

The Russian Soviet Republic Speaks to President Wilson

Continued from Page 1

American capital, which has not at all suffered from this war and has even made many millions in profit out of it, will do its part to help these peoples.

But the League of Nations should not only liquidate the present war, but also make impossible any wars in the future. You must be aware, Mr. President, that the capitalists of your country are planning to apply in the future the same policies of encroachment and of super-profits in China and Sibeira and that, fearing competition from Japanese capitalists, they are preparing a military force to overcome the resistance which they may meet from Japan. You are no doubt aware of similar plans of the capitalist ruling circles of other countries with regard to other territories and other peoples. Knowing this, you will have to agree with us that the factories, mines and banks must not be left in the hands of private persons, who have always made use of the vast means of production created by the masses of the people to export products and capital to foreign countries in order to reap super-profits in return for the benefits forced on them, their struggle for spoils resulting in imperialistic wars. We propose, therefore, Mr. President, that the League of Nations be based on the expropriation of the capitalists of all countries. In your country, Mr. President, the banks and the industries are in the hands of such a small group of capitalists that, as your personal friend, Colonel Robbins, assured us, the arrest of twenty heads of capitalistic cliques and the transfer of the control, which by characteristic capitalistic methods they have come to possess, into the hands of the masses of the people is all that would be required to destroy the principal source of new wars. If you will agree to this, Mr. President,—if the source of future wars will thus be destroyed, then there can be no doubt that it would be easy to remove all economic barriers and that all peoples, controlling their means of production, will be vitally interested in exchanging the things they do not need for the things they need. It will then be a question of an exchange of products between nations, each of which produces what it can best produce, and the League of Nations will be a league of mutual aid of the toiling masses. It will then be easy to reduce the armed forces to the limit necessary for the maintenance of internal safety.

We know very well that the selfish capitalist class will attempt to create this internal menace, just as the Russian landlords and capitalists are now attempting with the aid of American, English and French armed forces to take the factories from the workers and the land from the peasants. But, if the American workers, inspired by your idea of a League of Nations, will crush the resistance of the American capitalists as we have crushed the resistance of the Russian capitalists, then neither the German nor any other capitalists will be a serious menace to the victorious working class, and it will then suffice, if every member of the commonwealth, working six hours in the factory, spends two hours daily for several months in learning the use of arms, so that the whole people will know how to overcome the internal menace.

And so, Mr. President, though we have had experience with your promises, we nevertheless accept as a basis your proposals about peace and about a League of Nations. We have tried to develop them in order to avoid results which would contradict your promises, as was the case with your promise of assistance to Russia. We have tried to formulate with precision your proposals on the League of Nations in order that the League of Nations should not turn out to be a league of capitalists against the nations. Should you not agree with us, we have no objection to an "open discussion of your peace terms," as your first point of your peace program demands. If you will accept our proposals as a basis, we will easily agree on the details.

But there is another possibility. We have had dealings with the president of the Archangel attack and the Siberian invasion, and we have also had dealings with the president of the League of Nations Peace Program. Is not the first of these—the real president, actually directing the policies of the American capitalist Government? Is not the American Government rather a Government of the American corporations, of the American industrial, commercial and railroad trusts, of the American banks,—in short, a Government of the American capitalists? And is it not possible that the proposals of this Government about the creation of a League of Nations will result in new chains for the peoples, in the organization of an international trust for the exploitation of the workers and the suppression of weak nations? In this latter case, Mr. President, you will not be in a position to reply to our questions, and we will say to the workers of all countries: Beware! Millions of

your brothers, thrown at each others' throats by the bourgeoisie of all countries, are still perishing on the battlefields, and the capitalist leaders are already trying to come to an understanding for the purpose of suppressing with united forces those that remain alive, when they call to account the criminals who caused the war!

However, Mr. President, since we do not at all desire to wage war against the United States, even though your Government has not yet been replaced by a Council of People's Commissaires and your post is not yet taken by Eugene Debs, whom you have imprisoned; since we do not at all desire to wage war against England, even though the cabinet of Mr. Lloyd-George has not yet been replaced by a Council of People's Commissaires with MacLean at its head; since we have no desire to wage war against France, even though the capitalist Government of Clemenceau has not yet been replaced by a workmen's Government of Merrheim, just as we have concluded peace with the imperialistic government of Germany, with Emperor William at its head, whom you, Mr. President, hold in no greater esteem than we, the Workmen's and Peasants' Revolutionary Government, hold you,—we finally propose to you, Mr. President, that you take up with your Allies the following questions and give us precise and business-like replies: do the governments of the United States, England and France intend to cease demanding the blood of the Russian people and the lives of Russian citizens, if the Russian people will agree to pay them a ransom, such as a man who has been suddenly attacked pays to the one who attacked him? If so, just what tribute do the governments of the United States, England and France demand of the Russian people? Do they demand concessions, that the railways, mines, gold deposits, etc., shall be handed over to them on certain conditions, or do they demand territorial concessions, some part of Siberia or Caucasia, or perhaps the Murmansk coast? We expect from you, Mr. President, that you will definitely state just what you and your Allies demand, and also whether the alliance between your government and the governments of the other Entente powers is in the nature of a combination which could be compared with a corporation for drawing dividends from Russia, or does your government and the other governments of the Entente powers have each separate and special demands, and what are they? Particularly are we interested to know the demands, and what are they? Particularly are we interested to know the demands of your French Ally with regard to the three billions of rubles which the Paris bankers loaned to

the Government of the Czar—the oppressor of Asia and the enemy of his own people? And you, President, as well as your French Allies, surely know that even if you and your Allies should succeed in slaving and covering with blood the whole territory of Russia—which will not be allowed by our revolutionary Red Army—that even in that case Russian people, worn out by the war and not having had sufficient time to take advantage of the benefits of the Soviet rule to elevate their national economy will be unable to pay to the French bankers the tribute for the billions that were used by the Government of the Czar for purposes injurious to the people. Do your French Allies demand that a part of the tribute be paid in installments, and if so—what percentage and do they anticipate that their claims will result in similar claims by other creditors of the infamous government of the Czar which has been overthrown by the Russian people? We can hardly think that your Government and your Allies are without a reasonable answer, when your and their troops are trying to advance on our territory with the evident object of seizing and enslaving our country. The Russian people through the People's Red Army are guarding their territory and are bravely fighting against your invasion and against the attacks of your Allies. By your Government and the Government of the other powers of the Entente undoubtedly have well prepared plans, for the sake of which you are shedding the blood of your soldiers. We expect that you will state your demands very clearly and definitely. Should we, however, be disappointed, should you fail to reply to our quite definite and precise questions, we will draw the only possible conclusion—that we are justified in the assumption that your government and the governments of your Allies desire to get from the Russian people a tribute both in money and in natural resources of Russia, and territorial concessions well. We will tell this to the Russian people as well as to the toiling masses of other countries, and in the absence of a reply from you will serve for us a silent reply. The Russian people will then understand the demand of your Government and of the Governments of your Allies are so severe and vast that you do not even want to communicate them to the Russian Government.

People's Commissaire of Foreign Affairs,
G. W. Tschitscherin.

A report from Stockholm states that the Bolshevik government is evacuating Petrograd and plans to take refuge at Nijni-Novgorod, which is six hundred miles southeast of Petrograd.

It's not a bit of wonder that the great powers intervene in Russia when the government carries on this, evacuating Petrograd when everyone thought they were in Moscow. Lenin and Trotzky must be wasting the money of the Russian people in a shameful manner running all round the country like a crowd of tourists. The last report we had said that they were fleeing to the Finnish border from Moscow and now they are running south from Petrograd.

* * *

Our old friend "Superior Brains" has cropped again in the bourgeois press as follows:

"Three hundred and fifty thousand workmen on strike in Berlin. And the Liebknecht platform mapped out on Bolshevik lines, demands confiscation of great fortunes.

"You may confiscate the great fortunes; it has done a thousand times. The great fortunes will pile up again. Superior intelligence does what chooses with inferior intelligence."

Which we think is very nice taking into consideration who is now using the "superior intelligence."

* * *

Dr. Karl Liebknecht, we learn from the "New Sun", is "Self-centered, self-willed, blind to all that is impervious to all reason, incapable of logical thought or sober judgement, he runs amok against civilization just as did the Kaiser and the Junker paranoiac. Suspicion, delusion of greatness, impossible projects and reckless methods class him like them in the realm of mental pathology. He is not only the latest perhaps the greatest of his country's misfortunes.

All of which proves that the Junkers were right in putting him in jail, though we have thought that the Junkers were always in the Well, well one never knows.

* * *

Mr. Walter Long, British Colonial Secretary, very much concerned about the welfare of the West Africa and urges the abolition of the traffic. Maybe Lipton has given him a lesson on all sales of tea to the benighted heathen.

ORDER A BUNDLE!

The Revolutionary Age must reach the masses; it is a vital and a necessary thing.

Get subscribers; the subscription rate is \$1.00 for three months (27 issues). Prepaid subscription cards can be secured in quantity upon receipt of the price.

Particularly good work can be done by means of bundles. Get your local or your union to order a bundle; order a bundle yourself for sale or distribution among your fellow-workers in the shops.

Bundle orders are coming in splendidly, from New York, Chicago, Cleveland and other cities. Everywhere the paper has reached—enthusiasm and orders! We want to dispose of one hundred thousand copies an issue—it can be done in the next month!

Prices in bundles of ten or more: 2c. a copy, all charges prepaid. Send that order now!

Address

Manager Steinert

885 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.