

# The Revolutionary Age

A Chronicle and Interpretation of Events in Europe

Vol. I, No. 2

Wednesday, November 20, 1918

Price, 2 Cents

## The Trend Of Socialism in Europe

THE decision of the German government to put off the Constituent Assembly until February 2 suggests that the Scheidemann group are finding themselves in much the same predicament as was Kerensky, while the demand by the soldiers that the Assembly be held immediately parallels the action of the Bolsheviks before the November revolution.

German soldiers returning from the front are disposing of their arms and munitions to the civilians for a few marks and the fact that the left wing Socialists are the purchasers would point to the possibility of an armed demonstration along the lines of the Bolshevik precedent. The report that the present government is attempting to exclude the Russian delegates or ambassadors would tend to strengthen this belief as it is only when these propagandists are achieving success that such measures become necessary. The capture of the censorship by the Soldier's Councils is further evidence that the Soviet idea is spreading as this means that the councils will now control the agency of propaganda.

Such news as comes from Austria would indicate that all is not well with the bourgeoisie there; the failure of the last sitting of the Austrian Council of the Empire, the storming of the parliament building in Vienna by the Socialists, and the subsequent hoisting of the red flag together with the capture by the Socialists of the Neue Freie Presse would indicate that the people have no intention of allowing their will to be thwarted.

The Revolution in Germany has an ally in the Socialist Soviet Republic of Russia; and it is developing new allies among the proletariat of the other European nations.

In Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Spain strikes, riots and demonstrations are sweeping onward, symptomatic of a developing revolutionary struggle everywhere in Europe against Capitalism and Imperialism. Bolshevism in Austria seems to be sweeping onward almost as rapidly as in Germany.

While these governments of Europe are intriguing against the Soviet Republic, eager to crush Bolshevism in Russia, the European proletariat is accepting the revolutionary Socialist struggle against Imperialism.

In Switzerland strikes and riots are raging, while the Bolshevik Legation has been expelled. A general railway strike has been declared, strikers and troops have clashed in Zurich, and trade and industry is paralyzed. The Swiss revolutionary Socialists have acted as purveyors of information between the Socialists of the belligerent nations, and to the neutral world. They have particularly rendered service in spreading information about Soviet Russia. They are now turning to action.

Denmark is seething. Strikes and riots have broken out in Denmark. Independent Socialists in Sweden have issued a manifesto urging the formation of Workmen's and Soldiers' Councils in order to establish a Socialist Republic. General demobilization of the army and an eight-hour working day are demanded. The Socialist paper "Politiken" urges the convocation of a Constituent Assembly elected by general suffrage.

A demonstration against the crown and the dynasty was held Monday in Copenhagen.

The Social-Democratic Party of Holland, representing the revolutionary group, has issued a manifesto

in favor of a Soviet government, and pledging its solidarity with Bolshevik Russia. The Dutch government is apprehensive of oncoming Bolshevism. Intensive revolutionary propaganda is being carried on. The Social-Democratic Party, the party of Anton Pannecoek, Henriette Roland-Holst, Herman Gorter and J. Wynkoop is completely Bolshevik, and one year ago was designated by the Soviet Government as its agent to secure news from neutral and belligerent nations.

A few days ago, Wynkoop made a speech in the second chamber of the Dutch parliament demanding the abdication of the Queen. He urged that the troops under demobilization should refuse to surrender their arms and called on the workers to declare a general strike. Following the refusal of the Queen to abdicate a demonstration was staged in Amsterdam that resulted in an armed clash between the soldiers and the revolutionists in which several persons were killed and wounded. The street fighting lasted for several hours.

Wynkoop is the editor of the Socialist left wing daily The Tribune which is published in Amsterdam.

Apparently, the Russian, Austrian and German Revolution may develop into a general European revolution—a revolution against Capitalism and Imperialism.

In Italy, no recent news is at hand, but the Socialist Party there, the majority party, is completely Bolshevik. It opposed Italy's entry into war and acted against the government during the war. After the military disaster at Caporetto, the Socialist Party declared that, in spite of the invasion of Italian territory, it would not cease its propaganda against the war. In December 1917, the Socialist deputy in the parliament, Morgari, declared that the Socialists wanted peace,

not only on the Bolshevik terms, by Bolshevik methods. Some months ago, at a convention of the party, the extreme Bolshevik forces secured control.

The report that Turati, one of the Socialist centerists in the Italian parliament, had gone over to the government and was shortly to leave Italy on a governmental mission has been denied.

In France, the Socialist Party is becoming more and more radical. The reactionary Socialists, led by Albert Thomas and Marcel Cachin, have lost all influence. The party is now transforming itself, the Bolshevik forces represented by Loriot becoming more and more powerful. Last year there were serious revolutionary disturbances in France, in the army and in the cities.

The British proletariat is restive. The miners, led by Robert Smillie, have been aggressive all through the war. Shortly after the start of the great German offensive in March, Smillie, at a tremendous meeting bitterly denounced the war. In an article in the "Metropolitan" for August, Arthur Gleason declared that common unorganized labor—the overwhelming majority of the workers—had caught fire from Bolshevism and were out to wreck the existing social system.

The decision of the British Labor Party to withdraw from the government would support this contention. There are at present several labor men members of the coalition government but it is authoritatively stated that if they insist on remaining within the government ranks they will not be allowed to stand for re-election at the forthcoming general election as members of the British Labor Party. This decision of the Labor Party while not very radical in itself, may cause a breach through which may emerge more aggressive mass action.

The general election in Ireland is expected to practically end the career of the ill-fated Irish Party, and to introduce as a factor in Irish politics the Irish Labor Party. The laborites will contest four seats in the city of Dublin, and about fifteen other constituencies throughout the country. Jim Larkin, the general secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, who is at present in this country and is prohibited from landing in any part of the British Empire, has been nominated for the strongest seat in Dublin and is expected to carry the election in spite of his exile. All over the island strikes are in progress, the Teachers Union declaring a one day general strike in which 95% of the teachers joined as a demonstration of their power in case their demands were not complied with. The Irish Socialist and labor movement is in complete sympathy with the most forward elements of the English, Scotch and Welsh movements according to the Voice of Labor, the official organ of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union.

In Norway, the Socialist Party is now completely Bolshevik, the revolutionary Socialists having secured control at the party convention 8 months ago, their program being revolutionary mass action, organization of Soviets and proletarian dictatorship.

According to a dispatch in the New York Times the trouble in Brussels was not entirely due to the presence of the German troops but had in it the purpose of securing certain reforms under the monarchy. A delegation of Belgian Socialists visited the king at Ghent and laid their demands before him.

Europe is seething, Europe is a-fire. Should the European governments attempt the desperate task of crushing the German Revolution, they may have their own proletariat to deal with!

### To Our Readers.

*The Revolutionary Age has been founded to interpret the great change that is at present taking place not only in Europe but throughout the entire world. Its interpretation will be strictly from the Socialist standpoint and is intended to offset the volume of misinformation at present being spread broadcast by the capitalist press. We will have among our contributors the best informed Socialist writers in America as well as men and women in close touch with the European Socialist movement.*

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