

Our Revolutionary Heritage: The Corn Rebellion By Leighton Rigby

If American workers generally are unaware that in 1917 three-quarters of a million men were preparing to march on Washington and wrest the reins from the "Big Slick" and his war birds, it is only further proof that the domain of patriotism is a disenchanted realm indeed.

There are two reasons for the failure of the movement: timid and irresponsible leadership, and unsuitable circumstances for success. The first cause, if recognized as a fact, needs no elaboration.

Opposition to War

Before the press, movies, song writers and spell-binders could build up the maximum of war hysteria, there was much trouble throughout the land. I.W.W. organizers, unsound, perhaps, but ambitious, were busy on the West Coast and in the East.

After the exposed portions of the country became ill with war hysteria, there still remained certain parts of the U.S. where the disease was unknown.

In accounts I have read of the reception of the Draft Act in Oklahoma, too much emphasis has been put upon the backwardness of the people involved.

The Burden of Oppression

It must be remembered that these people were oppressed by urban money lenders who often demanded—and got, if crops were sufficiently good—four or five times the conventional rate of interest.

ist war concerned their final interests not at all. This class consciousness naturally turned the people toward the doctrine of Karl Marx.

The Working Class Union

Toward the middle of 1914, the Working-Class Union was organized in Arkansas. The original purpose of this organization is not known to me, but as the entrance of the U.S. into the World War came nearer, the W.C.U. began to advocate overthrow of the capitalist government in Washington.

The strategy to be used in connection with the march on Washington was briefly this: on a given day, the local chapters would gather and march to a specified point where they would be joined by other groups of the district.

It is true—the leaders, the fiery orators were idealists, unsound in theory. And they were also timid. Their smooth flow of words had won many to the banner of the W.C.U.

The Battle and Its Outcome

After several false starts, in August of 1917 the W.C.U. in the Oklahoma district began to mobilize. No great numbers came to one spot, but several small groups were formed.

Several hundred members of the W.C.U. were made prisoners, and nearly a hundred were later sentenced to prison, federal or state.

Expel 20,000 Oppositionists from C. P. S. U. In Recent "Cleansing" Under G. P. U.

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ing of the documents in his satrapy, 3,646 people were expelled from the party, 8 percent of the entire organization. During the check-up, it appears, that "we succeeded in uncovering not only isolated individuals but entire counter-revolutionary Trotskyist-Zinoviev groups skulking in the ranks of the party."

Where Repression Is Strongest In the Khar'kov district out of 50,000 members, more than 4,000 were expelled. Secretary Zaitsev breaks down into categories only 2,356 cases of expulsion, checked by the highest organs.

The Black Sea Region In the same issue of Pravda, in a small item we find that in the Asov-Black Sea region, 4,324 people were expelled, 7 percent of the total number checked.

It is all too clear that the bureaucracy has not and cannot have the slightest motives for exaggerating the influence of the Bolshevik-Leninists.

In the West-Siberian region, 3,576 members of the party were expelled (11 percent) and 1,935 candidates (12.8 percent) Secretary Elkhé writes in Pravda: "Among the expelled the largest number are kulaks and White Guards from Kolchaks armies—these constitute almost a third.

The Treachery of the Spanish "Labor Party of Marxist Unity"

By LEON TROTSKY

The Spanish organization of the "Left Communists," which was always a muddled organization, merged, after countless vacillations to the right and to the left, with the Catalan Federation of Maurin into a party of "Marxist (?) Unity," on a centrist program.

Most of these parties stood at the head of the Spanish revolution during the years of its upsurge and they did everything in their power to betray it and trample it underfoot.

Political Betrayal

A few months ago there was published, in Madrid, Juan Andrade's book "The Reformist Bureaucracy and the Labor Movement," in which along with quotations from Marx, Engels, Lenin and other authors, an analysis is made of the causes underlying the degeneration of labor bureaucrats.

In this connection, it is in place to recall that the Spanish "Left Communists," as their very name indicates, posed on every appropriate occasion, as irreconcilable revolutionists. In particular, they thunderously condemned the French Bolshevik-Leninists for entering

20,000 Expelled If we take the West-Siberia efficient, then we would arrive at a number of not less than 40,000 expelled "Trotskyists" and Zinovievists for the entire Soviet Union.

The enormous political significance of the above data is clear enough to anyone. A question remains: Why does the bureaucracy, on the one hand, keep the total secret, while on the other, it makes public partial data which is sufficiently clear for general orientation?

New Purge in Preparation The Bolshevik-Leninists were and remain the most irreconcilable enemies of the bureaucracy which seeks to perpetuate its position as a ruling caste.

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In accordance with the "principles and methods of the League of Nations" Is there anything left out? Signatories to this infamous document are the representatives of two Left bourgeois parties, the Socialist party, the Communist party (why, of course!), the Socialist Youth (too bad!), "Syndicalist party" (Pestana) and finally the "Labor Party of Marxist Unity" (Juan Andrade).

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earned "confidence." Perhaps six months later we shall learn how many new Bolshevik-Leninists will thereby be promoted from the party to the concentration camps.

The Power of Our Program The above cited data may perhaps appear utterly unexpected to many. We have purposely done all our computation before the reader's eyes so as to exclude the possibility of any suspicious objectivism or bias on our part.

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