

The World Revolution

TO those for whom a revolution is nothing more than an attractive scenic exhibition, the stage of the world revolution has offered very little of interest within the past few weeks. While to those who see in a revolution nothing but disorder and riot, calamity and destruction, the past few weeks have caused endless weeping and lamentation. These two extremes are evidence of the change which is becoming apparent in those countries where revolution is in action—the change from the bourgeois to the proletarian revolution.

The decorative scenic exhibitions are missing—the momentary spell and glamour of bourgeois revolution, if it can be dignified by the name of revolution, has come to an end.

Destruction and disorder continue—the real revolutionists, who were suppressed by the old system, have grown so powerful that they are now able to destroy and crush that which oppressed them.

The revolution in action is disorder and destruction only in the eyes of an anti-revolutionist. It creates dissatisfaction only in the brain of an opponent of the revolution. Disorder and destruction are manifest only in comparison with the conditions existing prior to the revolution, with that order and system which is symbolical of oppression. In the same manner the disorder and destruction are ruinous only to those who idealize the political and sociological conceptions, teachings and system of the old oppressive order. To this extent a revolution is disorderly and destructive. It is in this that the essence of the revolution appears.

That which the bourgeois bewailers regard as the disorder of revolution, in its real significance, is not disorder. In part it is lack of permanent form, in part it is the emergence of the new structure. When the oppressed seek power through revolution, it is axiomatic, that the old order is not the fit instrument for the realization of the new ideas of life to which the revolutionists aspire. The old system must be destroyed and the new one created. During the struggle for the establishment of the new order, intervals occur when established ideals, teachings and system are lacking. Before the new society is stabilized there must of necessity be considerable conflict and frequent change. What the bourgeois bewailers term disorder is in reality the process of evolution from the old to the new, the constructive destruction of the revolutionary period.

To those who are semi-revolutionists it would be well to think these things over. Then they will not resort to the foolish arguments in which we, Finns, once sought consolation. When our bourgeoisie complained of the disorder of the Russian revolution, we consoled ourselves by thinking that it arose out of conditions peculiar to Russia alone, due to the lack of Russian organizing ability. When the Germans, the masters of technique and organization, create a revolution, there will be no disorder, we reasoned. And there was none, any more than there was in Russia. The same conditions existed, indeed no other conditions are possible. Organizing ability has little significance; in the countries where the revolutionary masses have greater ability the new order will be established in shorter time, provided the counter-revolutionary forces are not disproportionately stronger.

The above illustrates the evolutionary stage which the world revolution has reached today

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in Eastern, Central and parts of Southern Europe. The proletarian revolution is progressing in all these parts. In the Balkans, the Baltic States and Poland it is rapidly being moulded for action. In Austria and Germany it is shaping itself and waiting the opportunity to present its formulated plans, to replace the fantastic with the realistic.

A glance at the situation will reveal the struggling proletariat facing victorious Imperialism. The former still disorganized, as yet scarcely sensing international unity and groping for an affective form of international alliance. From the crushed imperialists of the defeated nations, the proletariat has inherited nothing but ruins, ashes and hunger. On the other hand, the victorious imperialists, the war lords of the world, have a firm international alliance, fortified by complex conditions. From

Left Wing Finances

To the readers of *The Revolutionary Age* it is only necessary to say that the Left Wing National Council has no purpose other than to spread and stabilize the propaganda of Socialism which this paper has carried on since last November. There is no immediate basis for this work outside of voluntary contributions by individuals and Party branches. The task between now and August 30th is overwhelming in its complexities and of crucial importance to the future of the revolutionary working class movement in this country. Our appeal for immediate donations should not be passed over unanswered by any reader of *The Revolutionary Age* who can possibly help in this emergency.

The accounting for these funds will appear in this paper.

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an economic standpoint the victorious imperialists are in a much stronger position. Though there is destruction and ruin in their territories, yet they control areas having abundance of food.

Between the two forces a conflict, which will determine the outcome of the world revolution, is inevitable. Is it possible that the proletariat will conquer?

When German Imperialism fell, all the conservative elements felt certain that millions of Entente soldiers would be led against the revolutionary proletariat of the different nations. Even the revolutionists everywhere feared that this would be so, though they were confident that the result would be the revolutionizing of the Entente armies. Before this transformation could occur, however, they feared that much injury and suffering would be the portion of the revolutionary proletariat.

But English Imperialism has at its disposal many more clever statesmen than Germany.

The Germans rushed their armies into Finland, the Baltic States, Ukraine, and Poland, and because of their shortsightedness, in this manner hastened the approach of their own destruction. English Imperialism expects to avoid this mistake. It would be ridiculous to maintain that England could not accomplish much harm with her armies wherever she pleased; but it would be bad diplomacy and she therefore desists.

The English diplomats can exercise self-denial when victory requires it and they have the ability to judge the outcome of the future with more or less accuracy; two qualities that the German lords lacked completely.

The imperialistic statesmen of England seem to see clearly that they are standing on the top of a volcano. They seem to be somewhat uncertain as to their ability to prevent an eruption and they are working, first to prevent the outbreak and second to delay it as long as possible. And this is where their prudence is evident.

English industry has been entirely organized on a war basis. Now it must be changed to suit the requirements of peace. The interval caused by the transition has caused much dissatisfaction. Discharged soldiers swell the ranks of the unemployed. Charitable donations are insufficient to relieve the distress. But, it will be asked, has not there been sufficient time to establish industry on a peace basis? Most certainly, but there are other difficulties in the way. Raw materials must be obtained, and markets must be found for the surplus product. It would be possible to confiscate the raw material from the vanquished nations, Germany and Russia. But what about the markets? It will be asked, does not the proletariat need products? True, but they are so exhausted economically that they will not be a good market for England for many years to come. The other entente nations, France and Italy will in all probability not make good markets for England either, as they are faced with the same problem of changing their industries from a war to a peace basis, and in order to avoid disturbances caused by unemployment they also must produce on a large scale. If each of the Entente nations is successful in making this change, then each will be compelled to seek markets outside of the Entente group. The result of this surplus production and capitalist competition will be new antagonisms between the nations of the Entente. Here is cause for more wars—and for revolution.

The English statesmen suspect something of this sort, therefore they are proceeding very carefully, step by step, on the top of the volcano.

English diplomacy has been very successful historically. It does not boast if it calls itself unconquerable, but even it has met its master in the proletariat of the world revolution.

Today a political victory is a Pyrrhic victory. The revolutionary proletariat even in England has deserted its electoral program. There the tide of the general strike rises higher and higher each week; the growth of the revolutionary passion. We hear it murmur like the roar of the distant sea. It is the murmur of revolution, as yet incoherent. The lords, imperialist statesmen, may for a short time continue this incoherence, but it will not be for long. The millions of the English workers march on towards revolution.

So the world revolution moves toward the final stroke. Are you ready, comrades?