

A Window on the World

The Military Situation in Russia

The capitalist press is again reporting a collapse of the Soviet Government's front on all sides, and that Lenin and Trotzky are again packing the old trunk with gold and bombs, preparing to evacuate to neutral countries.

By a careful reading of these same papers, however, one discovers the following facts:

The French, abandoning all stores, are rapidly leaving the Crimea; only a handful of soldiers are still guarding the dock-yards, in order to try and save the French battleship *Mirabeau*, which was laid up for repairs and cannot get to sea again.

A dispatch from Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, reports that "a large Bolshevik force is endeavoring to cut the Siberian railway line east of Krasnoyarsk." This is news. Krasnoyarsk is half way across Siberia. According to previous dispatches, Siberia was free from Bolsheviks six months ago; and yet here we find a "large force" operating "east of Krasnoyarsk." Of course if the attempt to cut the Trans-Siberian succeeds, that will be the finish of the Kolchak armies, the Allied forces and the Tchekho-Slovaks in the Urals.

Since a dispatch from Warsaw more than a month ago announced that General Petlura had made an agreement with the Russian Soviet Government, and that the joint Russian and Ukrainian armies were fighting the French in the Crimea, we fail to understand what is meant by the reported surrender of the Bolshevik First Army to Petlura's Ukrainian troops.

The only military reverses suffered by the Soviet armies in the last three weeks which appear to have any foundation in fact are a withdrawal of twelve miles on the Murmansk front, and the evacuation of the village of Sterlitmak, near Ufa.

Fortunately we have the story of an American reporter, published in the *Globe* of April 23d, of the Sterlitmak affair. It sheds light upon the methods of warfare employed by our "allies" in Siberia.

"We covered twenty kilometers a day," he says, "always pushing the Reds back on Sterlitmak, and, when Communists fell into our hands, treating them like assassins."

After the solemn promises of the British and American Governments to withdraw their troops from Russia, it is interesting to read about the new Allied "offensive" in the North, and the openly-expressed hopes of the Allied commanders to be able to effect a juncture with the Siberian forces of Admiral Kolchak as soon as summer comes. This is a continuation of the well-known Allied strategy of the "crab-retreat," illustrated by the Tchekho-Slovak "withdrawal" of last year, when the noble Bohemian troops, bound for Vladivostok, suddenly found themselves going West toward Moscow.

Crawling Out of a Hole

The capitalist press, with its uninterrupted publication of filthy falsehood about Soviet Russia, finds itself in danger of complete reversal through the large volume of correct information which is beginning to leak into this country, even through official sources. It must therefore get itself into a position to be able to meet the facts.

A recent Associated Press dispatch from Copenhagen, the Father of Lies, reports that "on account of the attitude of the people, the Decree on Nationalization of Women has been suspended by the Soviet Government in certain provinces."

Now comes the *Globe*, with an editorial on the Lenin interview recently published.

"Lenin says definitely and for the first time in today's interview that 'the majority of the Russian workmen and peasants today consciously adhere to

the principles of Bolshevism.' Is he right? On the answer to this question hangs the fate of the world to a degree the importance of which it is hard to overestimate."

This is correct. Lenin is right—has been right ever since he stated the same fact more than a year ago.

The newspapers had better get a move on!

Out of the Frying Pan Into the Fire

The *Times* of April 26th reports the arrival at Genoa, Italy, on the British warship *Lord Nelson*, of several Russian Grand Dukes, Grand Duchesses, and the Dowager Tsarina Marie Feodorovna, all formerly massacred by the Bolsheviks. The Dowager Tsarina has gone to England at the invitation of Queen Alexandra, where she will doubtless be granted a pension from the pockets of the grateful British tax-payers. The rest of the nobles, twenty-seven in all, are pretty active, considering how they were thrown into wells and bombs dropped on them. They are bound for Monte Carlo.

Italy is our idea of exactly the wrong place for a Russian Grand Duke to land these days, with its frontiers closed on account of "revolutionary disturbances." But then, where can a poor royalty go?

The Rights and Wrongs of Small Nations

Mr. Wilson has just refused to grant Fiume to Italy, on the ground that it belongs, by ethnologic and economic right, to the new Yugo-Slav State, and must serve as commercial outlet to Hungary, Bohemia and Rumania—which are, as he says, "among the smaller States whose interests are henceforth to be safeguarded as the interests of the most powerful States."

In the meanwhile the Serbians are forcibly abolishing the independence of Montenegro, with the help of Italian and even American troops, and adding it to the Yugo-Slav territory under the hegemony of Serbia.

On April 26th the press reports that President Wilson delivered himself of a statement about Egypt, where the people, rising against British rule, are being massacred in the streets of Cairo.

In a note communicated to General Allenby, British Special High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, the President recognizes the British protectorate over Egypt, which was proclaimed during the war on December 18, 1914. The note proceeds:

"The President and the American people have every sympathy with the legitimate aspirations of the Egyptian people for a further measure of self-government, but they view with regret any effort to obtain a realization of those aspirations by a resort to violence."

Apparently it depends upon the size of small nations whether they shall get Mr. Wilson's sympathy—and also, who's the oppressor.

The hypocrisy of "deploring violence" in the struggles of people seeking political freedom, just after a colossal war "to free the world," is too evident to need emphasis.

The Telescope

THE new Covenant of the League of Nations constitutes a definite victory for the forces of light over those of darkness. Just consider the provisions made for labor. A permanent committee; one-third of whose members will be elected by Labor, one-third by Capital and one-third appointed by the Governments; will be set up to deal with labor problems. Labor will thus always be in a strong minority.

No wonder the Bolsheviks are losing their grip!

Another victory for Democracy lies in the exclusion of Mexico from the League, which will enable any power, so disposed, to restore law and order in that country without running up against the League.

Of course if two powers differ on the law and order, the League will intervene and doubtless arrange a joint expedition.

In view of the frequency with which the Right Wingers are calling in the cops to preserve Party unity, we suggest that an appropriation be made out of Party funds to buy police whistles.

We learn that a new office has just been created in Local New York—nominations are now in order for Official Locksmith.

We understand that charges are being preferred against Alderman Calman for using non-union moving vans in "reorganizing" Party Branches.

Advertisement:—The Left Wing is in the market for second-hand Branch furniture—preference will be given to Socialist Officials who have a surplus on hand, or pawn-tickets for the same.

It is rumored in Paris that the Peace Conference has removed the furniture from Orlando's headquarters, and has put a 45 frank lock on the door.

Unlike the Peace Conference, the Rand School has decided to recognize the Bolsheviks—*The New York Communist* is again for sale at the Bookstore, and Right Wingers can now have their daily hate without leaving the premises.

We are pleased to announce a victory for the Left Wing principle of Party ownership and control of the press—we learn that a weekly humorous paper, ironically called *The Socialist*, is shortly to be issued. It is rumored that it will be controlled by the Executive Committee of Local New York, who in order to show their impartiality will finance it out of Party funds accruing from the sale of Due Stamps to Right and Left Wingers alike.

Ben Gitlow has been indicted by a prominent member of Local Bronx and will shortly be dragged before the grievance committee. It is believed that the charge is Bolshevism.

England has just borrowed \$75,000,000 from Spain. Spain has decided that in future she will spend her money as she gets it. Easy come, easy go.

The rent situation reminds us of an old Irish story:

Agent: I'm going to raise your rent, Murphy.
Murphy: That's fine. I was just wondering how the devil I was going to raise it myself.

Left Wingers!

Come and be surprised!

at the REORGANIZATION Entertainment and Dance to be held by the 17th A. D., at its Headquarters, 1538 Madison Avenue, near 104th Street, on Saturday evening, May 3rd.

PURPOSE:
TO CELEBRATE THE
REORGANIZATION

Admission

25 Cents