

The Revolutionary Age

A Chronicle and Interpretation of International Events

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The Soviets in Paris

IN Paris are assembled the distinguished diplomats who imagine they are making a new world, but who are really making a dirty mess of things. Paris, these days, symbolizes Capitalism as Moscow symbolizes Socialism. But in Paris there is a proletariat, despised and oppressed; and where there is a proletariat, there is potential Bolshevism. On April 6 a demonstration was held in Paris by the Socialist Party to protest against the acquittal of Jean Jaurès' assassin. The demonstration was headed by moderate Socialists who are violently opposed to the Soviets and the Bolsheviks, including Hjalmar Branting of Sweden, the most counter-revolutionary of all. But the masses turned the demonstration into one of revolutionary significance. Cries of "Long Live the Soviets!" and "Down with the Peace Conference!" prevailed. This was a threat equally to moderate Socialism and to Capitalism. Both may well tremble. When Paris itself hears the sympathy of the masses for Bolshevism, when the Peace Conference hears in the midst of its labors the cry of the Soviets the cry of "Long Live the Soviets!"—then may they realize that power and property are with the revolutionary proletariat and Bolshevism.

Japan and China

THE war was used by every belligerent nation as an opportunity to strengthen its Imperialism. Japan used the opportunity to impose a set of ultra-imperialistic demands upon China early in 1915, demands which strangle the political and economic independence of China. These demands, according to a statement of the Chinese Government, are "incompatible with the principles upon which the League of Nations is founded." The statement, which is largely an answer to a recent utterance of Baron Makino of the Japanese Peace Delegation, demands that the Peace Conference nullify the demands, and continues: "China's acquiescence to terms subversive to her own interests were secured by means of an ultimatum to which she was forced to surrender because of the pre-occupation of the rest of the world in the European war. It is a fact that the terms were imposed upon China at the point of the bayonet, the example followed being that of Prussia; the extension to ninety-nine years of the lease of Port Arthur and South Manchurian railways concessions being precisely the German Shantung terms." This is Imperialism. But does China imagine that she can escape? China is the objective of every Imperialism in the world; and if she escapes one, she will become the victim of another. The only hope of the Chinese people—not the masters of property—is in the proletarian world revolution; but the Chinese government is using its resources to to provide every opportunity for counter-revolutionary troops to attack Soviet Russia. The government of the ruling class in China will be strangled,—either by world Imperialism or by world Socialism. And the Chinese comrades who are serving in the Soviet revolutionary army are an augury of the potential revolutionary spirit of the Chinese people.

"It Smells of Oil"

THERE is a "revolution" being organized in Mexico against the Carranza Government. It is not a revolution of the masses, but a conspiracy of foreign money interests together with elements of the Diaz and Huerta regimes to secure economic control of Mexico. General Blanquet, the leader of the military expedition, announces that one of the acts of "his government" will be to nullify the "confiscatory" decrees of the present Mexican Government. These

"confiscatory" decrees affect foreign capital, the purpose of the government being to break the grip which foreign capital has upon Mexico's resources. These decrees affect particularly British and American oil interests in Mexico; and the "military coup" being organized "smells of oil." The coup was prepared in New York City, and is financed by imperialistic brigands. The American Government protested against these legitimate decrees as "confiscatory," but it acts not against the imperialistic brigands. And the Peace Conference is organizing a League of Nations!

The Red League of Nations

THE revolutionary Socialist attitude toward the League of Nations is that, as against a bourgeois imperialistic league, there should be formed a League of Soviet Nations to direct the final struggle against Capitalism. This League is now becoming a fact, through the alliance of Soviet Russia, Hungary and Bavaria. It will soon include other groups, Germany next. This should arouse the enthusiasm of the Socialist, and it does; but not the enthusiasm of the petty bourgeois moderate Socialist. Ramsay MacDonald, of the British Independent Labor Party, the other day said "we are facing the creation of a Red League of Nations as a rival to the Paris League." In his article, printed in the bourgeois liberal Manchester Guardian, MacDonald foresees the Soviet tide sweeping east and west, refers to an extraordinary revolutionary demonstration of French miners in the department of Pas de Calais, of which nothing has been said in the English press, mentions that the Italian Socialist Party has decided to affiliate itself with the Bolshevik Communist International, and urges the withdrawal of Allied troops from Russia and a new policy toward Russia as a means of preventing a Red league. This was precisely the attitude of the Berne Congress of the Socialist Counter-revolution. It is the attitude of the traitor to Socialism. But revolutionary Socialism will conquer moderate Socialism. The Red league will come. In spite of all, in spite of Capitalism and its ally, moderate Socialism.

A Real Scandal

THE Soviet Representative to the United States, Comrade Martens, is considering action to secure control of approximately \$150,000,000 in money and property now in this country and held in the name of the old Russian government.

The property represents food, clothing and munitions purchased and paid for by the Russian Government with the money of the Russian people. When Kerensky was overthrown, the United States Government still recognized M. Bakhmetieff as Russian "Ambassador," and this property and money remained under his control. Instead of using this for the Russian people, the counter-revolutionary "Ambassador" used it against the people of Russia.

But the actual facts are much worse. Counter-revolutionary officials of the old regime and officers of the Czar's army have been living riotously from the proceeds of sale of property belonging to the Russian people. The Russian people were starving; and food in this country belonging to them was sold and the proceeds squandered. The Russian people needed shoes; and shoes in this country purchased by their money were sold to finance counter-revolutionary propaganda. Agricultural machinery, locomotives and other materials suffered a similar fate—while American Capitalism cried, piteously, that the Bolsheviks were starving Russia and demoralizing it industrially!...

In addition to the sale of property, there were vast sums of money of the Russian Government in deposit in various banks, which were used, and are still being used, by the counter-revolutionary officials and officers of the old regime. M. Bakhmetieff's counter-revolutionary activity in Paris is being financed by this money of the Russian people.

As the Soviet power, instead of declining, strengthened itself, the orgy of squandering money by the officials of the old regime increased in intensity—allowed and indirectly encouraged by the American Government. At this moment, threatened by the menace of the Soviet representative taking possession, there is a positively feverish speed in the stealing of the Russian people's money and property. All in the name of democracy! All in the name of equity among nations!...

But this scandal is much more than a scandal, it is a realistic picture of the savagery and corruption of bourgeois society and its representatives. Soviet Russia, if it accomplished nothing else, has exposed on the vast scale of world events, the savagery and the turpitude of international Capitalism. To shed tears over the starvation of the Russian people, and then

make this starvation actual and terrible by blockading Russia and depriving it of materials which it owns in this country; to moan the industrial demoralization in Russia, and then make this demoralization actual and terrible by preventing locomotives, agricultural implements and other machinery from going to Russia; to wail the sufferings of the Russian people, and then make these sufferings actual and terrible by waging war upon Russia by means of military action and starvation,—all this reveals the sinister soul of Capitalism, its relentless determination to wreak vengeance upon these who assail its supremacy.

There is no justice toward Soviet Russia. But justice will be rendered by the final court—the court of the international revolutionary proletariat.

Bavaria and—?

THE struggle for power that has been raging in Bavaria has culminated in the Soviets usurping all power, decreeing a revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat and poorer peasantry.

The new Soviet Republic of Bavaria allies itself immediately with the Soviet Republics of Russia and Hungary; and it starts immediately with a ruthless policy of proletarian dictatorship—establishing workers' control of industry, seizing the banks, organizing a Red Army, repudiating the Ebert-Scheidemann Government of the Yellow Terror, and mercilessly preparing to crush all counter-revolutionary action against the Council of People's Commissaires, against the Soviet Government.

Precisely as the real importance of the Soviet Republic in Hungary was in the impulse it let loose for revolutionary action elsewhere, so the real importance of the Bavarian Soviet Republic is in the impulse it will give to the developing proletarian revolution in the rest of Germany. A victory here, temporary defeat there, are simply phases of that giant struggle which is developing, which will soon flare up in all Europe, and conquer Capitalism. Then the world revolution!...

The action of the Bavarian Soviets in decreeing a proletarian dictatorship has, naturally, let loose the urge to civil war. The old Government, which has fled from Munich, refuses to recognize its deposition, declares it is still the government, and is organizing a military campaign to overthrow the Soviet Republic. The Ebert-Scheidemann government has equally declared against the Bavarian Council of People's Commissaires, and is preparing action against the revolutionary Soviet Government. But can the Ebert-Scheidemann threat be fulfilled? The Bavarian proletarian revolution has encouraged and inspired the revolutionary masses of Germany, who are feverishly developing a new and, it appears, the final struggle for the conquest of power and proletarian dictatorship.

The crisis in Germany is developing acutely; a new uprising of the masses is imminent. A special cable from Berlin to the New York Times of April 8 indicates the drift: "Every day the demand for a Soviet Government becomes everywhere, I think, more clamant. ... Bluntly, while Paris is discussing, something greater than Rome is burning. We are rapidly approaching the position of Paris or Moscow, liberty or Lenin. ... Everywhere one cannot help remarking the 'swing of the masses' opinion to the Left.' In the Ruhr industrial region there are 250,000 strikers, 104 mines out of 236 are idle; martial law has been proclaimed there. On account of that strike the gas ration of Berlin has been reduced. Though in Stuttgart the strike is ending, the Spartacans are extremely busy, and a serious fight has taken place with men of their faction, who are entrenched near the city. A general railway strike is threatened on April 10. From Weimar it is reported that feeling is rising steadily against the National Constituent Assembly. Wurttemberg gives signs of going with Bavaria. Amid all that, the position of the central Government is difficult in the extreme." A political strike has been declared in the Dusseldorf district, which demands the immediate release of political prisoners, the abolition of "class justice," demobilization of the military forces, coalition with the Russian Soviet Government, and the surrender of the Ebert-Scheidemann Government to a Republic of Soviets. The workmen in Magdeburg have declared a political strike, large portions of the garrison having joined the revolutionary movement. This strike was declared against the opposition of the moderate "leaders." The majority "Socialist" Landsberg, Minister of Justice in the Ebert-Scheidemann Government, has been arrested by revolutionary troops in Magdeburg, as well as General von Kleist and his staff. Other arrests are planned of "Social Democrats and members of the bourgeoisie."...

In Berlin, there is a national congress of Councils of Workmen and Soldiers. George Ledebour, the left Independent Socialist, has been released from