

The Allies in Siberia

War Against the People

It was the claim of the Allies that the Russian masses would acclaim intervention as providing the opportunity to throw off the "vile yoke" of the Bolsheviks. Instead, events are proving that the Russian masses are eager to throw off the vile yoke placed by this counter-revolutionary intervention upon their liberty.

The whole course of intervention proves that it is the desperate purpose of international Capitalism to impose an alien will upon the Russian people. The masses of Russia have had ample opportunity to overthrow the Soviet Government, if they wished; but in spite of starvation, in spite of war from the whole world, the revolutionary masses refuse to make a counter-revolution, refuse to overthrow their government.

Nothing but contemptible dishonesty could now claim that the Russian people welcome intervention. In Siberia, the Allies have crushed the liberty of the masses, have imposed a bayonet autocracy upon the people, have supported the infamous Kolchak and his reactionary coterie. The masses of Siberia, accordingly, are against the Allies and their intervention.

This is proven by an article in the June issue of *Hearst's Magazine*, written by Frederick F. Moore, Late Captain, Intelligence, of the American Expeditionary Force in Siberia, under the title "The Vanishing Army of the Bolsheviks."

Captain Moore makes the unequivocal statement: "Ninety-five per cent. of the people in Siberia are Bolsheviks." It is clear, then, that the Allies' mission in Siberia is to restore the rule of a reactionary minority of 5 per cent.—surely a case of making the world safe for democracy!

But, what is more important, Captain Moore proves the point. The Siberian masses, according to him, have adopted the policy of passive resistance and sabotage. It is an effective expression of the will of the masses. The Captain says:

"The Allies in Siberia have been surrounded by an army without uniforms or other visible military equipment, without any apparent machinery of organization. This army has the ability to vanish without being missed, to reassemble when and where it chooses, to set up a front if it so desires, or, if it sees fit, to dissolve again, concealing itself once more under the wings of the very host which is seeking to overcome it. More-

over, it is to a very large extent an army of passive resistance. . . .

"During the winter just past, this vanishing army entered the cities occupied by the Allies, and, in the guise of refugees, or 'loyal' Russians, received food, clothing and shelter. Under the protection of the Allied guns it spent the period of bitter cold weather in comfort, perfecting its plans for the on-coming spring, carrying on its propaganda of hostility against the Interventionists, and mingling with the troops which had come half way round the world to render it harmless."

This is how this "vanishing army" fights:

"Take the case of one of their earlier engagements with the Japanese. The attack was south of Habarovsk. It was significant that the Japanese took scarcely any prisoners. That was because a few of the Bolsheviks held back the Japanese, giving the main Russian front time to break up. Then, when the Japanese forces moved forward, they passed through the Bolshevik army—without knowing it!—and actually asked it where it was!

"What the Japanese force thought it saw was large numbers of badly dressed peasants, busily at work in the fields."

Overwhelmed by superior munitions and equipment, the Bolshevik masses of Siberia adopt their own forms of fighting. This is how they secure weapons:

"A truck-load of Kolchak's machine-guns at Omsk disappeared while in transit from one barracks to another, and the men who were making the transfer dropped from sight. Some of our officers and soldiers know how the Bolsheviks added to their own supply of pistols. It has been estimated that ten per cent. of the American officers travelling with orderlies had their automatics either taken by stealth or snatched from the holsters in crowded railroad stations. One of these officers expostulated with a thief. 'Here!' he shouted. 'That's my gun!' 'Well, you're wrong,' was the reply in good English; 'it's mine, and you'd better not start any trouble here.' It seemed good advice.

"One story going the rounds is to the effect that an officer of high rank, while pushing his way through a jam of people in a station, followed by his orderly,

was startled by a cry from the latter, whose pistol was gone!

"'Gone!' said the officer crossly. 'You ought to know better than to lose your gun! Where did you wear it?'

"Meekly the orderly indicated the position of his holster on his right hip.

"'But you shouldn't wear it so far back,' growled the exasperated officer. 'Keep it well to the front like mine. Look here!' And he slapped his own holster, worn well to the front on his belt. Then the red of chagrin spread over his face. 'Lord!' he cried. 'Mine's gone, too!'

The workmen of Siberia act as they can against the invaders. Captain Moore says:

"The trans-Siberian Railroad is virtually in the hands of the Bolsheviks—Bolshevik firemen, engineers, conductors, repairmen, signalmen, switchmen, station-masters and, to a large extent, telegraph operators. Not only do these men absorb graft, but trains move only at their will, or if against their will, are wrecked. And if instead of accepting the statement that all of the fighting Bolsheviks are to be found on the 'Ekaterinburg front,' the newspaper correspondents would understand the situation better if they could realize that all Siberia, all Russia, is a front. . . .

This revolutionary sabotage is used all along the line against the Allies, who answer with executions and the Cossacks with flogging and worse. The Soviet as an institution in Siberia has been crushed by alien reaction, but it lives in the hearts of the masses. In a moment, at the appropriate moment, the masses will rise and assert their Communist independence.

Considering this testimony of a non-Bolshevik, what becomes of the Allies' claim concerning "being invited" by the Russian people? Lies, all lies. They cannot shoot the Russian masses into submission, nor can they bribe them into accepting reaction by promises of food. Man does not live by bread alone.

The news that comes from Siberia, in spite of the blockade, indicates an appalling condition of misery and oppression there, under the "civilized" domination of the Allies.

In a criminal war of plunder and aggression, the most criminal episode is the intervention of the Allies in revolutionary Russia. The proletariat of the world must end this abominable crime.

All Power to the Workers!

THESE are the resolutions adopted at a special convention called to express the stand of Local Cook County (Chicago) on questions before the party, and made up of one delegate to each ten members. Nearly 100 branches were represented, with membership over 6000.

"Be it resolved, that the following propositions shall constitute the platform of Local Cook County of the Socialist Party until further action by a future Cook County Convention, and shall be binding upon all officials, candidates, speakers and committees of Local Cook County:

1-a) We favor international alliance of the Socialist Party of the United States only with the Communist groups of other countries, such as the Bolsheviks of Russia, Spartacans of Germany, and so forth, according to the call issued for the Third International by the Bolshevik Party of Russia, and upon the program as presented in this call.

1-b) We demand that the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party and our International Delegates shall take at once some decisive action to cut off our party from the Bureau or Congress of the Second International.

2-a) Socialist Party platforms, proceeding on the basis of the class struggle, and recognizing that the Socialist movement has come into the historical period of social revolution, can only contain an explanation of the class struggle and the demand for the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

2-b) A municipal platform of Socialism cannot proceed on a separate basis, but must conform to the general platform, simply relating the attainment of local power to the immediate goal of gaining national power. There are no city problems within the terms of the class struggle, only the one problem of capitalism versus proletarian domination.

The particular evils of national, state and city government are merely illustrative of the central problem, and should be thus presented; they should not be listed the things to be remedied item by item, as the basis of Socialist political activity. The municipal platform

Resolutions Adopted at the Chicago Convention May 17-18, 1919

of Socialism, like all other platforms, can contain only one demand: All power to the working class—local power as the basis for further gains of power.

3) We favor organized Socialist Party activity in co-operation with class-conscious industrial unionism, in order to unify industrial and political class-conscious propaganda and action.

4) We are opposed to Socialist Party association with other groups not committed to the revolutionary class struggle, such as Labor parties, Nonpartisan leagues, People's Council, Municipal Ownership leagues and the like.

5-a) The political action of the revolutionary proletariat is not limited to the use of the ballot; we realize that our primary dependence must be on the mass power and the mass political action of the proletariat; and we realize also, that this mass power and this mass political action are more closely related to the industrial struggle of the proletariat than to routine politics.

5-b) The activity of the Socialist Party in political campaigns shall keep distinct the class nature of our political action, and shall not foster the idea of the Socialist Party as the advocate of an advanced labor progressivism.

6) We favor centralized party organization corresponding to the highly centralized imperialistic control to be overthrown, and to this end make the following recommendations:

a) Organization for quick action and immediate response to new situations by having a National Emergency Committee, composed of three or more members of the National Executive Committee, who shall act as party officials and propagandists with offices in the national headquarters.

b) Control by the party organization of all Socialists elected to public office.

c) Control by the party membership, through the regular executive committee, of all official party public-

ations; not by special committees or trustees not elected by and not responsible to the membership.

d) Establishment of a Central Lecture Bureau, and of a Press and Information Bureau.

e) Standardization of party platforms, propaganda, dues and methods of organization.

The foregoing was offered as a composite resolution; discussed and adopted item by item. The further resolutions dealing with party questions of general application are as follows:

7) Whereas the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of the United States has obscured the class nature of our organization by the call for an Amnesty Convention; and

Whereas it is essential at all times to keep the class nature of our organization clearly defined by non-affiliation with non-working class organization;

Be it resolved: that this Convention is opposed to the action of the National Executive Committee in calling the Amnesty Convention now set for July 4th, and that we recommend that this call be rescinded.

8) Resolved that this Convention go on record as endorsing the I. W. W., and that it will do all within its power to acquaint the American workers with revolutionary industrial unionism.

9) Endorsement of Sunday Schools under direct party control.

10) Recommendation of organization of agitation and literature distribution on the basis of factories and industrial units, with division of county into industrial districts.

11) Resolution providing for calling of County Conventions, with plenary powers, by direct initiative of branches.

The other resolutions of the Convention are in the nature of greetings and remonstrances concerned with the intervention in Russia, the Winnipeg strike, the class-war pogroms, the Lawrence strike (accompanied by contribution of funds); pledge of co-operation in general strike for release of class-war prisoners; greetings to Russian Soviet Republic, Hungarian Soviet Republic, Spartacans of Germany, and the Third Communist International.