

war times afford for a concerted attack upon its most hated enemy, the class-conscious working-class. Nowhere were real traitors, nowhere were those elements that directly served the enemy nation, so relentlessly pursued as those who dared to demand rights for the working class. In every country the labor agitator was more feared than the spy, the man who demanded the restoration of the elementary rights of the people more bitterly persecuted than he who openly expressed his sympathy with the cause of the enemy nation.

In this America has been no exception. Hundreds upon hundreds of political and class-war prisoners are in our jails because they dared to say what they thought about the causes of the war and the actions and motives of our ruling class. Hundreds are serving ten and twenty year sentences, because they belonged to labor organizations that refused to relinquish the right of the working-class to fight for better conditions, for better wages and shorter hours. Hundreds of young men are languishing behind prison bars because they refused to betray their own conscience by rendering military service. In the eyes of capitalism, man or woman can commit no greater crime than to espouse the cause of the working-class.

And in the same measure as they have been sacrificed because they have served their fellows of the proletariat, it is the duty of the working-class of this country to fight for their release. They have fought our battles, they have spoken our opinions, they have conducted our fight. It is up to us, to the working-men and women of the country to demand their release, to demand it insistently, unmistakably, in a great movement that will command the attention and the respect of those who sent them there.

Cottins Defence—"Why I Tried To Kill Clemenceau"

We publish below a statement by Emile Cottin after his arrest following his attempt upon the life of the French Premier

I wanted to kill the man instigating a new war. I am an anarchist, a friend of the people, Germans not excluded, a friend of mankind and brotherhood. These words deeply penetrate into the heart of every man. Clemenceau is a tyrant, and a tyrant of the highest degree. Clemenceau is making the fighters for the popular cause rot in a free prisons of France. Clemenceau is the greatest enemy of the great free-thinking people. No wonder he is called "Tiger." But he is not a tiger—he is a man. Prior to the March revolution in Russia there were sent to the French front many Russian soldiers—the figure varying between 100,000 and 300,000 men. Reliable information it is impossible to obtain. They replaced English and French troops in the most dangerous sections of the battle line; well supplied with arms and provisions they took the place of a large number of the Allied troops, which were sent to police different sections of France.

Unexpectedly the revolution in Russia broke out. Russian soldiers immediately began to be insistent in their demands, and created a Soviet of the soldiers' deputies, which was arrested in its entire personnel. Nobody knows of its fate up to the present. This did not stop the Russian soldiers; they protested as a single man, and refused to advance. Their superiors were infuriated and began to threaten, but nothing could shake the Russians. At the council of the generals and colonels of the old regime, the tyrant-rulers, it was decided to take the Russians off the firing line and intern them behind the bars of the camp for the interned. They were recognized as enemies. But that was not the end of the sufferings of the Russians. Terrible conditions, executions of the leaders, arrests of the conscientious soldiers—nothing could shake the firm attitude of the Russian soldiers, who had scented the fire of the revolutionary flame in their native land. They categorically refused to obey. Detachment after detachment was sent to the rear guard camps, where they awaited their fate.

When the Kerensky government had fallen, the sympathy of the Russian soldiers was on the side of the Soviets of Workers and Soldiers' Deputies. But in spite of that some of the detachments of the Russian army still fought on the front lines. Russia signed the Brest-Litovsk treaty, and those troops that were under the influence of the revolutionary patriotism understood and decided to leave the struggle. The last detachments refused to go into action, basing their claim on the fact that they were neutral citizens; they understood the reality of the war. Their main demand was to return to their native land. This request—and then demand—the French premier, Clemenceau, ordered suppressed. The order of the French government was obeyed immediately, and many Russians, true sons of the cold valleys of Russia, fell before the bullets of the treacherous weapons of those cunning politicians. Many were wounded. Cle-

menceau's order "not to spare bullets" was executed according to all the rules of military tactics. With waving flags the battalions of the free republic returned from the places of their crime accompanied by the sounds of the "Marseillaise." A few days afterward a colonel was sent to the camp where the irreconcilable Russians were kept, who delivered a fiery speech. He spoke of revolution, of everything, and finished by an appeal to enlist into the army to fight against the Bolsheviki. Twenty thousand men believed these fables telling them that Russia was in danger and decided to save Russia. They were formed into detachments and were sent to the nearest military camp in order to be attached to the Czecho-Slovak army. The rest, tens of thousands of men, as one man, decidedly and determinedly answered: "The Russian people have concluded peace; they might have made a mistake, as you said; yet you treated us cruelly even after the downfall of the Czar's regime, and therefore we demand to be sent to our native land; there on the spot we will deliberate as to what must be suppressed for the Russian people."

The French authorities became enraged, and having caught the leaders of the military Soviets sent them without trial to hard labor, to an island prison, located not far from Bordeaux. The rest were exiled to places where no crow flies. After that a dishonest reaction was instituted: the Russian soldiers were tormented to the extreme. Then, having tormented them sufficiently, and enjoyed it enough, the Premier ordered irreconcilable Russians to be sent to Africa. Forty thousand men were sent there. While they were being sent into slavery there came unexpectedly a Russian colonel, decorated from head to foot with the Czar's medals, and facing the rows of soldiers responded to the order of Clemenceau with the following words:

"My boys, it would truly be a great mistake if we consented to go to war against our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and the whole Russian people. First of all what we need to do is to return to Russia, and there we shall see what government we Russians shall defend.

"You are sending my boys to slavery under the hot ray of the African sun. Send me also with them, for I believe exactly the way they do."

Clemenceau's order was obeyed, and forty thousand Russians for their fidelity to the popular cause were sent to slavery in the African plantations of the French.

Last November, after the armistice with Germany, tens of thousands of war prisoners were liberated, among them many Russians. As a stream of human wave rushed in the direction of the Allied lines en masse, passing the outposts and blockhouses. The Russians were in a terrible condition, beaten, wounded and barefooted. They did not resemble men at all, but rather apparitions. Having reached the American lines they were stopped, given American uniforms but were forbidden to proceed further. Where are they, what is the matter with them? There is no information. Where they are—martyrs—remains a secret. Their number reaches between 10,000 and 15,000 men.

Many refugees passing the battle line found themselves in cities they were caught and told: "You have no right to live in this country. You must return to Russia, and enlist in the Czecho-Slovak army. You must fight against the Soviets."

"We cannot do it," replied the Russian prisoners of war. "We must be sent to Russia and see the people at work. There on the spot shall we see whom we must defend."

I am an anarchist, a friend of the people, not excluding Germans, a friend of mankind, of the brotherhood of man.

That is where the heart of man lies. That is where lies the spirit of protest and revenge. I lifted my hand; the protest of the shot resounded, and the "Tiger" was wounded.

WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT BOLSHEVIST RUSSIA?

Editorial taken from the Chicago Tribune, Saturday, March 22, 1919
And now the Bolsheviki are virtually masters of Ukrania!

Isn't it about time for us to find out for ourselves just what this bolshevism is and amounts to in Russia? Haven't we by this time a rather vigorous suspicion that our news of that phenomenon has been and is doctored for us—and certainly not for our benefit, for it cannot benefit America to be deceived?

When bolshevism first appeared in the Russian situation we were told it was a noisy minority which had no influence among the Russians. When bolshevism overthrew Kerensky we were told that it would not hold power for any length of time. As time passed and bolshevism did not disappear we were told it was the dictatorship of a few who were imposing their ambitious will by force. We were told that the mass of the Russian people were not bolshevist. We were told they would rise to welcome foreign aid and overthrow the tyranny which the bolshevist handful was so mysteriously able to impose upon them. We were told that the allied troops were winning victories. They were strange victories which left the victors numerous versts farther away from the objective than before, strange victories in which the red troops suffered appalling losses while the al-