

EDITORIAL

Russian Recognition

RECOGNITION of the Soviet Union by the United States Government, facilitating trade relations between the two countries, can offer certain advantages to the Russian workers' state in its struggle for survival as well as to the American regime of Wall Street brigands in its competition with other imperialist powers.

Thus, under Lenin and Trotsky, the Soviet Union never refused to bargain with the imperialist robbers and even offered, in return for certain credits and other considerations, to agree to the payment of the Czarist debts, etc.

Today we see a different picture. Soviet diplomacy, under Stalin, based on the theory of "socialism in one country", has separated itself from revolutionary internationalism.

At the present moment—with American recognition pending—we have to look the Roosevelt gift horse in the mouth. What is he really offering the Soviet Union and more important, what is Stalinist diplomacy offering in return?

The preliminaries do not appear as a relationship between equals talking business. The Wall Street scoundrels act with the insolence of a conqueror laying down the law.

The New York Times for October 22: "Certainly," writes Edwin L. James, "one of the first things Roosevelt will make clear to Litvinoff will be that the United States Government will not stand for Communist propaganda in this country financed by the Third International of Moscow."

It is that is not enough, here is more from the same article: "One has only to compare the efforts made abroad by the Third International ten years ago and those made now to see that there has been a change. Doubtless Litvinoff will be ready to promise the change will become even more complete."

Precisely the same opinion, with a clearer ex-

planation, is expressed in the New York Tribune for October 25th by Walter Lippman:

"President Roosevelt is dealing with a different Russian government from the Russian Government that President Wilson refused to recognize. The decisive difference has been brought about by the victory of Stalin and his doctrine of 'socialism in a single country' over Trotsky and those who hold the doctrine that Communism cannot succeed in Russia unless there is a world revolution."

Again from Lippman's article: "It is the change in Russian policy, now apparently established and consolidated that removes the only real obstacle there has ever been to the recognition of Russia."

On top of that read the opinion of the Scripps-Howard foreign editor William Philip Simms, in the New York World Telegram for October 21:

"Time has vastly modified these objections (to the Third International), so much so, in fact, that there is every indication that when Foreign Minister Litvinoff and the President draw up before the wood-fire in the White House study they will have little difficulty in reaching an accord."

These devastating expressions of the leading interpreters of bourgeois opinion, so identical in every note, so brutal in their frankness, leave little to be added. They strip the issues bare. American capitalism, haunted by the memory of Lenin's Comintern, wanted guarantees against its activities.

But there is a slight error in the calculation in spite of all. There is no room to doubt that Litvinoff will "be ready with complete assurance"—this "assurance" has already been given in fact by the strangulation of the Comintern.

United Front Against Hooliganism

CONGRATULATIONS to the Chicago Communists whose activity called forth the attempt, organized by the panic-stricken bureaucrats of the Stalin party, to break up the Swabek meeting.

Other workers not members of the Communist League, some of them representing different opinions and tendencies, took part in the defense of the Chicago meeting. This is an especially gratifying feature of the affair.

Such a sentiment, becoming predominant among the uncorrupted militants in all the radical organizations and groups, is a sound and progressive one. It can and will become a mighty force for the regeneration of the movement.

We speak for this solidarity of action and are ready, for our part, to join in a fight for the democratic rights of other working class groups, just as we welcome their aid in defending our own right to be heard.

Silk Dyers Vote for Agreement

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reputated Vigorito and Pirola who thought, judging by the "organized" applause, that more votes could be obtained by this unity business.

And now, as a last fit of desperation, as a last seed of confusion, the N. T. W. makes a complete change of policy but hardly in the right direction.

"The National Textile Workers Union stands ready to merge with the members of the U. T. W. and unorganized workers, into One Dye Workers Union." Not unity but a new union.

Tactics of the Bosses The canny dye bosses were well aware of the inexperience of the dye workers, and their lack of effective leadership.

ment. And when the workers' negotiations committee was demoralized with fatigue they set the stage for a last act of intimidation. All the cops were called off their regular beats for "duty" at the mills, rumors were spread that a large gang of strike breakers and thugs had been imported into Paterson, the bosses made a public statement that the mills would open and the mayor backed them up by saying that he would see to it that "any man who wanted to return to work would not be prevented from doing so."

One can say with some certainty that this split in the strike was prepared even before the outbreak of the strike. The outcome might have been different if the dyers had been affiliated with the A. F. S. W. Before the strike, Schweitzer, the cautious, week-kneaded organizer of the A. S. W. turned down an offer to organize the dyers into the

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Associated so that the organizer of the dyers, Yanerelli, made a deal with McMahon and the dye house workers went directly into the U. T. W.

Evil Result of Separate Organization

In the U. T. W. the mass of the strikers, the more experienced and tested militants in the A. F. S. W., had no control over the actions of the dyers. It is true that there was some sort of reciprocal representatives of the two unions on the respective strike committees.

By the separate agreement with the dyers, the bosses surely have obtained a moral advantage. Already 3,000 jacquard workers want to stampede back to work. The bosses have given them certain concessions and they have also voted to go back to the job following the lead of the dyers.

Notes of the Week

ABOLISHING UNEMPLOYMENT

Every week in this hectic period brings new social thunderstorms. Last week rickety capitalistic Europe threw a fit over Hitler's bolt from Geneva.

It's the turn of younger, crafty, cunning American capitalism this week. The farmers out in the Middle West are threatening to upset Mr. Roosevelt's New Deal applecart.

Besides the farmers, there are the steadily enduring, industrial strikes, growing and broadening out. The compliance boards of the NRA are overwhelmed with complaints of code violators.

Along comes a new and hardly heartening admonition. The well-known economic publicist, Mr. Stuart Chase, writing in the November Current History, presents some startling facts.

Given a 40 hour week work, says Mr. Chase, the year 1934, in spite of all the government and NRA optimism, will still find 12,200,000 men out of jobs.

Given a highly exaggerated figure of 10% increase in production, the number of jobless would still amount to 9,400,000.

Granting more than that, allowing for a decrease in working hours to 35 per week, 9,000,000 men would still have to crowd the streets in futile search for a livelihood.

Mr. Chase's statistics are carefully considered, weighed very cautiously. The farm laborers, the miners, the professional classes are not taken into reckoning, although the same fate is in store for them.

What is behind this realistic picture of a miserable working class future? Mr. Chase and his fellow economists will tell you: "technological unemployment" Seventy men in 1933 can do the work of 100 in 1926. The machine is replacing the workers.

What is this horrible monster, the machine, in reality? It is and was always meant to be an aid to man. Born out of the unique ingenuity of man in the animal kingdom, the tool and the machine were produced to help him overcome the obstacles of nature in his struggle for a happy existence.

The thinking worker who knows this will not be fooled. No, it is not the machine that is the monster. The private exploitation of the machine, its utilization for the heaping up of profits for the few—capitalism—that is the threat to a decent human existence.

"Technological unemployment" will exist as long as the capitalist system exists. Replace the system of production for profit by the system of production for social use and "technological unemployment" becomes transformed into: greater leisure, better health, higher intelligence and happier, fuller life for the vast mass of humanity.

The workers of America have not yet fully grasped this idea in their great majority. They are just nibbling at it. They want to hang on to life, merely.

They are striking in great number now for a somewhat shorter work-day, for a somewhat higher, living wage.

Yet that monstrosity, the class of the bosses who possess all under capitalism, mobilize police, government and press against them. Yet the rulers will not cede an inch to the workers.

It is inevitable that the American workman will, with ever growing speed and strength, organize en masse to fight not only for a higher wage and a shorter workday, but against the looming prospect of permanent unemployment for millions in their ranks.

Wage strikes are not enough. Unemployment insurance must come next. —G...N.

Organizing the Steel Workers

(Continued from page 1)

orate preparations the Steel Trust made for this temper in a teacup. The day before the strike 150 deputy sheriffs were sworn in. The police forgot all about the NRA and labor's right to picket peacefully. The curtain was lifted from the benevolent smile of capital, and the bosses showed their fangs for a moment.

It was just at the close of this burlesque episode that Arne Swabek arrived in Youngstown. A small but rather advanced crowd of seventy workers attended his meeting on October 17th. The crowd showed a keen interest in the issues presented, and a lively discussion took place.

Agrarian Question in Mexico

The Problem of the Coming Revolt and the Peasantry

The period of governmental re-ignition initiated under Portes Gil in 1928, also marked the cutting short of the agrarian reform. Only a small section of the peasantry was satisfied with the manner in which this reform, based on Article 27 of the 1917 constitution, had been carried out.

In some cases, those villages which have shown greatest militancy during the early period of the revolution, were given satisfactory grants or rations in the possession of lands they had forcibly seized, in order to silence them and set them up as a barrier to hold back the great mass of landless peasantry who were being "fed" on promises and government surveys.

Ending the Land Reforms

The newly rich, having themselves acquired great landed wealth in the course of the revolution, now found it necessary to seek alliances with the remaining, politically crippled, feudal holders and wealthy ranchers in order to preserve their own boots.

Granting more than that, allowing for a decrease in working hours to 35 per week, 9,000,000 men would still have to crowd the streets in futile search for a livelihood.

From time immemorial and antedating the coming of the Spaniards the peasant villagers owned their land in common. In some cases the soil was tilled in common also and in others by the individual families but without any private land tenure. These commons, called

ed alpetallal under the Aztec regime, were the direct forerunners of the ejidos of more recent times. Many of these village commons remained intact until comparatively recent times although the tendency in the colonial period was for the Spanish hacendados to absorb and destroy the primitive village economy, converting the peasants into peons or serfs of the hacendados.

Communal Aspirations of Peasants

Traditionally, the bulk of Mexico's peasants aspire to communal holdings. Left to themselves they seldom abandon common ownership for individual tenure, although the land is almost always subdivided by the village council for cultivation in small lots by individual heads of families.

Realizing the danger to their communal unity and the consequent strengthening of their enemies, if the village commons are broken up, the peasants prefer collective ownership. Most of them realize that individual tenure at this time would weaken their position as a class and would only serve the hacendados by playing the individual small and middle peasants against each other.

Two short years ago, the high priests of the National Revolutionary Party, to which at that time the major portion of the peasantry nominally adhered, launched a campaign for the subdivision of the "ejidos". The peasants were told that their dignity as human beings, their duty to their families and their individual interests required the breaking up of these communal grants into individual parcels.

organizations, many of them middle-class ranchers themselves, counseled support of the new government policy.

In several regions however, the peasants revolted on a local scale and the government linked its attack on the ejidos to a campaign to disarm the peasants, thousands of whom still held arms loaned them by the government during the reactionary revolts. In 1932, there were numerous sporadic outbreaks in the states of Michoacan, Jalisco, Sacatecas and Guanajuato.

In the state of Veracruz, the hostility of the peasants to the government assumed such an alarming aspect that the whole state was placed under military rule in order to forestall a general uprising.

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Ed. Note: This is the first of two articles on the Mexican Questions by comrade Negrete. The second will appear next week.

Statement on N. Y. Elections

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The interests of capitalist profit and the assurance of its uninterrupted flow into coffers of the bosses, to wipe out every vestige of militancy shown by the workers in their strikes, to resort to despotic court injunctions and police violence against those workers who refuse to remain docile under the lash of the crisis.

At the same time, the bulk of the hundreds of thousands of workers who have been subjected to the curse of unemployment in New York City, have not had their lot improved by a hair's breadth.

The Communist party today is dominated by a bureaucracy representing the Stalinist faction. Once a revolutionary and progressive force, rallying the workers on the field of the international class struggle for their emancipation from wage slavery, the Communist party has been systematically reduced by its present leaders and their policies to the caricature of the revolutionary organization which it now constitutes.

The deep wounds cut into the body of the working class by the crisis in general, have been rendered more painful yet by the regime fostered in New York City by the abominable Tammany administration and its Republican twin. Not since the days of the Tweed Ring has corruption, speculation, bribery, pilfering and plundering in public office been so widespread, so flagrant as it is at the present time.

For the worker to vote for the parties of capitalism is to vote for Tammany Hall, Fusion, McKee "Recovery"—is to give his written endorsement to his enemy, to his exploiters, and their political agents. To vote for O'Brien, La Guardia or McKee is to throw away a vote into the wastebasket of the capitalist parties.

Under the circumstances of our inability to put forward our own ticket in this election, the Communist League of America calls upon the workers of this city to cast their votes, at this time, for the candidates of the official Communist party as a protest vote against the capitalist parties, not as an endorsement of the blunders and crimes of the Stalinist leadership, of its policies.

It seeks only to "reform" it. The Socialist party is not the party of the class struggle, and consequently cannot represent the interests of the working class in that struggle.

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national and new Communist parties in every country. In the United States, our League is now in the forefront of the movement for a new Communist party.

The Communist League of America (Opposition) has come to this momentous decision at a time which makes it impossible for it to put forth, in the present election, a set of candidates of its own.

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