

From "Soviet Russia"

3rd April, 1920

THOSE who are convinced that "bolshevik propaganda" is the source of all evil and discomfort in the world find no difficulty in tracing to Russia all the revolutionary disturbances taking place in other countries. The chief task of such persons at present is to demonstrate the alleged origin of the revolutionary government set up in the Ruhr district in Germany last month, in the activities of "Russian agents" operating in Holland and Western Germany. The Naples uprising will of course find a similar explanation from these glib philosophers.

But others will wish to remember that propaganda does not produce social upheavals, but rather expresses them, formulates them, makes them conscious instead of merely impulsive. Such persons will not be able to forget the conditions that have made the recent events in Germany inevitable. And their position can be very readily stated:

By an ingenious social welfare system, the German people had become in 1914 the best fed and most comfortable in Europe, and an efficient educational establishment had labored hard and successfully to make them attribute their well-being to the Hohenzollern dynasty and its institutions. Willingly, even enthusiastically, they plunged into the war that was to make their country the master of the world and spread its institutions so that they would embrace most of Europe, and distribute the benefits of a new colonial exploitation over a great European population. Without dwelling on the horrors of war, of which all Americans have read, of which a number have had real experience, and the consequences if which Americans are bearing, together with the rest of the world, we merely point out to our readers that when the attempt inaugurated in August, 1914, broke down in November, 1918, it was as a result of a systematic impoverishment and starvation of the Central European peoples that left them the most undernourished, diseased, and desperate populations in Europe. A government was set up in Germany after the flight of the Kaiser to Holland, that was to secure to the German people the liberty they had lacked under the Kaiser, the liberty that would enable them to avoid in the future tortures like those suffered in 1914-1918. But it soon became apparent that while Germany now had a President named Ebert instead of a Kaiser named Wilhelm, the policy of the government remained chauvinistic and imperialistic, as it necessarily would so long as the capitalistic and agrarian classes still remained in charge of the policies of the nation;—many of the worst members of this set even continued to hold the bureaucratic positions that had been the expression and instrument of their power in the past. Of course all demands of the workers to control their industrial life were ignored.

At first, the opposition to the continued existence in Germany of the system that had brought its people to disaster in the recent past, was disorganized and ineffective. Uprisings took place before the end of 1918 in many cities; they were ruthlessly put down by the new "democratic" government; on December 6, 1918, machine guns were used in the streets of Berlin, and again in the early weeks of January, 1919; the assassination of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, who had always stood for a complete control of Germany by the workers themselves, on January 15, is still within the memory of all. Less definitely proletarian efforts were made all over Germany to unseat the old aristocracy, which still administered the various states on the old bureaucratic lines. Every time such a movement resulted in the formation of an even liberal government murder and violence were resorted to by the reactionaries to put it down. This is the fact, for instance, behind the assassination of the gentle Kurt Eisner at Munich (February 23, 1919). The unrest springing from such situations in several cases (as in March at Munich, as a result of Eisner's death) made possible the establishment of Soviet Governments (Räteregierungen). How they were put down is well known. The workers and their leaders had short shrift. The execution of Gustav Landauer is a typical case. In a word, Germany became a seething mass of repression and class hatred—a class hatred produced not by the

teachings of Marx, but by the fact that the reactionaries, who had no desire to carry out Marx's Doctrines, enforced and emphasized the truth of his position to the point where it became more than painfully evident. Every one knows that at the first opportunity the German people would seek to wrest the power from the unscrupulous clique who called themselves socialists and who were nevertheless administering the country in the interests of the powers that had been allegedly displaced on November 8, 1918.

It is one of the characteristic ironies of History that Luttwitz and Kapp should be the inauguration of open proletarian revolution in Germany, as Eisner's murderer had been in Bavaria a year before. It was the effort to restore monarchy and Kaiser, to whom would be assigned the task of organizing Germany for the campaign against "Russian Bolshevism," that was the opportunity of the German workers to rise all over Germany and establish governments of their own. What added contribution "Russian propaganda" could have made to this situation is not a question of great importance.

From My Note Book

By H. M. Bartholomew

The Editor has been saying some kind things to me, and has suggested that I try and make this column of random notes a regular feature of the "Clarion." I have agreed to his suggestion, but the consequence of his rash act must be placed upon his shoulders.

The Socialist, in his criticism of the existing social order, points to the endless and senseless waste which is the inevitable fruit of uncontrolled competition. An instance of that waste can be seen in the recent report of the Health Commissioner of Chicago, who vouches for the figures which follow:—

During the year 1918 there were over two million pounds of foodstuffs destroyed in the great metropolis because of their total unfitness for human consumption. There were 312,068 pounds of meat, 148,969 pounds of fish, 68,233 pounds of poultry, 240,553 pounds of fresh vegetables, 102,227 pounds of canned figs, 369,912 pounds of other canned fruits, 527,493 pounds of canned vegetables and 19,572 pounds of eggs wasted by the commercial cold storage firms of Chicago.

And this prodigious waste in **only one city**, at the time when there was supposed to be a great shortage in foodstuffs.

The publication of secret Treaties and of diplomatic conversations previous to the Great War, bring to light convincing proof of the hollowness of the war cries current during the early part of the war. "War to end war," "A crusade against Prussianism," "War to make the world safe for democracy." How do our statesmen square these pious statements with the damning report of the Serbian Charge d'Affaires in London. That official reported to his government that:

"France and her Allies are of the opinion that the war . . . must be postponed until the year 1914-15." (Memorandum dated September 8th, 1911).

Moreover, on February 25th, 1912, the Russian Ambassador in London reported to Sazanov, the Russian Foreign Minister, a conversation with M. Cambon, which left him with the impression that: "Of all the powers, France is the only one which, not to say that it wishes war, would yet look upon it with great regret."

Last of all, upon February 21st of the fateful year 1914, a War Council was held in Petrograd

"To elaborate a general programme of action in order to secure for us (the Russians) a favorable solution of the historical question of the Straits." And the view was then expressed that "the struggle for Constantinople will be impossible outside of a general European war."

No wonder the Allied Powers are no longer pressing for the trial of the men who were responsible for the war!

We must not forget that there are a good many Prussians in Canada who are ready and willing to pursue the same relentless policy attributed to the All Highest Wilhelm. Before me is a confidential letter sent to most of the manufacturers of Eastern Canada by G. M. Murray, formerly general manager of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. This Apostle of Capitalism desires to estab-

lish a bureau for the purpose of "a careful and systematic review" of all the newspapers published in this country. This review has, for its purpose, the "black-listing" of all those journals who dare to publish views and opinions which tend to "hamper legitimate business." Mr. Murray has especially in mind those journals who preach the class-war and advocate the One Big Union. He would, by means of his "bureau" supervise the "shepherding of advertisements," or as he himself tells us:

"If a paper persistently giving expression to such views were to lose the advertising patronage extended to it by Canadian manufacturers it would probably occasion no surprise. Certain it is that if all manufacturers were to withdraw from it, it would not long survive."

It is the way of the Capitalist that when he cannot answer an argument he tries to bludgeon the advocate.

And what an awful howl the aforesaid "Canadian manufacturers" would raise if the workers of Canada started a similar boycott of Capitalist newspapers on their own.

Moreover, it seems to me that those who so persistently state that there is no class-warfare in modern society had better read Mr. Murray's letter for themselves. It is the best fighting defence of Capitalist warfare which has come my way for a considerable time.

I read in a paper the other day that Sir Oliver Lodge (whom "Punch" once called Sir Gulliver Stodge) receives a salary of \$1,000 for every lecture he delivers upon Spiritualism. This is the answer to those well meaning folk who state that religion and commercialism are diametrically opposed. What is more, it seems to prove the assertion made by a "wag" to me the other day, that the cost of living in "spook-land" is as high, if not higher, than it is under mundane Capitalism.

In the village of Oust-Khoperesk, the local Soviet was arrested by Kolehak's army. After cruel torture on the rack, all five members were shot. One of them, a miner named Grachev, told his executors that:

"I am an old convinced Communist. I learnt Communism in the collieries, and death alone can part me from my convictions. If you offered me life in exchange for my convictions I should refuse. Only your bullets can force me to be silent. But don't forget that in the Veronekh Government I have four young boys, who will take a terrible revenge for my martyrdom. They will follow the same path along which I went for years in the fight against violence and evil."

The "Izvestia" commenting upon this dying statement, says:

"Not only Grachev's four sons will remember their fathers heroic death, but all the sons of Soviet Russia, all the sons of Communists."

And the journal might have added that Socialists everywhere will not forget, but will press forward in the fight against that system which answers arguments with the assassins bullet and strives to strangle ideas with the hangman's rope.

When I read of the courage of our Russian comrade, I could not but remember those famous lines of Lowell:

"When a deed is done for Freedom, through the broad earth's aching breast,
Runs a thrill of joy prophetic, trembling on from east to west,
And the slave where'er he cowers, feels the soul within him rise,
To the awful verge of manhood, as the energy sublime
Of a century bursts full-blossomed on the thorny stem of time."

SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

WESTERN CLARION.

A Journal of History, Economics, Philosophy and Current Events.

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of Canada

Issued twice-a-month, at 401 Pender Street East, Vancouver, B. C. Phone: High. 2583.

Rate: 20 Issues for One Dollar. Make all moneys payable to E. MacLeod.

For enclosed herewith,
send issues to:—

Name

Address