

The International Movement

The changing character of the revolutionary movements in Russia, when compared with those of twenty and more years ago, is illustrated by the fact, that between 1884 and 1890 two-thirds of the political prisoners were intellectuals. In the period 1901—1903 their number had decreased to one-quarter and between 1906—1911 to one-tenth of the total number of political offenders.

Fifteen fellow-workers of the I. W. W. in San Francisco have been charged with having "conspired and agreed together and with each other unlawfully, willfully and feloniously to make or convey false statements with intent to interfere with the operations for the success of the military and naval forces of the United States, etc."

The charge is based directly on membership of the I. W. W.: that these people have received cards of membership and had voted in meeting of the I. W. W., paid dues and distributed literature and subscribe to certain principles which interfere with the success of the military and naval forces and obstruct recruiting and enlistment. Funds to be sent to the Fresno Workers Liberation League, 85 Third St., San Francisco, Cal.

At a Congress of labor unions in Petrograd, July 19th and 20th, a resolution was passed unanimously by two hundred and fifty delegates from different parts of Russia, voicing an indignant protest against the contemptible slander of the counter-revolutionists, against worthy leaders in the labor movement, such as Lenin, Trotzky, Zinovief, Kamjenef, etc. The Congress considers this an attack on the entire working class and its organizations. A similar protest was adopted at the general meeting of the executives of the Councils of Workingmen and Soldiers of all Russia on July 23rd.

It is the object of the Russian Bolsheviks to overthrow the Government of the Bourgeoisie and the reformists, to conclude a proletarian peace through a European proletarian Revolution.

For some time there was a rumor that Liebknecht was in a dying condition, which was denied by the social patriotic semi-governmental paper "Vorwärts."

The German Left Wing paper "Kampf" (Struggle) answers:

The government organ on order from above, tries to create the impression that Liebknecht is feeling alright in prison and is properly treated. The "Vorwärts" knows perfectly well that this is a lie. Unfortunately, Liebknecht is by no means feeling well. It is true that he is not ill as was reported, but if his torturers are not yet so far, this is due to the iron constitution of Liebknecht and the power of his will. The intention to get rid of him, no doubt, exists, for the food given to him is not only totally insufficient, but inferior in every respect.

It was comrade Ruhle who recently shouted in the Reichstag: "They starve Liebknecht." If things develop according to the will of the German

rulers, this valiant fighter for the working class, whose heroic spirit so far could not be broken by all the tortures behind prison walls, will not leave the prison alive.

Form a Manifesto of the International Organization of Young People's Socialist League in Zurich, August, 1917:

"Nowadays even a child in the most distant village knows that this is not a war waged for the defense of any kind of a civilization, but that the armies of millions fight and die for the sake of profits. The cause of this war and of the mutual strangling of the peoples is simply and alone the Imperialistic policy of groups of capitalists, the struggle for world conquests and world exploitation by Big Interests. And the responsibility for this gigantic blood-orgy falls on the Governments, together with the treacherous social patriots. The workers and revolutionary socialists have no part in this war. The most active among them pay behind prison for their faith towards international solidarity and their fervor for peace. To fight the class struggle for the speedy end of the war, is the first and most holy duty of the revolutionary Proletariat."

The number of Conscientious Objectors in Holland, who have preferred to go to jail rather than to submit, has increased to over one hundred and fifty.

It may be interesting to learn that even a general in the Holland army pleads for exemption, partly on purely military grounds. He claims that not only alternative service connected with military service should be organized, but writes: "It may be expected and it is sensible that in general Conscientious Objectors for principle's sake, will refuse this kind of service. It cannot be approved to treat such men as criminals in a court martial and to put them in jail. It is our duty to end this evil, which has become actual on account of the mobilization, by some special ruling."

Food demonstrations in different large cities of Switzerland tied up the street car traffic for several hours.

Kerensky in his final address to the Moscow Congress said: "The Russian (provisional) Government does not regret having called this conference, for although it has not secured practical results, it has given an opportunity to all Russian citizens to say openly what they have on their minds. And that is essential for the State."

Better than all criticism these words of Kerensky himself show the complete failure of the counter-revolutionary Moscow Conference.

One of the most interesting moves in England is the preparation of capital to meet the labor situation after the war.

The English Government officially adopted the June report of the Special Committee, previously commented upon in these notes. Concurrently with the announcement of this decision, the em-

ployers made it known that they are forming a great combination to protect capital and to adjust the relations between employers and employees.

The Government is to establish in each industry a council, in which employers and employees are represented and will have an equal control over all matters affecting their common interests, with the exception of buying, selling and finances!

The English capitalists gladly accept this scheme but at the same time build a strong organization of their own, both to meet their commercial enemies abroad and their class enemies at home in case this new scheme of labor peace might prove a failure.

It is reported that many labor unions (read leaders of labor unions) have also accepted the government industrial councils, but that there is considerable opposition from the more radical elements in the labor movement.

New conflicts in the class war throw their shadows before, and the days of the old craft union leaders belong to the past. Industrial organization and state capitalism gradually take a more definite shape and character.

The French Majority Socialists refused to support the new cabinet of which Painlevé was the head. Their opposition largely concentrated against the foreign minister Ribot. The latter now has been dropped and the Socialist Majority in France once more will line up behind the Government. But the intense feeling of discontent among the workers and soldiers is rapidly growing.

An Austrian regiment consisting mainly of Serbians from Bosnia, deserted as a unit to the Rumanians. Only through the most brutal discipline and wholesale murder can the Austrian army be kept together. It will be remembered in the early days of the war, that whole regiments had to be court martialed and in some instances every third man shot.

A most unbelievable example of terrorizing the civilian population is reported in the Vienna "Arbeiterzeitung" of August 16, 1917:

A trial for high treason resulted in six death sentences and ninety-one years of hard labor, mostly for boys and girls from high school between fifteen and seventeen, the only crime being the distribution from hand to hand and by mouth of a resolution without even the intention of actually influencing politics. Each boy or girl who read the resolution and passed it to a friend was sentenced to death. These most revolting achievements of justice were stopped by the amnesty after the death of the old emperor, but the sentences will form a lasting contribution to the picture of our Imperialistic civilization.

An eye witness of the raid recently on the headquarters of the Bolsheviks in Petrograd gives some particulars which strongly remember similar events under the Government of the Czar, as well as certain recent happenings in the United States.

One hundred soldiers in four autos, together with two armored autos appeared before the building in which the Bolsheviks have their office. The rifles were loaded, the machine guns pointed at the windows of the office, and the officers entered with drawn revolvers to find in the office two women and one man, who were put under arrest. The women were questioned at the point of the revolver. All the papers, books, flags, money etc., were confiscated and the efforts of several months' organization completely destroyed.

Not one single bomb or weapon nor any document pointing towards relations with German Headquarters was discovered, but nevertheless the office was completely robbed.

TROTZKY AND LENIN.

In an open letter to the Kerensky ministers, published in the Pravda Correspondence No. 15, a statement is made by Leon Trotzky in relation to the revolt in Petrograd on July 16th and 17th.

Trotsky shows that the demonstration developed spontaneously and was not even considered opportune by the "leaders." After the advice of Zinovief, Kamjenew and Trotsky had remained without effect and the demonstration actually took place, it was strongly supported, however, also by those who originally were not in favor of the action.

Trotsky further declares: "My principles are the same as those of Lenin, Zinovief and Kamjenew and I have always publicly defended those principles in my paper 'Wpered' and in all my speeches. The fact that I do not belong to the Pravda and the organization of the Bolsheviks does not result from differences in politics, but is caused by circumstances which divided the parties in the past, but have lost at present every meaning."

Trotsky then challenges the government as follows: "What I have here stated shows clearly that there is no logical reason whatever to omit me in the warrant to arrest Zinovief, Lenin and Kamjenew, which arrest is only the result of counter revolutionary despotism."

The I. W. W. continues its activities, undaunted by the destruction of their records and the loss of typewriters, adding machines, mailing lists and office equipment. New members were even secured while the raids were in progress. The most widely known members and officials, practically all the "leaders" have been taken to jail, and still the I. W. W. halls are open and business continues as usual, even better than usual. Such is the characteristic of mass-action in Russia, as in the United States and mass-action is the only force for victory.