

Preface

think I should ever have given complete credence unless I had seen the man and tested him inside and out.

I mention this in no personal sense, but simply because I happen to be in the same boat as most of my Labour friends, who felt that the Russian Revolution has never had a fair chance. This, together with the cumulative effect of a four and a-half years' censorship, distorted news and the drop in the value of official statements, has produced an atmosphere of suspicion which takes a long time to dislodge. At the moment, statements of first class public importance backed by incontrovertible evidence are regarded with either indifference or suspicion of motive.

In times of public stress this is the more unfortunate, because it often prevents the right thing being done; men and women are playing with the ideas of Bolshevism without in the least knowing what it means in practice, being content to see it through the hazy mists of meaningless Decrees, which look, on the face of