

Japanese Socialists on the Bolsheviks

We have received the following exceedingly interesting letter and resolution, passed by the Japanese Socialists, from the People's Information Bureau, whose headquarters are at 152 Fleet St., London, E.C.4, and should like to take this opportunity to draw our readers' attention to the opportunity this bureau offers them to learn at first-hand what at least is the Bolshevik rulers' ideal and intent in all that has happened in Russia since they formed their government, and what is their statement of the facts in the various happenings, as against that of the capitalist press.

"The Japanese Socialists are opposing this the second Russo-Japanese war just as they opposed the first. We all remember the energetic protest made by the Japanese Socialists when their government started the war in Korea in 1905. We know that this protest was met by a whole series of unspeakably harsh persecutions by the Japanese Government. During and immediately after the war the Japanese Government was careful not to foment discontent, but later on all Socialists and Radical societies and groups were dispersed. The reaction culminated in the so-called "Kotokussk" affair; some of our best Japanese comrades were hanged and others were sent to prison without trial or judgment. Since that period there has been no Socialist organization in Japan, and the persecution of Socialists is carried on with even greater barbarity than under the Romanoff regime in Russia. Nevertheless, Socialism has not died out, for it is immortal. Small Socialist groups exist in various towns, for instance, in Tokio and Yokohama."

The following letter addressed to the Russian comrades is the first joint effort of the Tokio and Yokohama groups. These groups are protesting

against a Japanese military intervention in Siberia, and have adopted the Bolshevik point of view:

"It is a matter of great joy to us that the Socialists of the most reactionary country in the world have come forward with a clear and definite statement of their views on the important problem of the world's revolution. We rejoice still more at the fact that in spite of the lying bourgeoisie press, the idea of Bolshevism has had such a strong influence on the Japanese workers.

"The Japanese workers are too weak at present to prevent the Japanese intervention in Siberia. Hundreds of Socialist publications have been burned in Japan in the course of the last four years, but during the same period hundreds of strikes have taken place. Some of these strikes have been suppressed by armed force and there have been many killed and wounded. The Mikado's mailed fist has fallen heavily upon the Japanese proletariat. We greet our Japanese comrades and are glad to receive this expression of their sympathy and goodwill.

To Our Russian Comrades

"From the very beginning of the Russian Revolution we have followed your fearless activities with enthusiasm and admiration. Your doings have had an enormous influence on the psychology of our people. We are now indignantly protesting against the dispatch of Japanese troops to Siberia under any pretext, as such an act will inevitably impede the free development of your revolution. We are grieved that we are too weak to avert the peril with which you are threatened by our imperialistic government. We are unable to help you in any way as we are persecuted by the

government. But rest assured that the Red Flag of the Revolution will in no distant future float over the whole of Japan.

"We, the Socialists of Japan, having met in Tokio, express our deep sympathy with the Russian Revolution, to which we do homage.

"We recognize that the Russian Revolution is on the one hand a political revolution of the bourgeoisie against a mediaeval absolutism, and on the other hand, a revolution of the proletariat against present-day capitalism. The transformation of the Russian Revolution into a world social revolution concerns not Russian Socialists only, but the Socialists of the whole world. The capitalistic order has in all the countries of the world reached its highest development, and we have now a period of a full-blown capitalistic imperialism. Unless they wish to be deceived by the ideologists of imperialism, the Socialists of all countries must hold steadfastly to the international standpoint, and all the forces of the international proletariat must be directed against our common enemy—international capitalism. Thus only will the workers be able to fulfil their historic mission. The Socialists of Russia and all countries must do their utmost to stop the war in order to help the workers of the belligerent countries to direct their attacks, not against their fellow workers, but against the ruling classes of their own countries. We have faith in the heroism of the Russian Socialists and of our comrades throughout the world. We are firmly convinced that the revolutionary spirit will spread and permeate all the countries.

"Executive Committee,
"Socialist Group of Tokio."

Clippings From the Press

ALLIED TROOPS MAIN CAUSE OF TROUBLE

"The Soviet republic, of which Lenin and Trotsky are the leaders, is the logical and historical movement and best able to bring order in Russia," said Frank Keddie, a Scotchman who for the past three years has been in Russia and who passed through Seattle this week on his way to New York, where he will sail for his home. "The chief trouble in Russia now is due to the presence of Allied soldiers, Czecho-Slovaks and the Cossacks. There has been considerable violence, but the Cossacks and Czecho-Slovaks are far worse than the Bolsheviks. I am greatly in sympathy with the Bolsheviks."

Nearly three years ago Mr. Keddie went into Russia as a Red Cross worker and has seen service in Petrograd, Moscow, the Ural mountains, Harbin and other places in both Russia proper and in Siberia. The centre of his work or a good part of the time was at Buzuluk, about two days' journey from Moscow. Through his connection with people prominent in affairs in Great Britain, Mr. Keddie was enabled to gain close touch with officials in Russia, visited at the homes of the younger Tolstoy, through his knowledge of the Russian language was enabled to get much valuable first-hand information regarding the life of the peasants and workers, their aims, hopes and ambitions.

"The Bolsheviks are strong in the country districts," said Mr. Keddie. "The peasants are illiterate, but they are doing a lot of thinking and are the keenest politicians in the world. The co-operative societies of Russia are very strong and are a source of hope for the future. Every village governs itself. The peasants do not want to fight anybody. The Bolsheviks are standing for temperance, and I saw more drinking among the Allied troops at Vladivostock than anywhere else."

"Allied capital is the chief reason for the pres-

ence of Allied troops. No matter what the troops do they can never stamp out Socialism in Russia; they can never police Russia, for the troops will become converted to Bolshevism. I am very hopeful of Russia if the Allied troops will clear out—then could come a temperate government—but if they do not clear out there is a long and dreary road ahead.

"Lenin certainly did a brave thing when he cut off all the lands of the church. There were 400,000,000 acres taken from the church in one slice. When he took away the lands I was in Moscow and saw a great procession of church dignitaries and a multitude of followers protesting against the action. That same night there was posted on the billboards all over the city these words: 'The church protests when her land is taken away, but did not protest when 3,000,000 of her children were killed.'

"The Russians love freedom intensely. They are idealistic, have little regard for precedent and pity people who keep their eyes so much on wages. Marriage is civil. Anyone may have any extra ceremonies, such as that of the church, if he wishes. The marriage laws are quite simple, but proper. The expense of getting married is reduced to 20 or 25 cents, which is a grand relief to the peasants.

Bolsheviks Main Hope

"I think the Bolsheviks failed when they began to use force, although it seemed necessary when Korniloff and Kerensky threatened to evict Lenin and Trotsky. Nevertheless I am confident that considering all the conditions that hope for Russia lies best in the Bolsheviks. It is true they have confiscated lands and houses, but not generally for themselves. Some of the leaders are living on a mere pittance. I remember, for example, that the very finest house in Buzuluk was taken over, but it was converted into a home for babies."

Asked regarding Mme. Breshkovsky, "grand-

mother of the Russian revolution," who arrived in Seattle from Siberia last Sunday, Mr. Keddie confirmed the statement made by members of the local Russian colony by saying that she belonged to the old revolutionary days and was not in step with present-day conditions.

From every part of our own land and from every part of Canada the cry goes up: "Bring the boys home." The war they engaged in is over and done. They must not be used as pawns for the designing money and territory grabbers of Europe. They have done their work; they have suffered enough; they are all democrats who fought to make an end of war and who believe in the self-determination of peoples. They are too good to be compelled to do the dirty work which powerful interests want done in Europe.

Bring them home from Siberia. After all our vast pretensions there, our boys are now forced to maintain a new czar who has overthrown the elected representatives of the people, who is turning over to the firing squad the soldiers and the common people who refuse to fight against their own kind in his behalf, who has restored the manufacture of vodka to raise revenue and to besot the people that he may the better exploit them. It is as foul a mess as the earth has brewed. Get our boys out of it.

Bring them home from Archangel. There again, after months of "establishing democracy," there is no government but Capt. Miller of the British army. Without much hope or relief there our boys are in danger of blind wrath of an outraged people. Get decent Americans out of it at once.

Bring the boys home—home from Siberia, Archangel, France, Germany, England, Ireland. They may be very useful in all these places to designing monarchists and plutocrats, but their place is at home. Let us have no more lying excuses. Just bring them home.—Seattle Union Record, Feb. 12.