

# The Revolutionary Age

A Chronicle and Interpretation of International Events

Vol. I, No. 20

Saturday, March 1, 1919

Price 3 Cents

## The Bolsheviki Call for an International Communist Congress

THE Congress of the Communist Party (Bolshevik), held during the latter part of January, 1919, has decided to send out an urgent call for the meeting of the first Congress of the new "Revolutionary International." This is the call:

### 1st Section.

#### AIMS AND TACTICS

In our estimation, the acceptance of the following principles shall serve as a working program for the International:

- 1.—The actual period is the period of the dissolution and collapse of the whole capitalist system;
- 2.—The first task of the proletariat consists today of the immediate seizure of government power, substituting in its place the power of the proletariat;
- 3.—This new governmental apparatus must incorporate the dictatorship of the working class, and in some places, also that of the poorer peasantry together with hired farm labor, this dictatorship constituting the instrument of the systematic overthrow of the exploiting classes.
- 4.—The dictatorship of the proletariat shall complete the immediate expropriation of Capitalism and the suppression of private property in means of production, which includes, under Socialism, the suppression of private property and its transfer to a proletarian state, under the Socialist administration of the working class, the abolition of capitalist agricultural production, the nationalization of the great business firms and financial trusts;
- 5.—In order to insure the Social Revolution, the disarming of the bourgeoisie and its agents, and the general arming of the proletariat, is a prime necessity.

### 2nd Section.

#### ATTITUDE REGARDING SOCIALIST PARTIES

- 7.—The fundamental condition of the struggle is the mass action of the proletariat, developing into open armed attack on the governmental powers of Capitalism.
- 8.—The old International has broken into three principal groups: the avowed social-patriots who, during the entire duration of the imperialistic war between the years 1914 and 1918, have supported their own bourgeoisie; the minority Socialists of the "center," represented by leaders of the type of Karl Kautsky, and who constitute a group composed of ever-hesitating elements, unable to settle on any determined direction, and who up-to-date have always acted as traitors; and the Revolutionary Left Wing.
- 9.—As far as the social-patriots are concerned, who stood up everywhere in arms, in the most critical moments, against the revolution, a merciless fight is the only alternative: in regard to the "Center," the tactics consist in separating from it the revolutionary elements, in criticizing pitilessly its leaders and in dividing systematically among them the number of their followers; these tactics are absolutely necessary when we reach a certain degree of development.
- 10.—On the other hand it is necessary to proceed in a common movement with the revolutionary elements of the working class who thought hitherto not belonging to the party, yet adopt today in its entirety, the point of view of dictatorship of the proletariat, under the form of Soviet government; including the syndicalist elements of the labor movements,

Translated by Andre Courland

11.—It is also necessary to rally the groups and proletarian organizations who, though not in the wake as yet of the revolutionary trend of the Left Wing, nevertheless have manifested and developed a tendency leading in that direction.

12.—We propose that the representative of parties and groups following these tendencies shall take part

#### ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!

The men, women and children who are on strike in Lawrence, Mass., remaining firm in their determination to stay out until victory, the mill owners are becoming desperate and the police are increasing their terrorism as a means of breaking the strike.

On Saturday a warrant was issued for the arrest of Louis C. Fraina, editor of *The Revolutionary Age*, on the charge of "inciting to riot." On Monday evening, Fraina surrendered voluntarily, was released on bail, pleaded "not guilty" on Tuesday, trial being set for March 12. While in the court, one of the police called Fraina a vile name and said: "I'd like to break your head for you, and I hope I get the chance to do it." Fraina answered: "And you are the fellows that maintain order!" This is characteristic of the police spirit in Lawrence.

Tuesday afternoon, upon Fraina's suggestion, the General Strike Committee decided to organize its own police, the Striker's Guard, to maintain order, and prove that it is the police who provoke violence. Permission was asked of Director of Public Safety Carr to hold a parade, but this was again refused. The strikers' Executive Committee asked that the police stay away from the parade to avoid violence, the strikers guaranteed the maintenance of order with their own Guard.

The strikers have determined to hold a parade anyway, of the women and children who are on strike. The active organization of the Striker's Guard is proceeding, most of the members will be former soldiers who are still entitled to wear their uniforms.

On Wednesday night A. J. Muste and Cedric Long were arrested while on the picket line at the mills—the police smashed the heads of some of the strikers, and blamed Muste and Long.

But the strike is not broken. It is spreading. A general strike is about to break in the textile trades. The police say it is a "Bolshevik Strike." This is a challenge to you. Will you accept it? Money is needed. Send funds to C. Silin, 885 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

in the Congress as plenipotentiary members of the Workers International and should belong to the following parties:

- 1.—The Spartacus group (Germany); 2.—The Bolshevik or Communist Party (Russia); Other Communist groups of: 3.—German-Austria; 4.—Hungary; 5.—Finland; 6.—Poland; 7.—Estonia; 8.—Lettonia; 9.—Lithuania; 10.—White Russia; 11.—Ukraine; 12.—The revolutionary elements of Czecho-Slovakia; 13.—The Bulgarian Social-Democratic Party; 14.—The Roumanian Social-Democrats; 15.—The Left Wing of the Servian Social-Democracy; 16.—The Left Wing of the Swedish Social-Democratic Party; 17.—The Norwegian Social-Democratic Party; 18.—The Danish groups of the class struggle; 19.—The Dutch Communist Party; 20.—The revolutionary elements of the Belgian Labor Party; 21.—22.—The groups and organizations in the midst of the French Socialist and syndicalist movements who are in solidarity with our aims; 23.—The Left Wing of the Swiss Social-Democratic Party; 24.—The Italian Socialist Party; 25.—The left elements of the Spanish Socialist Party; 26.—The left elements of the Portuguese Socialist Party; 27.—The British Socialist Par-

ty (those nearer to us are the elements represented by MacLean); 28.—I. S. P. R. (Great Britain); 29.—S. L. P. (England); 30.—I. W. W. (Great Britain); 31.—The revolutionary elements of labor organizations of Ireland; 32.—The revolutionary elements of Shop-Stewards (Great Britain); 33.—The S. L. P. (U. S. A.); 34.—The elements of the Left Wing of the American Socialist Party (tendency represented by E. V. Debs and the Socialist Propaganda League); 35.—I. W. W. (Industrial Workers of the World), America; 36.—The Workers International Industrial Union (U. S. A.); 37.—I. W. W. of Australia; 38.—The Socialist groups of Tokio and Samon represented by Sen Katayama; 39.—The Young Peoples Socialist International Leagues.

### 3d Section.

#### THE ORGANIZATION AND NAME OF THE PARTY

13.—The Congress must be transformed into a common organ of combat in view of the permanent struggle and systematic direction of the movement, into a center of International Communism which will subordinate the interests of the movements in everyone of the different countries to the common interests of the Revolution from an international point of view.

The concrete forms of organization, representation, etc. will be elaborated by the Congress.

In the opinion of *The Revolutionary Age*, this call of the Bolsheviki for an International Congress of revolutionary Socialism must be accepted by every Socialist who is in accord with the new epoch of revolutionary struggle into which the world has emerged.

There is no party that has a right to call a congress for the organization of the new International other than the Communist Party of Russia (Bolshevik)—they have developed the new tactics of the revolutionary proletariat, they have conquered power and organized the new proletarian state, they have inspired Socialism with new ideals, new energy, new tactics.

As the call makes amply clear, this new International must be a fighting International: it must not admit petty bourgeois elements, either of the right or of the center: it must consist wholly of revolutionary Socialism.

That this Bolsheviki call omits the official Socialist Party of the United States, is a challenge to every militant member of the party. The Bolsheviki are right in omitting the party, at present, since the official leadership of the party now consists of right and centre elements. But the membership is revolutionary: and the membership must conquer the party for the party, for revolutionary Socialism, and become part of the new Communist International.

Our party is officially pledged to participation in the infamous Berne Congress of the betrayers of Socialism. Local after local of the party has repudiated this "Congress," the repudiation must be made complete: and then the party must repudiate the men who were responsible for dirtying the party by pushing it into the Congress of the Great Betrayal.

As against Berne—let us accept the Communist International! Let us purge the party of its petty bourgeois elements, let us revolutionize the party. Destiny calls, the great struggle call to us: are we worthy of the great things ahead of us?

The issue is clear: Which International, comrades of the Socialist Party?