

The Revolutionary Age

A Chronicle and Interpretation of Events in Europe.

LOUIS C. FRANA Editor
 EADMONN MACALPINE Associate Editor
 Contributing Editors
 SCOTT NEARING LUDWIG LORE
 JOHN REED SEN KATAYAMA
 N. I. HOURWICH G. WEINSTEIN

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY
 By Local Boston, Socialist Party
 H. G. Steiner, Business Manager
 885 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

Saturday, December 28, 1918

They Are Still There!

REPORTS from Paris state that the Allies have decided against sending a large force to Russia but these accounts of the reported future policy of the Associated Powers with regard to Russia are so vague and contradictory that little confidence can be placed in them. The same papers that carry the reported decision of the Allies also carry the story that General Skoropadski, the deposed pro-German hetman of the Ukraine, is advancing from Odessa re-enforced by French troops while the French foreign minister is quoted as urging that support be given "to the governments which have sprung up at various points on Russian and Siberian territory."

Lengthy interviews are daily given prominence in the American press with such notables as Prince Lvoff and Paul N. Milukoff. Both of these gentlemen sing the same song: the necessity of intervention against the Soviets, with an appropriate accompaniment about "regeneration of Russia," "restoration of order," and "will of the Russian people." The latter of these worthies has been expelled from France, so notorious has been his dealings with the late German Imperialism, and is reported as having gone to England. Still the fact that the French government has expelled him does not deter our own press from giving his views on Russia great prominence, such great prominence indeed that the reader is given the impression that these papers are in complete accord with Mr. Milukoff.

Meanwhile a new front has been opened up against the Bolsheviks, British warships are reported as bombarding the Bolshevik positions in the Baltic and a further report adds that an American ship has been sent on the same mission. But none of the Allies have declared war on Russia although every newspaper carries accounts of severe fighting at widely scattered points in Russian territory. None of the Allied statesmen have made any statement regarding the policy being pursued in Russia. Although nominally we are committed to open diplomacy, the peoples of the Allied countries are completely in the dark as regards what is happening in Russia. All attempts by responsible members of the various governments of the Allies to obtain light on the situation have failed. Senator Johnson's questions regarding the American policy remain unanswered and the American people are left to irresponsible newspaper rumors for information as to what is being done in Russia in their name.

The English people are also completely in the dark about what they are doing in Russia. It is generally supposed that only a small force of foreign troops are in Russia but news is cropping out that would strengthen the belief that troops are still being transported there. A few days ago the news came from Canada that a number of Canadian troops have refused to sail for Russia, and are being held on the charge of insubordination. The report goes on to state that they attended a meeting addressed by J. H. Hawthornthwaite, Labor Party member of the British Columbia Legislature, and cheered expressions of sympathy with the Bolsheviks. If these troops had not taken action no one would have known that Canadians were being sent to Russia and the feeling expressed in the Dominion since the news has been made known points to the fact that the Canadian people do not want to intervene in Russia, but on the contrary want the Russian people to decide their own affairs.

A large and growing section of the people of the Allied countries are opposed to interference in Russia but intervention is a grim fact. The reported decision against sending further troops is an indication that the feeling of the people is having an effect, but the size of the Allied forces operating in Russia is a detail and is decided by circumstances. Intervention in Russia is a fact. Alien troops are still at Archangel and Vladivostok, and an alien fleet is operating in the Baltic....

"And Who are the Judges?"

AT the present time the newspapers are devoting much space to the question of fixing responsibility upon the ex-Kaiser, the former German Crown Prince and the entire German court for the war just ended. And the statesmen are keeping in step with the newspapers.

Newspaper columns and political speeches are outdoing each other in blazing out the question of an "international tribunal" to try "the guilty of this war with all its sufferings and violence." And of course it goes without saying that in all these discussions the only ones who are invariably found guilty for the war are Wilhelm and his hirelings.

Besides the general aspect of the questions the details are not lacking. The degree of guilt fastened upon each of the "responsible persons" is being carefully weighed and discussed; a great deal of attention is being devoted to the discussion of the question of whether the Allies can, in the light of "precedents," and tracts of international law demand Wilhelm's surrender; not forgotten either is the question bearing on the "exemplary punishment" which the former Kaiser should be subjected to: some share the view that he as in the case of Napoleon, should be sent to some lonely island (here follows a detailed "comparative geographical" analysis of all islands suitable for this purpose); others insist on the necessity of imposing upon him a sentence of life imprisonment,—while recently newspapers printed a report to the effect that the British Minister of Ammunition, Geddes, resolutely and unambiguously stated that the only exemplary form of punishment for the guilty monarch is a death sentence....

All these high-sounding discussions, all these declamations from people whose hands are far from being clean, all these recitations about the "real criminals of this war" and about the "necessity of an exemplary punishment" for them, are in themselves very significant....

We are passing through a great epoch, a threatening of a People's judgment on all their centuries-long oppressors, on all guilty of causing the people's misery, sufferings and tears, over all those who had plunged them into the present world war. Country after country, people after people, rise now, and demand an account of the deeds of their former masters.

And the revolution which we are witnessing does not merely concern itself with crowned masters. No! The rising proletarian masses introduce sweeping measures, they attempt to deal a blow at the very heart of every form of exploitation and every form of oppression. Getting rid of the crown heads they go still farther: deposing the rulers "blessed by divine power" they reach out for the rulers of the "Golden Calf" (annointed by the Golden Calf)—for capitalists, manufacturers, merchants and estate owners. They wage war against the entire capitalist system!

In vain are the assurances and prayers of various charlatans of the Menshevist "science," magicians and jugglers who are capable of combining every Czarism with "fighting for democracy"; in vain are their tearful assurances that such "careless hastiness" of the working masses violates all their calculations and expectations cunningly devised in the silence of the study rooms, expectations which prove with mathematical certainty the "prematureness of the Socialist revolution" at the present moment.

The proletarian masses contemptuously pass by all this Menshevist pseudo-scientific nonsense, continuing to perform their revolutionary task, their severe

revolutionary judgment of the past, in the name of the right future....

And this formidable and unshaken resolution of the peoples' masses brings fear into the hearts of the exploiters and oppressors not yet brought to account. In desperation they try to stave off from themselves the people's wrath, to direct it into another channel.

Into the stormy waters of the people's wrath they throw down Wilhelm in an attempt to appease, with this offering, the "god of the revolution" and to save their sinking capitalist ship....

With the cunning of a petty-thief who is being overtaken by his pursuers they cry out, louder than everybody else: "Stop thief!" pointing with trembling fingers in the direction of Wilhelm.

They are attempting to turn the great Socialist revolution into the "proper channels" and cram it into the procrustean bed of bourgeois capitalist revolution—of the sweeping away the "remnants of feudalism," to introduce "enlightened capitalism" in place of feudal monarchy.....

But they shall not succeed in that! The revolutionary proletariat will strike a well-deserved blow at bloody Wilhelm, as it has already struck bloody Nicholas. And to the oracles of capitalist society who are trying to put on themselves the judicial robes, the proletariat will contemptuously cry out: "We are the judges!"

And tearing from them the judicial robes will put these self-appointed "judges" in the prisoner's dock.

Bolshevikjabs

THE "New York World" says: "Russia does not need to send out instructors. She is herself an object-lesson for the world." Wherein The World proves the truth of the old proverb that "many a true word is spoken in jest."

The appointment of a washerwoman as Minister of Education in the former Duchy of Brunswick is being treated as quite a joke by the bourgeois press but one thing is certain—she can't make a worse job of it than have many of the "old women" who have functioned in this capacity in the governments of the world.

Young 1919 is in for a tougher job than many people imagine.

And his hardest job is going to be to choose the correct color for the year's wear.

Spain wants Gibraltar. This is taking the Allied idea of returning territory, previously annexed altogether too seriously.

We suppose that Spain after hearing so much about the war for "no annexations" thought that the only way to get territory was to keep out of the war.

"Senate asks for copies of Creel Bureau matter," says a headline. If we were asked we would venture the opinion that the Senate has quite enough misinformation already.

When we watch the dawn of 1919 break we will not forget that some few thousand men and women can only see it through bars.

And we will then know that the speeches about the "dawn of freedom," which will inevitably be made, will simply be so much cant.

The city council of Atlanta, Georgia has created a municipal art commission. It will be interesting to know what the commission will do with the remarkably fine collection of photographs of negro lynchings that have been made possible through the activity of some of the state's best citizens.

"Neutrals place in peace conference settled" says a headline and when we read down the column we find that it is outside.