

The Bolshevik Sweep

REPEATEDLY items have appeared in the press to the effect that the Entente troops in Russia have in great measure been "infected" with Bolshevik ideas. The following appeal from French soldiers at Odessa to their Russian comrades, which was published on April 1st in the Communist newspaper *Nasha Pravda* appearing at Riga, leaves nothing to be desired in the way of clearness. The very title is significant enough: *The truth about our so-called "voluntary" sojourn at Odessa.*

"In spite of the promises," the appeal begins, "which were given by him who is rightly called the dictator, namely, Clemenceau, who, fearing a weakening both of the military front and of the rear, declared in the Chamber several months ago, when it was not yet known to which side victory would swing: 'We shall wage war to a victorious conclusion, but when we have reached our goal, we shall not prolong the war a single unnecessary hour,'—in spite of these promises, we are still waging war.

"The armistice signed November 11th was regarded by us with a feeling of relief, as it was the end of the bloody slaughter. But the yoke of military discipline did not become lighter for us. In fact, we began to feel its pressure more than ever. Before we knew what was happening to us we found ourselves in Russia to carry out in that country—we now recognize this to be the case—the most extensive and the most shameful attack on the lives and the liberty of the working class of which we are ourselves members.

"After landing at Odessa, unacquainted with the intentions of the government, we were absolutely at a loss concerning the political situation in the city.

"On December 18th, blindly obedient to the servants of capital, the officers, we insolently offended those whom we then did not know, but who are really the representatives of the coming, true Socialist republic. Forgive us, comrades and brothers! For on December 18th, we did not yet understand what was the interest in which we were opening fire. We now have the right to ask why our government stood in a relation of friendship to Russia when a Czar was at the head of that country, a despot, while today the condition has entirely

Bolshevism in the French Army, and in the French and British Navy

changed! It is well known that there is now a Soviet Republic in Russia. Are not our two republics therefore sisters in their ideas, in their intensions? Can they not therefore unite in pursuing their common objects? Or is the Soviet Republic altogether too Socialistic? The reason actually is that our imperialistic rulers are mouth-pieces not for the will of the people, but for their own interests. They do

Bolshevik Agitation

A report from Helsingfors recently stated that the French battleship *Curacao* which was the flagship of the English Baltic fleet, with a base at Helsingfors, has returned home, after a minor explosion which produced some damage. Our correspondent, however, learns that there is a report in Finnish military circles to the effect that the cause for sending the *Curacao* home, was not an explosion but a mutiny among the crew on board, who refused to operate against the fleet of the Russian Workers' Republic at Kronstadt. As the mutiny threatened to spread to other ships the battleship was sent home.

Mutiny in the French Baltic Fleet.

Reports from Tilsit are that the crew of the French squadron at Libau recently raised the Red flag. The crews of the warships demanded of their officers to be returned to France immediately.

The French vessels were immediately sent home and an English squadron steamed in to occupy their positions at the port of Libau.

French Soldiers in Southern Russia.

According to a Soviet wireless message, mentioned in *Avanti* of May 4th, General d'Anselme admitted in a conversation with representatives of the Odessa Soviet that the Bolshevik propaganda had "demoralized" sixty per cent of his soldiers.

violence to our own liberties when they sent us out to check the liberating international Socialist movement, of which we are so badly in need.

"Our place is not here. We have our own people who are eagerly waiting our homecoming from the districts which have but recently been freed from invasion. While our government should be devoting itself to realiz-

ing its first and most important duty, namely, that of restoring these provinces to a normal course of life both in material and a moral sense, it is actually imposing chains upon the liberties of the Russian people. Now it is clear to us that we are dealing with representatives of two classes. One class flatters us in order to confuse our minds, the other calls upon us in the name of the purest human feelings. We hope that within the next few days we can render account precisely for all that has happened and thus open the eyes of all the French workers, whose senses have been misled by the uninterrupted lies of the government press. We hope to be able to hasten to the aid of the Soviet Republic which is the only true democratic and Socialistic republic.

"A group of French Soldiers."

The above appeal shows very conclusively that the Entente troops in Russia are experiencing a real, revolutionary and Socialist education. Such soldiers will return to their respective home countries as excellent proclaimers of the truth to the working masses.

The newspaper of Deputy Brisson, *La Vague*, publishes a letter from a French sailor at Sebastopol, dated April 30, 1919. According to the letter the French are to evacuate Russia because the revolution has broken out on the French armored cruisers "France," "Justice," "Vergnac," and "Mirabeau," as well as some other vessels lying off Sebastopol, and on April 31st, the crews of the ships sang the International and raised the Red Flag. Those on shore leave joined the Bolsheviks and marched through the streets of Sebastopol. There were a number of encounters in which several persons were killed and wounded. When the sailors demanded that Russia be evacuated the Admiral replied with a promise that the evacuation should take place within fourteen days.

The sailor added in his letter that if Russia should not be evacuated all the French sailors would revolt and no longer be answerable for actions.

L'Humanite reports that of the one hundred and thirty thousand copies of *La Vague*, one hundred and twenty thousand were confiscated because of the publication of the above letter.

All Power to the Left Wing!

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Bolsheviks at all—Dennis E. Batt, O. C. Johnson and John Keracher. The program adopted at the Left Wing Conference (which the Call for a Communist Party adopts as its program) was opposed in fundamentals by these three Michigan comrades.

At the Conference, I challenged the comrade delegates of the Central Committees of the Russian and Lettish Federations to deny that the call for a new party issued by Michigan (around which they rallied) was not Bolshevik—but there was no answer to the challenge.

The Michigan comrades (I mean the "leaders" and not the membership) are in fundamentals antagonistic to Left Wing principles and tactics; they never adopted the Manifesto and Program of the Left Wing; they are, in fundamentals, Menshevik.

In other words, Stoklitsky, Stilson, Hourwich & Co. are willing to unite forces with comrades whom they admit are in theory actually antagonistic to Bolshevism; but they

split away from the Left Wing Conference which is so thoroughly Bolshevik that they adopt its program as the basis for their proposed new party.

The most miserable compromise lurks in this whole procedure. At the Conference, the Russian comrades rallied around the Michigan Call, which they admit was not Bolshevik; now the Michigan comrades accept a program which they opposed at our Conference and which they repudiate in fundamentals. This is petty politics, unworthy of men in the revolutionary movement.

A Communist Party must adhere to fundamental revolutionary principles. It must be uncompromising.

But the proposed new Communist Party starts with the most miserable compromise imaginable. It starts with elements which do not agree. It compromises in caucus, and starts as a swamp. It is these compromising comrades who at this moment are playing the "centre" game.

The Left Wing Conference repudiated

compromise. It decided upon an uncompromising party policy and adopted an uncompromising program.

The compromisers of the proposed "Communist Party" must be disciplined. They must be repudiated. They must realize the necessity of revolutionary discipline in the Left Wing.

At the Conference the Michigan delegates (who had not adopted the Left Wing Manifesto and Program) issued an ultimatum, that the Conference must either adopt their call and proposal for a Convention in September, or they would withdraw and proceed with their own plans. They acted directly against the unity and discipline of the Left Wing.

There is danger ahead, comrades, and particularly comrades of the Russian Federation. The vanity and the lust for power of leaders must be crushed. We must have revolutionary discipline. We must have a mass movement. There is only one Left Wing, organized in the National Council. All power to the Left Wing!