

THE INTERNATIONAL

THE INFLUENCE OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

By Harvey Harrigan, in the New York Call.

Something entirely new has arisen in international politics. Something not looked for and not desired. It is the working class of Russia. This war has certainly played some nasty tricks on the autocrats and diplomats. Crowns and plug hats, ermine and frock coats will soon be relics of a bygone age when camoufleurs hid their true purposes behind a boiled shirt and a walking stick. It would almost seem that the world is now bent on democratizing democracy. If the Bolshevik movement in Russia may be taken as a criterion, the world is finding itself, drawing its necessary particles together, and throwing those elements toward the discard which have been a hindrance rather than a help.

Countless prophecies were made by Russians and others prior to the revolution last March to the effect that once the spirit—the soul—of Russia was freed from autocracy and orthodoxy the sweep of the revolution would not be checked until it had cleared Europe of its last vestige of imperialism, bureaucracy and political hypocrisy. It would seem from what is now transpiring in Russia that propheteering were not such a bad business after all.

The Bolshevik Acting Government of Russia is not camouflaging. It knows its mission and is bent upon the task of performing it. Lenine and Trotzky are certainly not pro-Germans. They are both international idealists groping through mazes of intrigue, striving to sidestep the snares and traps that have been laid for them by cunning cadets of internal and external imperialism. It is doubtful if any two men in history ever undertook a bigger job than that shouldered by Lenine and Trotzky with all the political cards stacked against them.

Trotzky, addressing the Petrograd Workmen's Council on Friday, November 30, is quoted as saying:

"In no case shall we allow a wrong interpretation of our principles for a general peace. We shall confront our enemies with questions which will admit of no ambiguous answers. . . . Be assured, comrades, that the prosecutor in the person of the Russian Revolution delegation will speak with thunderous accusations against the diplomacy of all Imperialists. . . . It is all the same to us how the Allied and enemy imperialists treat us. . . . We shall carry on our independent class policy whatever they do."

We take it that the most wilful intellectual pervert could not construe the statement of Trotzky's to imply any friendship or conciliatory spirit with the Imperial German Government, or any other imperialism, no matter in what guise it may appear.

It appears that at least four great powers among the warring nations are willing to yield to dispassionate discussion and intelligent negotiations in settling their dispute. These nations are Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Roumania. Two allied nations and two of the Central Powers. An armistice is favored. Certainly, one cannot settle a dispute by waving a club. Our best and wisest statesmen admit this. Even the President favors the "sitting-down-and-talking-it-over" policy between capital and labor.

Now, what will this armistice amount to? In the first place, the very least it could accomplish would

be testing the strength of the revolutionary movement within the Central Powers. It should be borne in mind that German imperialism is no friend of Russian Revolution. German imperialism is taking great risks by entering into any negotiations whatsoever with the Bolsheviks.

On the other hand, the risk of the Bolsheviks is not so great. The Bolsheviks, it is pointed out by authorities, comprises the majority factions of the Social Revolutionary party and the Social Democratic party of Russia. Bolsheviks is another name for majority. The main thing to be considered in connection with these terms is the fact that the spirit and the letter of Socialism is embodied in their program and activities.

The cleverer of two tricksters takes the "jack pot." But when a trickster meets a straightforward contestant his trickery is of no avail. In this case German imperialism is the trickster, and Russia the blunt, candid contestant. The Russian revolutionists realize that so long as there is war in the world, being waged on all sides of them, their great achievement is menaced. A German revolution would certainly strengthen the Russian revolutionary state. The fire of freedom would spread to other powers, and all Europe would be painted red, not with blood, with the revolution and its hand-maiden, reconstruction.

From a military point of view, Germany can well afford to make an armistice with Russia. She is yet powerful, and in an exaggerated sense, the conqueror. That is why Germany is so anxious to negotiate peace. She comes to offer a conqueror's peace, not a humane peace. And none know this better than the Russian revolutionaries. They know the hectic flush of victory by autocracy when they see it. They are not to be fooled. But the main point to keep in mind is that the moment Germany definitely enters into peace negotiations with any power, that moment German Imperialism becomes a memory and German revolution becomes a fact.

That is why, from the viewpoint of humanity and this vaunted civilization, Germany's enemies should give her all the rope necessary to hang her imperialists. There is no fundamental division of interest between the German workers and the Russian workers.

But suppose the present embryonic peace negotiations fail? In that case the Allied Powers, assisted by the bulk of America, would, no doubt, prepare to make short work of Germany; and a humiliating defeat of Germany would be followed by a revolution, anyway. On the other hand, in countries like Italy, where Socialist feeling and thought is a smouldering volcano that may at any time shoot its lava skyward, the imperialists and ruling classes would find little comfort in the thought of being cast into the political discard the moment that convulsion occurred.

It would certainly seem that the time has come when the world is about to be painted red—not by blood—by revolution. It would seem that out of the political travail there will come justice and equity between men. There is no reason why this should not be looked forward to in the same spirit as we look forward to the recovery of a dear friend from a serious sickness that threatens his life. The human mind instinctively looks for the good; for the bright, for the better, and strives to attain the best.

The processes of evolution are inexorable. They are ever at work. For myself, I disbelieve that it is possible

for human agencies to control evolution. That is why I believe in the inevitability of social revolution. Were it possible to check social revolution all the combined forces of reaction of the earth would seek to thwart it. But it cannot be done. The river, left to its course, flows on to the sea, whose spray washes all shores. If it is possible for human agencies to control evolution, it is significant that they don't control it. We have all heard people say, and perhaps have said it ourselves, that in the early stages of the war it was possible for one man to bring to bear the tremendous influences of his great office in the direction of peace. The human will is frail and withers before the processes of evolution.

The world is moving on toward reconstruction, and the Russian revolution has made an excellent stride in the direction of sanity.

LLOYD GEORGE.

Speaking at the American Luncheon Club on April 12, 1917, Mr. Lloyd George said:

"They (the Americans) naturally did not know at first what we had endured in Europe for years from this military caste in Prussia. It never reached as far as the United States of America. Prussia was not a democracy. Prussia was an army. It had great industries, highly developed. It had a great educational system. It had its universities. It developed its sciences. But all these were subordinate to the one great predominant purpose of an all-conquering army which was to intimidate the world. The army was the spear-point of Prussia; the rest was merely the shaft. That is what we had to deal with in these old countries. We knew the whole time what it meant. What we did not know was the moment it would come. This is the menace, this is the oppression from which Europe has suffered for fifty years. It paralyzed the beneficent activities of all States. They had to think about this menace, which was there constantly as a cloud, ready to burst over the land."

Yet, although Lloyd George knew that the German menace was hanging over England for the last fifty years, he, a few months before the war broke out, told the people of England, through the "Daily Chronicle" (Jan. 1, 1914), that:

"The German army is vital, not merely to the existence of the German Empire, but to the very life and independence of the nation itself, surrounded as Germany is by other nations, each of which possesses armies about as powerful as her own. We forget that, while we insist upon a 60 per cent. superiority (so far as our naval strength is concerned) over Germany being essential to guarantee the integrity of our own shores, Germany herself has nothing like that superiority over France alone; and she has, of course, in addition, to reckon with Russia on her eastern frontier. Germany has nothing which approximates to a two-Power standard."

Speaking at the American Luncheon Club on April 12, 1917, Lloyd George said:

"You recollect what happened some years ago in France when the Foreign Minister was practically driven out of office by Prussian threats of war."

The incident referred to by Lloyd George occurred in connection with the Moroccan crisis of 1905. Delcasse entered into a secret agreement with the British Government unknown to his colleagues. This agreement related to the partition of Morocco, and under it the British Government agreed to support France by sea and land in the event of Germany making its exclusion from Morocco a cause for war.

Germany got to know of the terms of this agreement, and protested to M. Rouvier, the French Premier. Delcasse admitted the facts, and his colleagues in the Cabinet called upon him to resign. Delcasse had been notoriously anti-British, and his sudden and secret conversion was astounding. The Hon. Bertrand Russell, in his book on "The Policy of the Entente," quotes the Frenchman, Pressensee, as saying:

"M. Delcasse, inebriated by the Entente with England, of which he had been but an eleventh-hour partisan, hypnotized by the favor of the Czar, thought the hour for heroic enterprise had come."

Three years after the incident, Lloyd George spoke in the Queen's Hall, London (July 28, 1908), and this is what he said:

"Here is Germany, in the middle of Europe, with France and Russia on either side, and with a combination of their armies greater than hers. Suppose we had here a possible combination which would lay us open to invasion; suppose Germany and France, or Germany and Russia, or Germany and Austria, had fleets which, in combination, would be stronger than ours, would we not arm? Of course we should."

Now Lloyd George says that he knew the German menace had been hanging over Great Britain for fifty years. Was he a pro-German in those pre-war years?—Labor Call, Melbourne.

Even the free air and sunshine are denied the poor who are huddled together in the cities.

Don't expect anything from parties which depend on the exploiters for their campaign funds.

What is commonly catch-phrased as "economic law" is in fact little more than economic anarchy.

The "economics" of the jungle are those of tooth and claw. Wherein does the economics of capitalism differ?

Capitalism cannot be made safe for democracy. The only security for democracy lies in the extermination of the profit system.

The pious capitalist takes a dollar out of your pocket on Saturday and then puts half of the dollar on the collection plate on Sunday.

The Socialists are crazy enough to believe that if the workers are able to build fine houses they ought to live in them.

Organizer's Maintenance Fund

The Workers of Canada await the message of emancipation. Send along your dimes and nickels. Drops of water make the ocean; let us have a tidal wave for Socialism.

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