

details of the Bolshevik experiment. He said:

"Almost all the Bolshevik leaders are people who have returned from America. These were supplemented by an immense swarm of criminals released from Siberia, as also liberated criminals from the prisons in Moscow, Petrograd and other places. A certain number of those exiled to Siberia under the old régime were political prisoners, but a far greater number were actual criminals.

"The first thing that these did after getting back to Russia was to burn courts and police courts. They thus destroyed records and Rogues' Galleries. With the records of their criminality destroyed, they could safely pose as political martyrs. With great assurance they did so. This explains why so many criminals became Presidents of Soviets, and this helps to explain also the bloody conflicts between villages, and why so many criminals are in control. Every town and village has the right to have a Revolutionary Tribunal, and can decree anything it pleases. All laws have been abolished. Only those having certificates of being thorough-going Bolsheviks can be elected to Soviets or Revolutionary Tribunals. The principle (!) prevails everywhere that 'Anybody who has been in Siberia and has suffered from the law ought to know something about it.'

"While on the subject of the criminals running Russia, it is well here to advert to a description of some of them given by General A. Dobrajansky, who recently arrived in New York City as the representative of a group of united Russians. General Dobrajansky says:

"As an instance of the calibre of men composing the various Soviets, (self-elected representatives of the Workmen's and Soldiers' Committee), let me cite a few names of the members of the Soviet of Blagowestchensk. We have the President, Tobelson, a German spy, ex-jailbird and robber; Mochin of the Executive Committee, a deserter from the Russian army, a counterfeiter and ex-jailbird; his assistant, Tchatskovsky, also an ex-jailbird; Commissioner of Prisons, Emilianoff, ex-jailbird and robber; his assistant, Nakileff, previously condemned to jail for robbery; the Commissioner of Food, who was convicted for misappropriation of funds; Korovin, Commissioner of Schools, an ex-jailbird; Tilliek, convicted for robbery, now Commissioner of Finance; Mithin, Commissioner of Militia, an ex-jailbird, and finally, we have as Commissioner of Health, an illiterate peasant. And these are the men who are at the head of affairs in Russia to-day!

"To return now to Professor Grundy's statement:

"Does the Soviet system represent the people's will? you ask. It does not. It is forced on the people. There are no real elections. The Bolsheviks use the Red Guards to pack assemblies and force their candidates. Voters are exclusively Bolsheviks, and only Bolsheviks or those having no property can be eligible to office. This claim of Bolsheviks being propertyless is not true. Many of them have amassed money. In all my tour I met only a few of them who were honest. School-masters are not eligible for Bolshevik village Soviets. They are too intelligent, and are regarded as intellectuals.

"Soviets have been the great craze. Every great apartment house has a Soviet. Every factory was put under the domination of a so-called Council of Workmen. I personally saw the application of the theory to many factories. For example, Koopp's agricultural machine factory, employing 500 men, at Alexandroffsky, near Rostoff. The Council of Workmen in this factory voted to make Koopp an employee at 500 roubles a month, and made one of the loudest talking workmen (who was also President of the Soviet), Director of the factory. They voted themselves salary increases of from 800 to 1,000 per cent.

"Every day the workmen held meetings, sometimes lasting several hours, in the factory. There they discussed their rights and privileges, but the words duties and obligations were unknown to them. They also voted themselves the right, 'as an intellectual necessity', to read newspapers during supposed working hours. Nominally, they 'worked' eight hours, but literally, not more than four and a half a day. But they paid themselves for all time spent in meetings, reading newspapers and loafing. The funds they obtained by rifling the factory vaults, and when they were empty, they went to Koopp's house and to the banks where he kept his private account, and under threat of using arms, took away what money remained. In all, they seized about 1,000,000 roubles. Many of his workmen were members of the Red Guard. If one of these Red Guards stayed at the factory twelve hours a day with his rifle he would put in a claim for overtime and had to be paid from the factory funds. Workmen brought in their girls to the factory at night, and voted themselves pay for this 'overtime'. After the Germans took Rostoff, Koopp's factory was returned to him.

"This is a typical instance of what has happened everywhere in Russia under Bolshevik power. Many of the technical staff of the factories were killed on the charge of their being 'bourgeoisie'. Many other administrators, experts, foremen and others fled. Still others of the technical staff who escaped death were ordered to go to the