

Greetings!

THE comrades of the Left Wing Section of the Socialist Party of New York City have issued a paper of their own, the *New York Communist*, with John Reed as Editor and Eadmonn MacAlpine as Associate Editor, the first issue of which appeared April 19. Cordial and fraternal greetings to our new co-fighter in the struggle to revolutionize the Socialist Party, immediately; in the struggle to revolutionize Capitalism, ultimately!

The *Communist* appears with a flaming challenge to Capitalism and to the dominant, moderate, counter-revolutionary Socialism: "The capitalist system is bankrupt. . . . At the same time, that 'Socialism' in which the working class of Europe so confidently trusted to avoid a world war broke down like a house of cards before the first serious onslaught of international Capitalism. *The Second International joined the Army!* . . . The 'moderate Socialist' leaders found themselves forced to uphold Capitalism in its grand climactic crime, and consoled themselves by preaching that the war was the last great 'reform'—a step in that slow and peaceful evolution from autocracy to parliamentary democracy, and then to Socialism. . . . They beheld the disillusioned proletariat rising to overthrow the parliamentary state. . . . The 'moderate Socialists' in Russia and Germany found themselves on the capitalist side of the barricades, shooting down workers to preserve their *petit bourgeois* theories. . . . The workers know now that only by means of the *Dictatorship of the Proletariat* can they achieve their ends. . . . Only the destruction of the capitalist forms of government and the erection of a new proletarian state, can guarantee the workers' revolutionary victories. The American Socialist Party, although its different currents have not been as clearly defined as those of European countries, has been for years controlled by *petit bourgeois* elements. It has compromised with bourgeois liberalism. . . . We of the Left Wing declare that we repudiate 'moderate Socialism' and all its bourgeois affiliations, whose activities, however sincerely meant, are nevertheless directed toward patching up the capitalist system and avoiding the Social Revolution. We take our stand with the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik), with the Spartacans of Germany, and the Communists of Hungary and Bavaria, believing that only through the *Dictatorship of the Proletariat* can the Socialist order be brought about."

The *New York Communist*, as its name implies, is largely a temporary necessity of the local struggle against the Right Wing in the party in New York City. The lines are being tightened. The struggle is becoming implacable. Upon this struggle depend large events and great decisions. The comrades of the Left Wing Section felt the need of an organ that could be of the fight and for the fight in its local character.

Asking the questions, "Why does the New York Left Wing establish another paper? Isn't *The Revolutionary Age* enough to represent the Left Wing? Are we fighting *The Revolutionary Age*?"—the *Communist* answers:

"First, let us make our bow to *The Revolutionary Age*, which, with the support of Local Boston, and under the brilliant editorship of Comrade Louis Fraina, has, from the beginning, been the best expression of revolutionary Socialism ever published in this country—and indeed, has created a new type of Socialist journalism here.

"*The Revolutionary Age* is to be, without any doubt, the official organ of the National Left Wing, which will be created by the National Left Wing Conference. This is made certain by the generosity of the comrades of Local Boston, who have passed a resolution providing that the paper, with all its assets, shall be turned over to the Executive Committee of the Left Wing as soon as it shall be constituted.

"But in the meanwhile, the New York Left Wing, which has taken the initiative in forming a National Left Wing by issuing its Manifesto and Program, has no organ of its own. . . . In New York, with its thousands of Party members, the Left Wing is fighting for control of the local Party machinery, against a fierce and unscrupulous resistance by the petty politicians who direct the Party. . . . *We need a paper here!*"

The Left Wing in the Socialist Party of New York City is a product of the general revolt against moderate, petty bourgeois Socialism; but it is equally a product of the shameless treachery of the Right Wing and its bureaucracy in the party there. Meyer London, "Socialist" representative in Congress from New York City, consistently and impudently betrayed Socialism: he favored the war, repudiated the St. Louis Resolution, acted against the Bolshevik, accepted the bourgeois peace policy of President Wilson—and there was no protest against his actions from the Right Wing in New York City, "who also" favored the St. Louis Resolution; more, *Meyer London was renominated as a Socialist candidate by a fusion of the right and the*

centre. The *New York Call*, prior to the November Revolution, supported Kerensky and characterized, editorially, Lenin and the Bolshevik as "Anarchists." The *Call's* policy is a mixture of Jeffersonian democracy and modern petty bourgeois liberalism—not revolutionary Socialist. The "Socialist" members of the Board of Aldermen pursued a consistent policy of reformism; they (the majority, led by Algernon Lee, who favored the war "in order to save the Russian Revolution") voted for Liberty Bonds, and they voted for a Victory Arch for the soldiers (who can't get jobs) on which is inscribed, among other victories of the American troops, *Murmansk*, where Soviet Russia is being menaced.

Now, the Left Wing is a power. The moderates and the petty bourgeois reformers (some of whom belong in Wilson's party, most of whom belong in a Labor Party of conservative trades unionists) are being threatened in their supremacy. They stigmatized the Left as a move to "split the party;" and now, at the recent meeting of the State Committee of New York, they pass a resolution, by a vote of 24 to 17, to expel any local or branch of the Party which affiliates with the Left Wing! Let them threaten. Behind our New York Comrades is the Left Wing in the whole American Socialist Party. Our answer to the threat of expulsion is to conquer the party for revolutionary Socialism, to make the Left Wing the Socialist Party.

The Old and the New

CLEARLY, the world is coming to appreciate the tragi-comedy of the Peace Conference at Paris. In a cable from Paris the other day, William Allen White (who was to have gone to Prinkipo to meet the Bolshevik for President Wilson, until the Peace Conference executed a strategic retreat) writes sardonically of the upheaval in Europe and the impotence of the Peace Conference:

In Eastern Europe, from Budapest to Archangel, responsible rulers, such as they may be, are laughing uproariously at Paris—the statesmen who are solemnly sitting about green tables figuring out boundaries, spheres of influence and economic restrictions when the new order in the world is establishing itself.

Lenin is heading the laughter, and during the week his domain is finding foothold in India and Egypt. His birthday was celebrated in Rome under machine guns on fountains, the Spanish Ministry is falling. King Albert sid down from the sky, telling the Peace Conference that Brussels could hold out against Bolshevism less than a month more, Liberal Socialists are whittling down Lloyd George's parliamentary majority daily, and Easter Sunday French Socialists will meet to decide how best to show their scorn for the Peace Conference—whether by general strike or by an attempt at revolution.

Southern Germany is torn by Bolshevism, and North Germany is waiting to hear the peace terms before letting go. . . . Certainly if peace does not come by mid-summer it will be a peace of anarchy.

What would they? They, the masters of bourgeois society, declared Capitalism morally and economically insolvent when they chose the arbitrament of the sword in their mercenary disputes. They plunged millions of men, women and children into the fires of universal war—they unleashed destruction and organized savagery—in order to determine who should possess the financial and industrial dominion of the world.

Bourgeois society proved itself unfit to direct the destiny of the world. It broke down of its own hideous evils. It mocked humanity and raped civilization. Capitalism organized the courage and enthusiasm of men for systematic destruction; it transmuted the patient suffering of the women and the tears of the children into the profits of the profiteers; it built a terrible bridge with the bodies of the dead soldiers, upon which to march to power. The evil and the oppression, the misery and the degradation of the old order culminated in a terrible and unprecedented scourge of humanity.

The old order broke down. Life and love and peace, which it had crushed, flared up in the action of the proletariat for the Revolution. . . .

The Peace Conference met. It met to patch things up. Its real task was not to impose terms upon Germany, but to prevent the complete collapse of bourgeois society and to crush the proletarian revolution. The Peace Conference failed miserably in its task. The old order is breaking down. And, through the smoke and the fires of Revolution, is appearing the promise and the glory of the new order of Communist Socialism. It will conquer! Then shall life and love and peace come into their own.

NOTES

The City Central Committee of Local Boston has made the following endorsements: for National Executive Committee, 1st District—Louis C. Fraina, Nicholas I. Hourwich, Edward Lindgren; for International Delegates—I. E. Ferguson, Louis C. Fraina, John Reed, C. E. Ruthenberg; for International Secretary—Kate Richards O'Hare.

Bolshevikjabs

TWO members of the Japanese House of Representatives, who have been studying American institutions here, visited Tammany Hall the other day. They took away samples of the primary ballots and campaign literature. It is supposed that the Japanese government is going to use these samples at the next election to defeat those candidates who are urging the adoption of Western civilization for Japan.

Private advices from London state that Great Britain, France, Italy and the United States propose to recognize the Omsk government as the *de facto* government of non-Bolshevik Russia as soon as the Peace Treaty is signed. In other words the "war to end war" is to be disposed of by a peace to begin war.

Governor Coolidge of Massachusetts is reported to have used five pens to sign a bill providing that women and children shall not be employed more than 48 hours a week, or more than nine hours on any one day. The pens were then distributed among the worthy individuals who had braved public opinion for humanity's sake and to representatives of labor organizations, whose threat of the use of their economic might is considered partly responsible for the passage of this revolutionary measure.

It is rumored that the pens were made by five of the emancipated children in their spare time and that they have asked to be allowed to make all the pens the Governor may use in the future as they are afraid that the old adage: "The Devil finds some mischief still for idle hands to do," may apply to them under the new law.

These aliens are certainly an ungrateful lot. After all the trouble we have taken to show them how inferior they are to us, what a crime they commit in being hyphenated, how unwelcome they are here. We even go to the trouble of composing songs expressing our horror of them and asking them to "go back to your homes o'er the seas," but they suddenly start drawing their money out of the savings banks and applying for passports to leave the country just when we need their presence in order to beat down wages. They sure are a nuisance. If we don't keep them in their places they will be running the country and if we venture to criticise them they start off home in a huff, without even waiting to be deported.

In spite of the oft repeated reports that the Peace Treaty is ready for signature, the Paris Conference still frets and fumes.

The Allies are about to recognize the Bolshevik, the Allies are on the eve of recognizing the Kolchak dictatorship as the *de facto* government of Russia, the Allied troops are refusing to continue the war against the Bolshevik, the Bolshevik forces are in flight on all fronts, the French evacuate Odessa, the Allies have decided to feed the Bolshevik, the blockade for the purpose of starving Russia is to be strengthened, the Allied troops are to be withdrawn from Russia on July 1, the Allied troops in Russia are to be reinforced shortly—the situation in Russia is progressing favorably.

There have been 72 murders and 206 robberies in Chicago since January. Translating this news into a press dispatch from a correspondent who has recently been in Russia for the bourgeois press and who has not recovered from the habit, it would read:

Chicago in the grip of the White Terror of Capitalism. Murder an everyday occurrence, hold-ups and robberies take place in broad day light. Streets are not safe for pedestrians. The food situation is acute and unless remedial measures are instituted soon the city will be uninhabitable. It is rumored that if order can be restored before the first of the month, Russia may recognize the Thompson administration as the *de facto* government but otherwise the Swift, Armor, Cudahy dictatorship will triumph.

A German professor has figured it out that there are now 278 dethroned royal persons formerly belonging to the German Empire. It is rumored that the Spartacans have offered to exchange them for a few I. W. W.'s and revolutionary Socialists.

To Professor Elliot rumor ascribes the definition of error as one who scabs a job. Newport, R. I. society belles have achieved heroism without any of its attendant discomforts by scabbing on the striking telephone girls—the hello girls are ladies and despise working class tactics. They even struck against the Bolshevik in Petrograd!