

The Fortress of the World Revolution

ELEVEN years have gone by since the Russian workers took the hammer of revolution in their hands and broke the chain of World Imperialism at its weakest link. The history of the whole intervening period represents on the one hand the efforts of the imperialists to forge that chain together again and bind it tighter around the enslaved masses and, on the other hand, the struggle of the proletariat to tear it apart from the whole of humanity.

The Russian Revolution was not merely a national event—it was the beginning of and signal for the International Proletarian Revolution. Herein lies its true meaning, its great historic significance. From this standpoint the revolutionary workers of the world hail the cause of Soviet Russia as their cause on the eleventh anniversary of her "October."

The Russian Revolution broke forever the "unity" of the world and divided it into two hostile camps—the camp of imperialist exploitation and the camp of social revolution. At one polar extreme stands America, the strongest imperialist world power. At the other stands the U.S.S.R., the land of the workers rule. The antagonism between them and the systems they represent is irreconcilable. They cannot live together permanently side by side. The victory of the Soviet system on a world scale means the liberation of enslaved humanity and its ascent to heights of culture and achievement beyond our dreams—to socialism and beyond that to communism. The victory of imperialism would hurl civilization into the abyss. Such is the issue of "the epoch of wars and revolutions" in which we live and fight.

Slogans for Today

A Moscow wireless to the Daily Worker (11-1-1928) reports that the leading article of the Pravda of October 31, has raised the following slogans as "most apt to the present" for the eleventh anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution: Against the Kulak! Against the Nepman! Against the Bureaucrats!

Less than a year ago, at the 15th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the leaders of the Opposition raised precisely these slogans to be adopted by the Party. For this service Trotsky, Radek, and dozens of the best and most loyal Bolshevik fighters were expelled from the Party, and many of them sent into exile and worse.

The adoption of these slogans now, after a harmful delay of two or three years, is a typical example of the zig-zag policy that has characterized the course of the Central Committee in general, and the Stalin group within it in particular. And even their adoption at this point cannot, in the face of what has happened in the past, be taken at full face value.

At the 14th Party Conference the decision on the leasing of land and the employment of wage workers in the village was a concealed concession to the Kulaks. The consequence of this false measure—the extension of the franchise to exploiting elements in the village—was only a logical step in the direction of the course which yielded to the pressure of the private-capitalist elements in town and village. Armed with Stalin's slogan at the 14th Conference of the Party of "Fire against the Left"—which he later attempted to deny having issued—the Opposition was made the object of the Party's blows while the Kulak's and the Nepman's strength waxed under the false policy of the Central Committee.

The demands of the Opposition for a struggle against the Kulak so as to weaken his power and influence and prevent his growth at the expense of the poor and middle peasantry were violently rejected. As late as 1926, Stalin denounced them as raisers of "alarm," of "panic." At the 15th Party Conference (November 1926) Bucharin asked triumphantly: "Since the Kulak has become so formidable, why has he not played us some nasty trick?" A new, anti-Leninist and revisionist conception of the Kulak began to appear in the ranks of the Party. "The Kulak is growing into socialism," announced Bucharin. "The Kulak is a bogey from the old world... only represented by a few individuals already in the process of extinction," wrote Bogushevsky. "Our policy with regard to the village must ad-

The Russian Revolution revived the revolutionary movement of the world and inspired the proletarian masses with new confidence and hope. It lifted up the banner of socialism, trampled in the mud of social-patriotism by the traitor leaders of the "socialist" parties, and made it again synonymous with Internationalism. Lenin, the leader of the Russian Revolution, was also the leader of the Communist International which arose out of the ruins brought about by social treason in the war. Eleven years of the dictatorship of the proletariat has confirmed everything that Lenin taught about the international significance of the revolution and the indissoluble bonds between it and the world proletariat.

Soviet Russia is the fortress of the World Revolution. While it stands the imperialist system shakes on its foundations. Every attempt at "stabilization" brings greater insecurity and deeper contradictions. The example and the brotherly help of Soviet Russia inspires and strengthens the movement of the workers and oppressed peoples throughout the world. The flag of our Socialist Fatherland is the flag of our hope and on this eleventh anniversary we again hail it as our own.

Between the Soviet Republics united in the U.S.S.R. and the international revolutionary proletariat there is an organic connection. They are bound together spiritually and politically. They are united by ties of mutual solidarity which no power on earth can break. Just as the Soviet Republics constitute an impregnable fortress of the world revolution so is the international proletariat the protector of the Soviet Republics. The revolutionary workers see in every blow aimed at

Soviet Russia a blow aimed at their own cause and react against it as such. The defense of the Soviet Union is our own fight. It is and will be a central rallying slogan of the labor militants of the entire world. "Defend the Soviet Union!" is a slogan leading the workers to follow the example of the Russian Revolution. So they must conceive it. So will the victory of socialism in Russia and throughout the world be finally secured.

The victory of the Russian proletariat grew out of the World War. The establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Russia and the organization of the Communist International—two vast achievements historically linked together—are the plus signs against the slaughter of the millions and the collapse of the Second International. The imperialist war makers and their "socialist" lackeys unleashed forces which they could not control.

The imperialist masters of the world want to take back these gains of the workers wrested out of the bloody pit of war and revolution. Armaments are being multiplied on an unprecedented scale. War clouds darken the skies. War plans grow apace. They are aimed primarily at Soviet Russia and through it at the entire international labor movement.

The celebrations of the workers throughout the world on this eleventh anniversary of the Russian Revolution must therefore be dominated above all by the solemn realization of the war danger and the steel resolve to meet it by revolutionary means; by the resolve to put all our weight and all our sacrifice in the scale for the cause of Soviet Russia which is the cause of the oppressed and exploited

The 'Outlook' Expose

The revelations contained in the current number of **The Outlook** on the innocence of the martyred Vanzetti in the Bridgewater hold-up and the scoundrelly cynicism of the authorities to whom the facts were available can only serve as corroborative evidence. The certainty of the entire innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti of any of the crimes charged against them was long ago firmly established in the eyes of the militant working class. **The Outlook**, a rabid supporter of the very system that murdered the two Italian rebels, is concerned only with covering the hideous, festering sores on the body of capitalist "justice," to tie the working class to the chariot of confidence in the corrupt institutions of the masters. The duty of every class-conscious worker, on the other hand, is ceaselessly to point out that the legal assassination of Sacco and Vanzetti was entirely in harmony with the processes of "justice" as it is regularly dispensed to workers by the courts of their class foe.

There is no doubt that there will be more evidence forthcoming in the future that will strike further blows at the toppling edifice of lies under which the martyrs were buried. Unfortunately, nothing can bring the two fighters back to the ranks of the working class. Their memory must serve not only as a permanent indictment against capitalism and an inspiring example of rebels' conduct, but as a mute appeal to every worker to take up and continue the fight for the defense of all class war prisoners. The case of Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings, buried alive in California's prisons for more than twelve years, is in point. The over abundant proofs of their innocence, and the frame-up that almost sent them to the gallows have been made public long ago. It is the duty of every worker to aid with all vigor in the fight for their belated release.

The campaign of International Labor Defense for Mooney and Billings follows the right line in proceeding from the standpoint of the class struggle. The essence of the task is to make the case of Mooney and Billings again a burning issue of the labor movement. A militant fight, led and organized by the class-conscious elements, is the best assurance for a speedy victory in this fight. A prerequisite for this is a recognition of the great importance and potentialities of this issue. The opinion that the mass interest in this historic case cannot be revived is profoundly false. It is a question only of correct tactics and organization methods and energetic work. The hope of Mooney and Billings, of the Centralia I.W.W. and of every other labor prisoner in the country lies in the protest movement of the masses.

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