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Comrade John Reed has been granted a few weeks' leave in order to finish his book, "Kornilov to Brest-Litovsk" which is announced to appear in September. He will continue to contribute to the paper during his absence.

Greetings

IN the name of the Left Wing Section of the Socialist Party, Local Greater New York, *The Communist* extends greetings to the delegates to the National Left Wing Conference, the representatives of the revolutionary spirit of the working masses of America. All over the earth the workers are rising to greet the new dawn which is already bright in the eastern sky. In Russia and Hungary, the workers are building the new society of the Socialist Commonwealth, constructing Socialist order out of the chaos of Capitalism. In Germany the Spartacides are waging a desperate conflict for the conquest of power, and throughout the old world the class conscious workers are marshalling their forces for the final assault on the citadel of Capitalism.

These great changes have produced much that is glorious and heroic, great Comrades have made the final sacrifice in the struggle, and the hearts of Socialists the world over beat with new enthusiasm, our Comrades have been tried and not found wanting. But much that clouds the sky of our hopes has also happened. Reaction has found a ready response in certain sections of our movement, and what we had hitherto been disposed to believe was merely a difference of ways and means of accomplishing a common object, has developed into a breach so wide that machine guns and rifle bullets have become the arbiters of the dispute. In our ranks were many whom we felt would falter in the decisive hour, but few dreamt that we were harboring within our bosoms the vipers of bourgeois reaction.

As a result of the developments of the struggle the movement, whose solidarity was our boast, has been split in fragments. But our task admits of no regrets, we must profit from the experiences of those in action. It is because of these developments and because we are determined to learn the lessons they teach, that you are to gather in convention. On you devolves the task of rebuilding the Socialist movement in America, rebuilding it not on the sands of political and industrial opportunism, but on the solid rock of revolutionary Socialism. The task is no easy one, yours is not to pull down the old structure, it has fallen of its own innate decay, but to construct the new.

On your actions, and above all on the actions of the men and women in whose names you speak, depends the immediate future of our movement. The eyes of our European Comrades are often turned towards America, they are watching us in this crisis. We know that you will be worthy of the task and the hour.

Mob Government

THE committee which is at present wasting the money of the people of New York State in what purports to be an investigation of Bolshevism, distinguished itself on June 12, by a brutal raid on the offices of Comrade Martens, the representative in this country of the Russian Soviet Government. The raid was conducted by the State constabulary, headed by one, Archibald E. Stevenson, who apparently derives his power from the fact that he is secretary of the Union League Club, and the rumor that he is about to be given a job with the investigating committee.

The offices were thoroughly ransacked, most of the papers seized without anyone being allowed to make a record, and much wanton damage done, while Comrade Martens and members of his staff were dragged before the committee and subjected to a grilling behind closed doors, even being denied counsel. Finding that these brutal tactics were not as popular as was imagined, the committee has taken refuge in a denial of responsibility, though the fact that it proceeded to grill the men arrested clearly proves that the raid was carried out by its directions.

While it is true that Russia is not recognized by the government of the United States, yet beyond doubt Comrade Martens has a semi-official status in this country. On being appointed to his present office he notified the Federal Government of his presence and his mission here. These facts would be sufficient, under any government carried on with respect for the observance of capitalist "legality," to protect Comrade Martens from interference from any source other than the Federal Government. Yet this committee, which is at best only an official State investigating body, assumes the functions of the national government. If every private individual, who happens to have sufficient moneyed influence behind him, is to be allowed to usurp governmental powers, then even the laws of capitalist governments are broken down and the country is handed over to the rule of the mob.

Bourgeois democracy rests upon the fiction that the government is the organized will of the people, functioning through duly appointed representatives. Under the laws, which it has set up for its own safety, the right of the individual to a certain modicum of security from indiscriminate violence is guaranteed. Socialists have had ample demonstration that, in these days of tottering capitalism, even the pretense of these guarantees has been swept aside. The average worker has yet to learn the true nature of bourgeois government. Archibald E. Stevenson and the Lusk investigating committee are contributing to his education.

Recognizing "Russia"

AFTER over two years of iniquitous intrigue the capitalist powers of the world have finally decided on a more or less open policy towards Russia. And their decision is in line with their previous intrigues: the most reactionary elements in Russia are to be accorded what virtually amounts to recognition, and are to receive, openly and officially, all the help that the present temper of the world's workers will allow. This action by the Associated Powers is a fitting conclusion to one of the blackest chapters in the history of the world—the story of the great Powers' attempt to strangle the struggling worker masses of Russia.

It is needless to recount here the outstanding points in this foul story: Brest Litovsk and the subsequent German invasion; the Allied invasion; the secret attempts, made under cover of diplomatic immunity, to foster the counter-revolution; the attempt to cut off Petrograd and starve its population to death; the food blockade to accomplish the starvation of the whole country; the attempted destruction of the crops of the Ukraine for the same purpose; the Siberian death train; the wholesale sabotage of the machinery of production; the forgery of documents to mislead the outside workers into the belief that Bolshevism was a foul and vicious tyranny . . . All these and countless other incidents are stamped on the hearts of the class conscious workers of all lands in letters of living fire. And now comes the recognition of Kolchak's bloody regime, and the promise of added strength to the hand that wields the iron-tipped knout against the bared backs of the Russian workers and peasants.

In their letter proposing the step the Associated Powers still use the same idealistic language which characterized their announcement of intervention. Then they disavowed any desire to "interfere in the internal affairs of Russia," and proceeded to interfere as fast as troops could be shipped into the country; now they use the self-same expression while throwing support to the only elements which still conform to the worst traditions of Czarist rule. "The Allied and Associated Governments now wish to declare formally that the object of their policy is to restore peace within Russia by enabling the Russian people to resume control of their own affairs through the instrumentality of a freely elected Constituent Assembly. . . . they wish to be assured that those whom they are prepared to assist stand for the civil and religious liberty of all Russian citizens and will make no attempt to reintroduce the regime which the revolution has destroyed. . . ." So the miserable farce of democratic aims continues, and in his reply Kolchak, with the blood of the Russian workers and peasants still dripping from his bayonets, with the ink on his ukases, forbidding the workers to organize under penalty of death, not yet dry, uses the same language. ". . . I shall not retain that power one day longer than required by

the interest of the country . . . my first thought at the moment when the Bolsheviks are definitely crushed will be to fix the date for the elections to the Constituent Assembly. . . . Russia cannot now and cannot in the future ever be anything but a democratic State where all questions involving modifications of the territorial frontiers and of external relations must be ratified by a representative body which is the national expression of the people's sovereignty. . . . the Government affirms the equality before the law of all citizens without any special privilege. All shall receive, without distinction of origin or religion, the protection of the State and of the law."

With this reply the great Powers express themselves satisfied, and money, food and munitions of war are to be furnished, that the bloody work of making Russia safe for capitalism may go on.

The recognition accorded Kolchak has not come as a surprise to that section of the workers which understands the forces at work. Capitalist-Imperialism could not do other than oppose Bolshevism. The success of Bolshevism in Russia, or in any country, spells the doom of the present system of society, and the men who are assembled at Paris are commissioned to see that, whatever else may happen, capitalism survives. It was for this reason that the Associated Powers first undertook the invasion of Russia under cover of assisting the Czechoslovaks to leave the country and take the field against Germany on the Western front. Invasion has been a hopeless failure.

The German advance into Russia after Brest-Litovsk broke down much of the disagreement that must necessarily arise during the first days of the transition period from capitalism to Socialism; the Allied invasion swept away the remaining dissensions, and united the whole population solidly against external aggression. For over a year Bolshevik Russia has been hemmed in by a ring of foreign bayonets, while famine clutched at its throat, but to a man the Russian workers and peasants, often with no other weapons than their bare hands, rose to the defense of the revolution and thrust back the invaders. All the time crying out the glad tidings of their new freedom to their comrade workers of other lands.

Checked in their efforts to overthrow the Bolsheviks by a military invasion the great powers resorted to the dark ways of diplomacy, but here too the workers' Government outwitted them. Every proposal, made to disrupt the workers' force was answered with appalling frankness, often replies, over the heads of the governments, to the peoples of the Allied countries. And then the Allies began their policy of waiting until starvation would do its work, waiting with but enough military activity to draw men from the fields, lest they reap new crops and balk starvation. But again the Bolsheviks conquered; the workers of the Allied countries had heard the voice of Russia and become restless, and louder and louder grew the demand to withdraw the troops and let Russia carve her own destiny, until finally the very troops became "corrupted."

Clearly in face of these difficulties it was impossible for the great powers to continue their schemes. But Russia must not be allowed to survive in her present state. And so Kolchak is singled out to be the instrument of Allied reaction. It is the last desperate attempt of bankrupt Capitalism to save itself.

The treatment accorded Russia was to be the acid test of the good will of the Allied nations, according to Mr. Wilson. But the good will of nations matters little these days, and Russia is fated to be more than the test of good will. Russia is the acid test of the success or failure of the world social revolution. In their ability to deal with Russia lay the future of the capitalist nations of the world. The story of the past two years is the black stain of the acid test of good will. The recognition of Kolchak is the admission of the failure of the Allied schemes to defeat Bolshevism.

News About Kolchak

Admiral Kolchak has, apparently, adopted the strategy which was used by the Czechoslovaks about a year ago, when they started a westward movement on their way to France. It has been established beyond doubt that Kolchak is continuing his successful march on Moscow . . . in an eastward direction. The workers and peasants of Russia seem to be eager to help him along. According to the latest information, they are doing their best to show their appreciation of his noble effort to save Russia from the tyranny of a very small minority of its population—the workers and peasants—by considerably reducing his burden of men and guns, making it easier for him to hasten on toward Vladivostok. The correspondents report persistent rumor in Siberia, to the effect that Kolchak on his way to Moscow, intends to visit New York, where he will be entertained by the Union League Club. It is also said, that he will stop off at Tokio to receive the order of "The Knights of Democracy" from the Mikado.