

IN THE INTERNATIONAL OF LABOR
Reviews and News of the Working Class and Revolutionary Movements

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FROM MOSCOW & DEPORTATION

From Moscow: After a fairly long interruption, I have succeeded in passing some time in Moscow. The provisioning is extremely badly assured; it should not be forgotten that in Moscow it is, in any case, much better than in the provinces.

Apart from this, they have created, as you know, cooperatives where everything is sold at market prices. Here, everything is from five to ten times dearer: the prices are absolutely unapproachable.

I have spoken to some of the militants who at one time criticized many things. Today it is still more difficult than it was last year to speak "with an open heart" with anybody. Most of these comrades were very sympathetic to our criticism during the period of "exaggeration" and "dizziness".

A voice from deportation:

Since the Spring I have been living in a new place. During the Winter and the Spring, all the deportees were "shaken up" so that those who, like myself, for example, were not sent into solitary, were transferred to a more "pernicious" locality.

From everywhere, we receive news of a new wave of repression. In May, a number of "recidivists" (former Oppositionists who have come back to the Opposition) were arrested in Moscow.

IN SPAIN

The Events of a Fortnight

The bourgeois press, formerly monarchist and today republican, has passed over in silence and distorted the truth about what happened during the last general strike in Seville. It confined itself to declaring that the origin of the strike was the assassination (if it did not use the expression "assassination") of a striking brewery worker.

Mooney Appeal

Alongside of Mooney's call: Do the party leaders intend to emulate the Hillquits, the Hillmans and their helpers in a refusal to organize a genuine united front? Is this statement to be a justification for evasion of duty? While it indorses Mooney's call in general, it fails entirely to indicate one single measure, one single step toward the organization of a united front.

Why do the party centrist bureaucrats fear a genuine united front? Not a "so-called" united front "arranged" from the top with "leaders" . . . an alliance of a few so-called "leaders". This is not what Tom Mooney asks for.

Through the International Labor Defense there must be initiated the organization of a genuine united front, the setting up of Committees to fight for the freedom of Tom Mooney and release of all class war prisoners.

—ARNE SWABECK.

THE INCIDENTS AT SEVILLE

The bourgeois press, formerly monarchist and today republican, has passed over in silence and distorted the truth about what happened during the last general strike in Seville. It confined itself to declaring that the origin of the strike was the assassination (if it did not use the expression "assassination") of a striking brewery worker.

The Constituent Cortes sent to Seville a Parliamentary Commission to investigate what happened there. Some of these parliamentarians saw the horrible truth, threatened to tell it and to demand judgment upon those responsible.

THE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE RECENT DISTURBANCES

The leadership of the official C. P. has declared pompously and pedantically after the Seville disturbances that it took all the responsibility for the past incidents. But unfortunately, we have observed that during the last strike disturbances, the C. P. remained completely in the shade.

A Letter from Berlin at Election

It is insistently claimed that there were great differences on the plebiscite in the Central Committee of the Communist party. Thaelmann was against, Neumann for: there were extremely violent discussions among them.

German aroused considerably sympathy . . . After his speech, a dozen Schupos (Defense police) broke into the hall and picked up a young newsboy of the Rot Front, which is prohibited.

Sunday, Berlin presents the usual picture. In the workers quarters (Wedding), large numbers of police, in autos, mounted, afoot. But the streets are calm, no assembling; in the afternoon much fewer police are seen.

We visited many voting places; it goes on here in saloons. To our questions, the party placard bearers answered that things were not going well. There were hopes for the better in the afternoon, which brought about no change.

As to the fighting of the evening and the night, I will write next time. . .

The Anarchists in Spain

The arrangement with Zamora and Macia's trip to Madrid will definitely consecrate the treason of Macia's party. The hopes of the Catalan working masses in the national independence and social enfranchisement, demagogically promised by Macia will be cruelly disappointed.

On July 20, the members of the 'Fomento del Trabajo Nacional' (which embraces the representatives of all the big Barcelona Industries) met in order to examine the imminent peril presented to them by the attitude of the laboring masses, and, considering that the cooperation of the government of the Generalidad with the Sindicato Unico had disastrous consequences, they decided to address themselves directly to the central government of Madrid in order to request it to defend them.

Loyal to his petty bourgeoisie nature, Macia has yielded to the "powerful boss". For, Macia is more the "Barcelonan-agent of the Madrid imperialists" (Trotsky) than the sincere friend of the

anarcho-syndicalists of the N. C. of L. The arrangement with Zamora and Macia's trip to Madrid will definitely consecrate the treason of Macia's party. The hopes of the Catalan working masses in the national independence and social enfranchisement, demagogically promised by Macia will be cruelly disappointed.

The conduct of the anarcho-syndicalists also requires a pitiless criticism by the Spanish Communists. Never has the treason of the syndicalist leaders of the N. C. of L. been more cynical, more avowed. The workers of Seville who battled courageously against the armed forces of the provisional government looked in vain to the support and the solidarity of the strongest trade union organization in the country, the N. C. of L.

Solidaridad Obrero, wrote: "In spite of everything", we have said on many occasions that we want nothing against the republic. In an official declaration of the N. C. of L. its leaders declare in the name of the thousands of revolutionary workers whom they are deceiving that "nobody can boast of being able to do better than the Spanish republic" and that consequently, they will do it no harm.

Only the Spanish Communists, in spite of the absence of a party and a clear-sighted leadership, supported the heroic fighters of Seville by revolutionary class instinct. The Spanish working class will remember these two differing attitudes of two political currents in the revolutionary proletariat of Spain. The treason of the anarcho-syndicalists and the courageous conduct of the Communists in the Seville events should serve Spanish Communism to enlighten the masses organized in the N. C. of L. on the shameful and ignoble role of the Pestanas, Urules and the other leaders of anarcho-syndicalism.

GERMANY

THE PLEBISCITE'S REAL RESULTS

The press service of the German Communist Party, commenting on the results of the referendum to dissolve the Prussian Landtag, seeks to swindle the party followers with empty boasts about the alleged victory of the Stalinists in their disastrous combination with the Hitlerites: "Yesterday's referendum was a truly Red referendum. . . The Red referendum furnished the proof that it is possible, by a principled Bolshevik policy, not only to drive back Fascism, but to beat it decisively."

This is the way we see the problem, as every Marxist-Leninist must see it, then the struggle of the Sevillian proletariat was not a route but on the contrary, produced a great arsenal of lessons. Let us know how to profit by them in the coming struggles!

THE SOCIALIST MINISTERS

The bourgeois press has begun the open struggle against two of the three socialist ministers who belong to the present government of the republic: against Indalecio Prieto, minister of finance, and Largo Caballero, minister of labor; and it is precisely because these two gentlemen cause a serious danger to the government, being two ministers who, together with Maura have lost all prestige and are dishonored.

The bourgeoisie which gave them their posts in order to have them confine the impetuosity of the workers from these vantage points, sees that that they have done has been to heighten the courage of the workers by their myopic actions and means to remove them. They will succeed. Prieto especially is swamped in his ministry.

THE REPRESSION CONTINUES

Upon going out of a meeting of the International Red Aid in Madrid, the workers were pounced upon by the police who killed one and wounded many. Later, many workers were arrested. Labor meetings are suspended and workers papers are seized, correspondence is violated, house raids are conducted, arrested workers without defense have judicial law applied to them, workers are imprisoned and brutalized more and better than during the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera, just as in the heyday of Martinez Anido. The republic government has assassinated more workers than did Primo de Rivera in the seven years of his government.

Misery, hunger and despair increase incessantly among the workers. The coming Winter threatens to be prodigious in desperate struggles between the workers who will ask for bread and the police who will mow them down. The present government promises to be bloody and brutal to a degree exceeding the dictators of the monarchy.

Will the Spanish working class know how to organize itself and to react? Madrid, August 8 1933 —HENRI LACROIX.

We publish the comparative figures of the votes given in the 20 "Verwaltungsbezirke" (roughly equivalent to our wards) of Berlin, first in the referendum of a few years ago on the expropriation of the German princes, a campaign led by the Communist party which won the support of the socialist workers, and second, the votes given in the same districts during the recent Prussian referendum which was really led by the Fascists:

Table with 3 columns: Ward, "Princes" Referen., "Pruss. Referen." listing various wards and their respective vote counts for both referendums.

Thus in such decisively proletarian wards as Center, Wedding, Friedrichshain and Neukoelln, the "Red" referendum to dissolve the Prussian Landtag, gave only half or less than half the votes cast for the Communist referendum a few years ago to expropriate the princes. In such bourgeois wards as Zehlendorf and Steglitz, the "Red" referendum received more (in one almost double) than it received last time. Red referendum indeed! The fact is that the Fascists brought out almost their maximum forces (very few Fascists failed to vote on account of the Communist party's participation) for the referendum, while the revolutionary workers stayed at home, indifferent or resentful towards the Stalinist capitulation to the nationalist demagoguery of the Hitlerites.

Further "Victory" Proof

In proletarian Berlin-Center, 67,320 "For" votes were cast in the "Prussian" referendum. At the last Reichstag elections, the Right wing parties received 61,000 votes and the C. P. 58,872. In overwhelmingly bourgeois Wedding, out of the 279,000 eligible voters, 89,986 "For" votes were cast. In the last elections, the Right parties received 15,936, while the C. P. got 99,273. The "Red" referendum did not even receive the total C. P. vote of last September 14. In workers' Friedrichshain, 76,094 "For" votes, while the C. P. got 80,000 and the Right parties 74,000 votes last September.

But how do we know whether the "For" votes in these districts came from the C. P. or the Right? The answer is found in the unmistakable indications furnished by the bourgeois wards:

In overwhelmingly bourgeois Zehlendorf: last September the C. P. got 2,598 votes, the Right parties 20,424 votes. In the present referendum there were 16,932 "For" votes! The C. P. won over . . . the bourgeoisie!

Take Steglitz, a bourgeois ward, 14,165 C. P. votes and 69,299 Right votes in September. "For" the "Prussian" referendum: 58,863.

Outside of Berlin, the same picture. In Cologne, which gave 132,557 Right votes and 67,786 C. P. votes, there were 74,358 "For" votes in the referendum, with 540,000 eligible voters. In Aachen, with 113,593 eligible voters, 15,889 voted "For". In September, the C. P. received 14,564 votes, the Right parties got 25,790.

As a final straw to show which way the wind blows—from the workers or from the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie—to the Communists or to the Fascists—we take the characteristic example of the rural, backward, petty bourgeois district of Hessen-Nassau, a "natural" stamping ground for Hitler's cohorts: Eligible to vote: 1,720,210 September C. P. vote: 137,148. September Right vote: 614,303. "For" the referendum: 554,537.

A political party—particularly the revolutionary Communist party—cannot stand many more such "victories" without collapsing under the deadly weight of its own folly. . . —M. MILL. Paris, August 15, 1933