, and that they executed his commands.

After the speeches of the prosecutor and the defense, the tribunal found guilty of the murder of the ex-Czar's family et al. only Yakhontov, and sentenced him to be shot. Gruzinov, Malyutin, Apraxina, Mironova, and 9 Red Guards were found guilty of robbing the victims and were also sentenced to be shot. The rest were acquitted. The following day the sentences were carried out. The decision of the Tribunal is the best proof that the Soviet Government has taken all measures to detect and punish those who were guilty of this senseless murder. The clever plan of the Social-Revolutionaries failed.

No Third Road is Open

By J. Steklow

THE second of March 1919 will go down in the annals of history as a momentous date. On this day the First Congress of the Third Communist International was called order.

Some time ago, in the days of the revolution, the Russian Socialists dreamt the congress of the International to be held in free Russia. Presently their dream came true, but not in the form in which they conceived it. In Russia have now assembled not the representatives of the International of chloroformers, but the delegates of the advanced section of the proletariat. They gathered in Red Moscow in the capital of the Russian Socialist Republic towards which the hearts of all class-conscious workers and sincere adherents of the Social Revolution are turning. The delegate of the Austrian Communists picturesquely related how he with another comrade struggled for 18 days to make their way to the congress amid the most unprecedentedly difficult conditions, now on foot, now in a peasants wagon, now on a tender, now hanging on the steps of a train. **But they paid no attention to all these hardships, because in the distance they perceived the vision of Red Moscow, the heart of the Soviet Republic, which proclaimed to all mankind the beginning of its emancipation. This is the symbol of the world-proletariat which, smashing aside all obstacles, aspires to unite with Soviet Russia, in order to extend to her a helpful hand and to draw from her some of the spirit of Socialist Creativeness and Revolutionary Heroism.**

The temporary triumph of the imperial-world-bourgeoisie prevented the initiative of the First Congress of the Communist International from giving to it the desired impetus and sway. This congress had to be held in secret and convened secretly. In the age of bourgeois "freedom" and "democracy" the representatives of the revolutionary

proletariat who have not sold the interests of their class to the triumphant bourgeoisie must work everywhere, excepting Soviet Russia, almost in the "underground". The Moscow Communist Congress is not like the Berne flock of social-compromisers and social-traitors who exchange lovely smiles with Clemenceau and Lloyd George.

And yet we feel, regardless of the incomplete and not numerous representation, that right here in this hall which is draped with red cloth and adorned with red flags, portraits of prominent Socialist leaders and placards with inscriptions in all languages: "Long Live the Third International!"—the spirit of the World-Revolution is breathing and the warm heart of the world-proletariat is beating. Here is being forged the thought and will of the working class, here are being outlined the roads of its emancipation, from here will ring out the clarion call to organization, to the struggle and victory.

The Moscow Congress signifies the first step toward the organization of the new fighting International. Up till now the international proletariat was lacking not so much in theoretical grounding, as in international practical action. The First Communist Congress offers both. It brings to a synthesis the theoretical interpretation of the contemporary epoch and the sum-total of the practical experience of the Russian, German and other revolutions. Communism as the direct aim of the working-class movement in the present stage of development of the capitalist world, the Soviets and the Soviet power as the political form of the dictatorship of the proletariat—these are the slogans proclaimed by the congress of the workers of all countries.

What an encouraging impression is produced by the Moscow Communist Congress in comparison with the traitorism of the

Berne conference of compromisers endeavoring to galvanize the corpse of the Second International. Though not daring openly to condemn revolutionary communism or bolshevism, the Berne conference actually repudiated it, and thereby separated itself from the liberating movement of the world-proletariat. They despatch to us a commission of examiners and controllers who will come to Russia, if not in the role of judges, at least, in the role of cold and far from impartial witnesses. On the other hand, the revolutionary proletariat sent to Moscow its best representatives in order to conclude a fraternal union with Soviet Russia and to lay, together with her, the foundation of an international alliance of the workers on the basis of an active and united struggle for the complete emancipation of the proletariat.

Now with the formation of the Communist International standing in deadly opposition to the International of the compromisers and social-traitors, all the vacillating Socialist elements which have not irrevocably given the consciences to the imperialist bourgeoisie are facing squarely the choice: either with the advanced proletariat for the social-revolution, or against the proletariat and in alliance with the bourgeoisie for social-reaction. No third road is open.

The social-revolution is hammering at the doors of the old world. With the formation of the Third International the proletariat is pressing to the very gates of the Communist kingdom. It will be able to open them despite the many obstacles strewn across its path by the viciousness of the ruling classes and by the treason of former leaders.

(From the "Investia," the official organ of the Central Executive Committee of the All-Russian Soviet Of Workers', Soldiers' and Peasants' Delegates).