

AMERICAN SCABBERATION OF LABOR

The first week of the annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor in Atlantic City would seem to have demonstrated once more the backwardness of American organized labor and the inadequacy of American labor leadership as exemplified by the so-called "Gompers' machine." This backwardness and inadequacy, obvious enough and disastrous enough in the piping times of peace, stand out with startling clearness against the world's present social unrest, and are well-nigh fatal to the chances of an intelligent American movement toward reconstruction. With labor in England and on the Continent demanding participation in the management and control of industry, the progressive abandonment of the wage system, and the institution of an entirely new social order; with half of Europe in the grip of communism, and the other half agitating the elements of social philosophy, acutely aware of what it is discussing and where the argument leads—with such an object lesson before its eyes, the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, and dominated still by the old blind leadership, supports the peace treaty and the League of Nations, dedicates its efforts to the stamping out of Bolshevism, and wastes its days in a futile discussion of superficial issues. The magnificent speech of Miss Margaret Bondfield, fraternal delegate from England, in which she outlined the ambitions and purposes of British Labor toward a new social order, fell upon the convention like a message from another planet. Mr. Gompers, from the platform, has already branded the whole Pacific Coast delegation as "Bolsheviki." "The autocrats of American labor are in control," comments a wise observer. "They have the power of the Gompers machine behind them, and they are going to use it ruthlessly. If the convention finishes as it has begun, there is likely not to be any American Federation of Labor a year from now. Its powerful machine-control is wholly out of touch with the times; and the more vital impulses of the rank and file are plainly in evidence. If they are not absorbed by the leadership, they will disintegrate the organization."

A REPLY TO THE PRESS LIES CONCERNING "KOLCHAK"

For weeks the people of the Allied world were fed on stories of the swift success of the armies of Kolchak. On March 13th he captured Ufa from the retreating Bolsheviki. On May 15th he took Samara in heavy-faced type on the front page of our daily papers. Other military victories followed in rapid succession. At almost the same time, Petrograd was reported to be on fire and in a state of explosion, starvation, and evacuation. Then, suddenly, the bubble broke. It was first publicly pricked in a dispatch published by the New York Globe from its special correspondent at Petrograd telling that the city was intact, and prepared for its defence to the last man and woman; that the people were hungry, but persisted in tracing their hunger to the Allied blockade rather than to the rule of the Soviets; and that Kolchak and his Allied arms were retreating rapidly on all fronts. Immediately following this news, Winston Churchill, British War Minister, speaking in the House, admitted that "the check to Admiral Kolchak's advance was now more pronounced, and that no attempt should be made to encourage extravagant hopes in that quarter." Samara, it appears, fell only in the headlines of the papers. Ufa was retaken by the Bolsheviki on June 9. The correspondent of the Globe stated that the peasants in the region evacuated by Kolchak, although "previously dissatisfied with the Soviet rule, are now flocking to enlist in the Red Army." At the same time, representatives of the remnants of Soviet rule in Siberia warned the Allies that "the population of Siberia would not acknowledge any guarantees made in their name by the Government of Kolchak, and that they would rise against the interference with their internal struggle of 'all foreign detachments of troops on the territory of Siberia.'" That this is more than a paper manifestation is evidenced by the Association Press reports of Bolshevik strikes and disorders on the Trans-Siberian Railway, and by Kolchak's own admission that the country is riddled with Bolshevism. A captain in the Intelligence Division of the American Expeditionary Force serving in Siberia states in an amazing article in Hearst's Magazine for June that "ninety-five per cent. of the people in Siberia are Bolshevik," while "the Trans-Siberian Railway is virtually in the hands of the Bolsheviki." Kolchak's one support is his army, and even in the army, according to the report of a recent arrival from Siberia, writing in the New York Times, every soldier is "as much a Bolshevik as the soldier he was fighting against." No wonder the Admiral's progress is swiftly and steadily toward the Pacific—or that the Big Four with their hopeless capacity for betting on the wrong horse in Russia have chosen this hour to uphold him.

AN APPEAL TO THE WORKERS OF THE ALLIES

By G. Chicherin.

(People's Commissar on Foreign Affairs of the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic.)

Translated by W. J. Sidis.

We call to the workers of the Allied countries to bring pressure to bear on their governments not to crush and stifle the Russian revolution. At the time the armies of the Allies and the White Guard, supported by the Allied governments, began the attack on the Russian Soviet Government, they stated that it was necessary in the interests of France, and it was declared to be a blow at Germany. However, even at that time of the war those armies operated rather like allies of Germany. Though they were fighting separately from the German forces, their enemy was the same: the Russian revolution. The attack of the Allied forces prevented the Russian revolution from defending itself against the incoming German soldiers, and even took away the strength necessary for protecting the revolution from invasion.

The warring powers, which, in the course of the world war, shed the blood of many millions of proletarians in order to annihilate each other, together attacked the revolution of the Russian workers and peasants. From that day when the German people freed themselves from the yoke of the Kaiser and consented to an unconditional surrender to the conquerors, the war of the Allies on Russia could no longer be called a war against Germany. Therefore, the hirelings of the capitalist press have been busy piling up the most abominable accusations against the Russian revolution.

But if even German Imperialism had to fall, the masses of the people understood that it served the interests of the enslavers of the masses; and the military power of the entente nations will be too weak to destroy the revolution, for the general awakening of the masses of the workers and soldiers will not permit them to come out in the role of executioner of freedom for the destruction of revolution.

In Bessarabia and Ukraine these armies have refused to become the unthinking instruments of oppression. In London and Paris the workers have also come out against the suppression of Russian freedom.

Workers of the Allied countries, do not believe your governments. They are deceiving you. Though they are sending no more troops to Russia, they are continuing the blockade.

They have established a regime of the most unbridled reaction in Poland, and, under their orders, the Polish working masses are being shot down. Your governments are supporting the Boyar (Junker) government in Rumania, and are making it possible for the military party in Finland to establish itself into a government.

Poles, Rumanians, Finns, Germans,—the reactionaries, the monarchists of Southern Russia and Siberia, living in wealth and luxury,—that is who is conducting a desperate struggle against Soviet Russia, cut off from the grain regions, deprived of the most necessary provisions, and suffering from the torments of famine and unemployment.

The Allied governments call the Russian revolution the work of the dregs of humanity. They shamelessly declare that "these culprits must be summarily dealt with," and at the same time declare that they have abandoned all intention of intervention.

They wish to make the workers of their countries believe that they are hurrying aid to Russia in its misfortune by sending food. They would be willing to send their regiments against us, were they assured that the soldiers would not refuse to obey. They do not spare materials or ammunition in trying to help the most savage reaction and the most terrible monarchists and exploiters in their struggle against the revolution of the workers and peasants of Russia.

And these governments still wish to make us believe in their sincerity and they do not reveal their perfidy to the workers of their countries.

Workers of the entente nations! The workers and peasants of Russia will not lay down their arms while the enemy is not driven from their territory. They are not afraid of any sacrifices, they will bear the pangs of hunger and want with unshaken bravery, and they ask you not to weaken the pressure on your governments until you make them abstain from any direct or indirect attempt at attacking the Russian revolution.

Make your governments stop their infernal game and treacherous attempts. Let them not crush the freedom of the Russian workers and peasants.