

The Czar's Hirelings are Active

By A. Nyemanov

THERE have recently appeared in the capitalist press obviously inspired reports concerning the general tendency of Allied policy in Russia and on the Russian "problem." If previously the politicians of the Allies adopted a cautious policy toward the "Kolchak Government," if they disguised with the fig-leaf of "neutrality" their actual support of this "government" — now, with commendable frankness, the Allies are showing their cards. The newspapers report that the Government at Washington, together with the governments of the Allies, are ready to recognize the "government" of Kolchak, that henchman of Czarism. In the opinion of the gentlemen who loiter in the corridors of the Peace Conference in Paris, the "best" elements in Russia are represented by the Kolchaks and the Semenovs. The "salvation" of Russia, apparently, depends upon these pitiful remnants of the Czar's regime.

Well, it is no secret to us that the Allies have been supporting the Russian monarchists with their gold. This was confessed the other day by Lloyd-George, that hireling of British Imperialism. And if now they finally decide openly to conclude a bloody contract with the men of the old Czarist regime — this will frighten neither the Soviet Government nor its adherents in all countries, who have been rapidly in-

creasing. In the last analysis, this openly counter-revolutionary policy of the Allies must prove more advantageous to the Soviet than the old hide-and-seek game.

But, then, let not the Allies say they wish to deal with a "democratic" Russia; let them not cling, with fastidious fraudulence, to the slogan, "All power to the Constituent Assembly;" let them admit openly that their policy is the same as that of the Czarist generals, who march directly toward a monarchist restoration.

The Russian people will defend Soviet Russia to the end. They have proven their capacity to fight, equally against the enemy within and the enemy without.

Doubtless, the present policy of the Allies has been shaped, in a not small degree, by the Russian travelling salesmen now in Paris. For some months now a coterie of the Czar's diplomats and politicians have been active in Paris,—the Sazonoffs and the Hirshes, the Bakhmetievs and the Maklakovs. The nests of the Allied vultures have been open to them,—those vultures who are now deciding the world's fate. A

crow will not pluck the eyes of another crow, but they unite. The Pichons and the Lloyd-Georges are apparently acting at the instigation of this bourgeois-Czarist coterie.

It will not surprise us, accordingly, if it should be discovered that all this agitation for the recognition of the Kolchaks and the Denikines is fabricated in the laboratory of Sazonov & Co., and that all the reports concerning the "defeats" of the Soviet troops, all the malicious and slanderous inventions appearing in the American and Allied press, are equally fabricated by Sazonov & Co.

It has been clear for some time that the extreme reactionary forces would make another desperate attempt to restore their former power. It seems as if the moment for that has now come.

Soviet Russia wants peace. The responsible representatives of the Soviet policy have declared that again and again. But should the Allies unite with the Russian counter-revolution in a new attempt to storm the positions of the Russian proletariat, they will again be repulsed.

The time has gone by when the destiny of the Russian people can be determined by the decisions of Sazonov & Co. That time will never return.

British Imperialism in Egypt

From "The Red Flag" of Canada

ON DECEMBER 18, 1914, Egypt was formally declared a protectorate of Britain, which became entirely responsible for its government and administration. We declared Hussein Kamil to be Sultan (no longer Khedive), and he has since been succeeded by the Sultan Fouad, who is reigning at the present moment. But the Sultan of Egypt only takes important action on the advice of the High Commissioner representing H. M. the King. Sir Reginald Wingate was appointed to this office on January 1, 1917, but is now in England, and all power at the moment is in the hands of General Allenby, who is virtually dictator.

During the war Egypt has been under exceedingly severe military restrictions amounting to a very large measure of martial law, and governed on the civil side by the fiat of the High Commissioner and on the military by the orders of the General Officer in Command of the Forces in Egypt.

The High Commissioner receives his orders from the Foreign Office and the G. O. C. from the War Office. The Home Government, therefore, is directly responsible for the executive acts of the civil and military aides of the Egyptian Government.

When it became necessary during the war to raise a large body of men for transport duties, road-making and other work on the lines of communications of the army in Egypt recourse was naturally had to the men on the spot, the Egyptian Fellaheen.

The Egyptian Fella, or peasant, of whom there are about 11,000,000 in all Egypt, is a simple, laborious, almost entirely illiterate, man. The vast number of these people are Mohammedans, and they live in the little villages of mud-hovels and in the small towns of Egypt all along the course of the Nile.

Their living depends on their daily work in their fields; they are intensely conservative and home-loving. So big a factor is this in their character that there are practically no Egyptian sailors, the voyage even to Greece taking them too long away from their homes. Besides the Fellaheen there are about 1,000,000 other people in Egypt, including all the European, and this 1,000,000, who correspond roughly to the educated and propertied classes, include the small group of educated non-European Egyptians, who are "nationalists." To the peasantry our civil and military administrators turned for help when men were needed, and devised a plan of "voluntary" enlistment in the Labor Corps, Donkey Transport Corps or Camel Transport Corps, for service with the E. E. F.

The period of enlistment was to be for six months (as a rule), the rate of pay good from the peasant standpoint, and food, clothing, blankets and tentage were also to be provided.

A certain number of men enlisted readily enough. Then there came a pause, and men were still required. Orders were then sent round to stimulate the recruiting, and eventually a press-gang method was established. A friend described to me how it was done.

A party of "recruiters" would go up to one of the little mud villages (many look like big ant-hills) and wait for dusk when the fellaheen would return from the fields. When they returned they were "rounded up" like cattle, and the suitable ones picked out and enlisted. If they refused to "volunteer" they were

lashed with the Egyptian shorthide whip until they changed their minds.

There were boys of 14 taken and men of 70 or even over.

The medical examination, if any, was a farce, and men gravely ill were sent to do military duties. Once the men were enlisted discipline was maintained by the free use of the lash, and whippings were so common that a medical officer told off to oversee the administration of the punishment arranged to have his "sick parade" and his "whipping parade" at the same time, the whipping parade being quite near to his tent where he saw the sick, so that he could overlook both functions (with a little agility) at the same time.

The men received their pay, I understand, but rations were often deficient, and clothing, blankets and

tentage very often deficient. In the winter of 1917-18 Egyptians died like flies as the result of epidemics of typhus fever and other diseases, cold and insufficient food.

The medical arrangements for the men were entirely inadequate, and the sickness rate and death rate would prove interesting, if grim reading, if they could be obtained. Egyptians were treated so brutally in their own units that they were afraid to report sick and those discharged as permanently unfit on medical grounds were not exempt from being recruited again by the next press-gang party which came to their village. Very frequently indeed also men were kept beyond the stipulated time of their contract service.

In addition to these raids on the homes of the fellaheen for men we also requisitioned nearly the whole of their donkeys and their camels—at any rate, all the good ones.

Of course, these animals were paid for, but the peasant cultivator could not make a few piastres do the work of a four-footed assistant. Also we bought up much food, and directly and indirectly, as a result of the presence of large bodies of troops in Egypt, the cost of living went up tremendously without a corresponding rise in wages.

Before November last the Egyptian papers even—which are censored as to practically every word by a semi-military official—were reporting riots around food stores and shops, where half a dozen people were killed. In Alexandria practically all the poorer classes were underfed—Egyptian and European alike.

Is it very remarkable, therefore, that we were hated and detested in Egypt, and that it was currently said that all Egyptians were pro-German?

What I have said hitherto is the economic social foundation of the "trouble."

But this has not contented our Imperialists. We have conquered Mesopotamia, Palestine, Syria and Turkey—and been studiously mysterious and vague about what we are going to do with these countries. Are we going to turn the Arabs out? That is a question which Egyptians of the highest standing could not get answered when they asked it of those in power. How, then, should the Arab in his village get an answer?

And the rumor ran from village to village, from camp to camp, of some vague disaster overhanging the Arab Moslem world from the infidel Frank world. Is it any wonder we lighted up religious fanaticism?

In the east "nationality" does not exist as it does in the West, and its place is taken in Egypt, Palestine, Syria and adjoining countries by the sentiment of religion. Men feel themselves one as Mohammedans. Egyptian nationalism is thus only the local expression of Near Eastern Mohammedan religious feeling—and the more dangerous for that reason.

The whole of the Near East is in ferment. We have treated the Egyptians with gross injustice; we have not cared for their elementary human needs; we have stirred up Mohammedan religious feeling against us; we are now playing the fatuous game of "high politics" with the destinies of races and continents as though they were card counters.

In the Shops

By T. L.

THE advocacy of mass action means to educate the masses: (1) in the theory of revolutionary Socialism and (2) the necessity of its application to the actual problems of revolutionary action.

Assuming, then, that this is our present task, I think that the Left Wing is accomplishing this task rather incompletely; and that the main and central problem of preparing the masses for action is considered only from time to time when an opportunity presents itself, as during periods of large strikes.

We must organize our comrades and sympathizers in the unions and the shops for the purpose of educating the masses of the workers in our theory and practice.

An organization committee of the Socialist Party in every locality should get immediately in touch with the comrades in the different unions for the purpose of organizing in the shops, where the particular comrades are working, a group of 5 or 10 men, which should get in touch with a propagandist at least once a week; while the comrade of the propaganda committee is spreading the theory of revolutionary Socialism, explaining from our point of view the present situation and emphasizing the necessity of increasing the number of similar shop groups, etc.

In industries where several hundred or thousand workers are employed, every shop group should elect a delegate to a factory executive committee which should direct the whole propaganda work in that particular industry.

In large cities where there are many factories, these groups should be ready to connect us with the masses, so that when the day for mass action comes we shall control real power.

This work will prove as efficient as it did in Russia. It should proceed under the direction of the Central Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, and in secret, if necessary.

Mass action without the masses of the workers is an empty phrase.