

MILITARISM  
WILL DESTROY  
THE  
PEOPLE

# THE CANADIAN FORWARD

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MILITARISM

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## "NO ANNEXATION AMENDMENT" DEFEATED IN BRITISH COMMONS

The motion before the House was the reading for the third time of the Bill for the Consolidated Fund which involves the War Credits.

### Snowden Leads Off.

Mr. Snowden: I beg to move to leave out from the word "That" to the end of the Question, in order to add the words, "this House welcomes the declaration of the new democratic Government of Russia, repudiating all proposals for imperialistic conquest and aggrandizement, and calls on His Majesty's Government to issue a similar declaration on behalf of the British democracy, and to join with the Allies in restating the Allied terms in conformity with the Russian declaration."

Since the last occasion, three months ago, when the question of peace terms was raised in debate from these benches, two events of profound importance have occurred—the democratic revolution in Russia and the entry of America into the war.

### The Russian Revolution.

No event in our generation has so thrilled the world as the Russian revolution. It has given us a new hope in democracy and revived our faith in Internationalism. It has given us a hope that the war aims which have been declared by the statesmen of the various countries—the maintenance of civilization and the triumph of democracy—are going to be realized in the only way in which these ideals and aims can be realized, that is, by the peoples of the different countries.

I need say little about the character and policy of the old Russian order. It was frankly Imperialistic. We were made publicly aware near the end of last year by a declaration made in the Russian Duma of the fact, of which some of us were fairly well convinced before, that for some time a secret compact had existed between Great Britain and Russia conceding to Russia, in the event of an Allied victory, certain territory, including the occupation of Constantinople.

When that declaration was made we heard the first rumbling of the coming revolution. It became quite evident that this frankly announced policy of Russia's Imperialistic aims in the war was not accepted by the democratic representatives in the Duma. Twelve of them were suspended, amongst them Kerensky, who is now a member of the Provisional Government, and the President of the Workmen's Council. We have here the real inwardness of the Russian revolution.

### Kerensky's Splendid Challenge.

I beg the House to listen while I read an extract from a speech delivered by M. Kerensky in the Duma recently at a reception given to certain foreign delegates. He said:

"You must know that Russian democracy is now the mistress of the Russian land. We have decided to put an end for ever in our country to all attempts at Imperialism and

usurpation, for we do not wish the enslavement of anyone. We believe in the idea of liberty, equality and fraternity for all the peoples. The enthusiasm which animates Russian democracy springs from the knowledge that the dream of a brotherhood of all nations is approaching realization. Russian democrats will maintain to the end the position created by the declarations of the Provisional Government and the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' delegates. We will not permit a return to the old aims of a war of usurpation. We beg you to convey to your Governments and the workmen of France and Great Britain that these are the true sentiments of the Russian people."

We are responding this afternoon to the appeal from the leaders of the Russian revolutionary movement. The declaration of the Provisional Government is clear and specific, and it is endorsed by the whole of the Russian people.

Continuing, Mr. Snowden reminded the House of the attempt recently

clear from all the declarations which come from representative opinion that Russia's mind is now on peace. That is the dominating idea.

### War Aims: America in Line.

They have placed themselves in line with the declaration of the American President in the speech that he delivered to Congress when he announced America's entrance into the war. In that speech he said:

"We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquests and no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves and no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make."

There you have a little more fully expressed the formula, "No annexations and no indemnities." That represents the attitude of one of the most powerful democracies in the Alliance.

### French Democracy Also.

There is no doubt whatever that the views of the French democracy coincide with those which have been expressed by the Russian revolutionaries. There are in France, and have been since the outbreak of the war, two sections of the French Socialist Party, what is called the majority and what is called the minority. I think it is certain that what is called the minority is in reality the majority. In all their councils the vote is practically equal, and the majority get the small

Labor Party have also repudiated a war of imperialistic annexation, and in the same manifesto they repudiated the proposals of the Paris resolutions. They have declared for universal Free Trade. The Rumanian Socialists have taken up an international position upon this question.

### Socialists in Enemy Countries.

If we turn to the enemy countries we find that Bulgaria has already its Socialist delegates on their way to Stockholm. In regard to Germany there have been, as we all know, divisions in the great Social Democratic Party, the greatest Socialist Party in the world, which at the last general election polled about 5,000,000 votes—votes which I believe were more anti-militarist than dogmatically Socialist. There have been divisions between them, but never about peace. There are no fundamental differences between the two parties in Germany as to the kind of peace that ought to be established at the end of this war. There are no differences between the two parties as to the urgency of that peace.

### Towards Revolution in Germany.

We see in the papers this morning, accompanying the speech of the German Chancellor, a speech of Herr Scheidemann, the leader of the majority of the German Social Democrats, in which he reiterates what he has often said that there must be no annexation, and that what is French and what was French must remain French. Yesterday he made a passionate appeal for peace, and he declared that unless the German Chancellor makes a definite declaration of war aims repudiating all annexations, if in the event of France and Great Britain supporting the declaration of the Russian Provisional Government, and the German Chancellor refusing to follow, then there will be a revolution in Germany. That I understand is a consummation which our Government have been hoping for for a long time. They have now the means of bringing about that desired revolution. Let them accept the war policy of the democratic Government of Russia, and let France do the same, and the consequences, I can assure the right hon. gentlemen, upon Germany will be far-reaching.

The revolution came first in Russia, but it will not stop there. If our Government's Secret Service information is good, they know better than I can tell them that in one of the countries of the Alliance the people are on the verge of revolution to-day.

I repeat, that the revolution will not stop with Russia. It will come in every country.

The Russian Government have appealed to the peoples of the belligerent nations asking us to press our Governments to come into line with them.

### The Allied Note Obsolete.

The Allied Note of last January has been rendered quite obsolete by the Russian revolution. The Allies are, therefore, no longer committed to it. The situation in Russia has made it necessary that a new Allied Note should be issued which repudiates all imperialistic aims and which will declare—to use a formula which I hope will be defined a little more closely

### PETROGRAD ELECTION BULLETIN—GREAT SOCIALIST VICTORY— MAJORITY OF 360,000.

Social-Democratic Party (Menschiviki faction) acting with the bund .....	330,000
Social-Democratic Party (Bolschiviki faction) .....	330,000
Social-Revolutionaries (Group of Toll) .....	66,000
Other Socialist Groups .....	14,000
<b>Total Socialist Bloc .....</b>	<b>530,000</b>
Reactionaries, Clericals, Monarchists .....	16,000
All other parties (Cadets, Octobists, Radicals, Liberals etc., of all shades) .....	154,000
<b>Total Anti-Socialist Bloc .....</b>	<b>170,000</b>
<b>Socialist Majority .....</b>	<b>360,000</b>
The total vote is about 70 per cent. of those qualified to participate in an election.	

made by M. Miliukoff to minimize the real effect of this speech by the Note which he attached to the declaration of the Provisional Government before forwarding it to the various Allied Governments. When this became known something in the nature of a mild revolution took place. Miliukoff was compelled to withdraw his own interpretation of the Note, and to give to it the interpretation which it was clearly intended should be placed upon it by those who were responsible for it.

### Russia Set on Peace.

One of the latest moves is the invitation which has been issued by the Workmen's Council to the various Socialist parties and factions in Allied belligerent and neutral countries to meet at a conference for a discussion of war aims and peace terms. We hear this morning that the Workmen's Council has decided to join the Coalition Government. Its influence hitherto has been great, but it has been in a measure an influence and a power without direct responsibility. Now the three will be combined. It is perfectly

majority they obtain only by the votes of delegates who have no credentials and who are refugees from the invaded parts of France. But there is no difference at all between the majority party and the minority party among the French Socialists in regard to war aims. They both, in a very remarkable manifesto, united in approving of President Wilson's declaration of a League of Nations, of no domination and of no imperialistic annexation. The French minority party have taken up from the outset of the war identically the attitude of the Independent Labor Party in this country.

### Italian Socialists United.

In Italy the Italian Socialist movement, which is particularly strong, has been saved from acute division. The Italian Socialist movement is practically united in its opposition to the war.

### Even Belgium and Rumania.

In Belgium, where the circumstances are peculiar, and where one cannot naturally expect an anti-war attitude, the Belgian Socialists and the Belgian

(Continued on page two.)