

The Revolutionary Age

A Chronicle and Interpretation of Events in Europe.

LOUIS C. FRAINA Editor

EADMONN MACALPINE Associate Editor

Contributing Editors

SCOTT NEARING

LUDWIG LORE

JOHN REED

SEN KATAYAMA

N. I. HOURWICH

G. WEINSTEIN

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H. G. Steiner, Business Manager

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They Are Still There!

A dispatch to the New York Times from Irkutsk of December 9, refers to General Janin, head of the French army in Siberia, as believing that the Bolsheviks are the paid agents of Germany. Apparently the worthy general has not heard of the recent changes that have taken place in Berlin and is laboring under the delusion that the people of the Allied countries are still swallowing this old story.

It is very necessary that generals should be informed of just what is transpiring, and what story is being circulated for general consumption, as they are liable to let the cat out of the bag by just such slips as this one of General Janin's. Doubtless the French government will correct this mistake and the next time we hear from the general he will have the correct reason for his presence in Russia—such as preventing the slaughter of the bourgeoisie by the Bolsheviks or whatever is the current excuse.

Anyhow things are not going so well in Russia. It would appear that the various governments are not bringing the satisfaction to the people, that was at first reported. Even the Czecho-Slovaks, in whose interest the forces of democracy have invaded the territory of a country with whom they are not at war, have turned ingrates and refuse to support Admiral Kolchak's government, while at Vladivostok, the situation is becoming tense owing to the activities of some of these "generals" who have sprang into such prominence since the landing of the Allied troops.

What is the real object of the Allies in Russia? Whom do they wish to set up as the governors of Russia in place of the Bolsheviks? If the Bolsheviks are not representatives of the people of Russia how is it that the Allied troops, in conjunction with the majority of the Russian people, cannot overthrow these few usurpers, who, if we are to believe all reports, represent nobody?

Another dispatch chronicles the meeting of the "four ambassadors of the revolutionary regime in Russia" at Paris for the purpose of having representation for "Russia" at the Peace Conference. Bakmeteff, Maklakoff, Stakhovich, and Giers—four ambassadors of the counter-revolution who dare not appear in Russia—meet in Paris "regarding the Peace Conference." But there is no peace in Russia, there is no peace for the workers and peasants who have thrown off their chains. Alien troops are still in Archangel and Vladivostok. . . .

The Red Flag

SENATOR New has introduced a bill in the Senate to prevent the display of the Red Flag anywhere in the United States and a similar bill has also been laid before the House of Representatives by Congressman Osborne of California. It is perhaps fitting that a representative of the State which has supinely acquiesced in, aye even welcomed, the attempt to lynch Tom Mooney, should stand sponsor for such a bill, a bill at once the symbol of bourgeois tyranny and the expression of bourgeois fear.

The Red Flag has waved, undisturbed by statutes or acts of Congress, for many years in this country. It has been raised in every country on the face of the

known earth, by representatives of every race inhabiting the globe, and only where it symbolized the ideals of a strong minority has it ever been interfered with by governments. So long as only a weak few felt the throb of the red blood of international brotherhood in their veins, the Red Flag was left undisturbed. But now that the Red Flag floats over the palaces of two mighty autocrats, now that the fierce resurgent throb of the blood of the International is pulsing in the hearts of millions, the autocrats who still flourish take council together and banish this symbol of the coming era.

After the fashion of the ostrich, who hides its head in the sand that it may not see what it knows exists, they bury their faces in musty statutes that they may not look on the advancing army of the awakened workers of the world.

The symbol of the international solidarity of the proletariat is banished while the spirit of internationalism rises strong and triumphant out of the holocaust of fratricidal war!

A New Move by Labor

THE Boston Central Labor Union at its last meeting voted to instruct its secretary to write to officers of the American Federation of Labor and of affiliated international unions, asking their support in an effort to induce the workers of the country to prepare for a one-day general strike as a protest against the writing of a prohibition amendment into the Federal Constitution. This is a step forward for labor, an awakening to the consciousness of their power to force the hand of the political government of the country, it is a step towards the creation of a workers' government. It would however be foolish to suppose that any of those responsible for this action were conscious of its import. They would be the first to indignantly refute the suggestion that they were practising a form of Bolshevism, as a matter of fact it is evident that the suggestion came from the reactionary forces, probably from some under the influence of the brewers. If memory serves us rightly this very body voted against a one-day general strike in the Mooney case. However reactionary these central labor unions may be, the fact that they have awakened to the utility of direct action on the industrial field as a means of influencing legislation, is a distinct step forward and it is certain that once the average unionist becomes accustomed to this method of enforcing his desires he will not always confine his efforts to the petty affairs of life.

It is a singular commentary on American Labor that its first direct attempt to apply its economic might to problems hitherto commonly supposed to be purely political, should spring from the desire of the worker to protect his beer and we are forced to admit that this action is typical of the narrow, selfish, petty-minded A. F. of L. delegate. When thousands of workers lie in jail all over the country, when repressive measures are being passed against the spokesmen of the militant, clear-visioned section of the working class, when the United States Supreme Court can nullify legislation restricting the employment of child labor, this delegated body of organized labor can only think of its beer. Nevertheless this action places within reach of the progressive section of the A. F. of L. a weapon which may be used for very different ends than those who fashion it ever dreamed of, and in the not far distant future.

While Congress moves to bar the Red flag labor, unconscious though it may be of the significance of its action, threatens to move to bar Congress.

The White Terror

ON an other page we print an account of conditions in Finland where, for a time the bourgeoisie have succeeded in gaining the upper hand. Even in the most exaggerated stories of the Red Terror of the French Revolution, Madam Guillotine never drank so deep nor so often of the blood of the aristocrats, as do the insatiable bourgeoisie drink of the blood of the working class. In one prison camp alone a letter tells that the average daily toll is nearly seventy victims,

nor are these victims mercifully killed, the scending stroke of the knife does not end tures, they die the victims of slow disease bred by starvation diet and the foul stench of the decomposing corpses of the earlier martyrs.

And not one word of protest is heard from the elements of the world, not a voice is lifted to this vicious slaughter that has no longer even a plea of the heat of civil war to excuse its excess. No wonder the Russian Soviet Republic replied to a hypocritical protest of the neutral powers against the so-called Red Terror of the workers, with biting words of scorn. If they so desired the powers in the world, even the neutral powers alone, could end over night this debauch of slaughter by the Finnish bourgeoisie. But no word will be spoken because no nation has an interest in speaking. The slaughter being carried out against the workers, in the interest of the continuance of the present system of society and so the world holds its peace.

"Our salvation will come." Reads one brave letter: "It lies in the lap of the world revolution. And for that we live. Send our greeting to the proletariat of the world and convey to it that within us faith and fighting spirit are not dead. Long live the Zimmerwald International." Alone, unfriended, these Finnish workers ever keep their faith firm in the men and women of their own class throughout the world. Should the workers be false to this faith? The blood of the forefathers, their present daily sweat in the agony industry, the cries of their hungry children, demand that the workers of all lands stand by their Finnish brethren.

Speak, workers of the world, and demand that your governments cry halt to the Calvary of Finland!

The Passing of Ebert

WITH the fall of the Ebert Government the Kerensky stage of the German revolution passed. With the example and the advice Revolutionary Russia to guide them the German workers have accomplished in six weeks what took the Russian brothers six months. The Congress of Women's and Soldier's delegates, which was to save tottering conglomeration of moderate Socialists, bourgeoisie and a few aristocrats known as the Ebert government, has vindicated its revolutionary integrity and that government is no more.

It is significant that the fall of the right Socialists was brought about over the very means was providing for its own perpetuation—the retention of the army in its old form, more or less under its old masters, and very much for its old purpose: the suppression of the will of the workers. All through the proclamations of the bourgeois-Socialist government during the last six weeks ran the cover threat of the use of the "loyal" troops to suppress "anarchy," and it was as a result of the charges Georges Ledebour and Richard Barth, that the refusal of the government to demobilize the army inspired by counter-revolutionary desires, that Congress bolted to the left. That the Ebert-Haase-Scheidemann government could not last for a length of time was a foregone conclusion, it pleased neither the bourgeoisie nor the workers and remained in power only due to the lull in the sparring for opening, which naturally takes place during the period when the alignment of forces is still indistinct. The fall subsequent to only a few verbal attacks in quarters that have not as yet proven to be definitive of the left wing, merely shows its inherent weakness, the absolute lack of confidence reposed in it by the moderate section of the masses.

Whether or not the government that will rise from its ashes will be definitely Bolshevik it is hard at moment to say, but it is easy to see that the Bolshevik or Spartacus group, as they are known in Germany, must conquer power within the next few months independent Socialists are in the nature of a known quantity. Their actions, when they broke from the majority Socialists early in 1916, were of moderate Socialism as opposed to the