

THE CLASS STRUGGLE

Vol. II JANUARY—FEBRUARY, 1918 No. 1

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A Letter from Leon Trotzky to Ex-Minister Jules Guesde

Translated by MARIUS.

(This letter was first printed in the French periodical "Demain," of the Zimmerwaldist Guilbeaux, Geneva, August, 1917. It was addressed to Jules Guesde when the Government of the French Republic, in coalition with the Social patriots, ordered the expulsion of one of the most enlightened and self-sacrificing representatives of international Socialism.)

Mr. Minister: Before I leave the soil of France, under the escort of a police officer, who personifies the liberties in whose defense you were appointed to the national ministry, I consider it my duty to express to you a few thoughts, not in the vain hope that they may convince you, but that they may at least be useful and of value against you. When my expulsion from France was decided upon, your colleague, Mr. Malvy, the Minister of Justice, did not have the courage to tell me the reasons for this measure. Nor did that other of your colleagues, the Minister of War, consider it proper to enumerate the causes that led to the suppression of the Russian newspaper "Nashe Slovo" (Our Word), of which I was the editor, and which had, for two long years, suffered continually the trials of censorship, under the watchful eye and special care of that same Minister of War.

Still I need not conceal from you the fact that the reasons that led to my expulsion are no secret to me. You felt the need of adopting repressive measures against an international Socialist, against one of those who refuse to accept the part of defender or voluntary slave of this imperialistic war.