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Lies Unearthed

A lie circulated through every channel of the Capitalist Press, both in this country, Great Britain, and the United States, is that of the nationalization of women in Russia under the Soviet administration. Details were given describing how all women were the property of the State and were compelled to submit their bodies to any number of men at the whim and fancy of "the brutal Bolsheviks," and not being allowed to voice any objection or opposition to same. Every account concluded with an appeal to the readers to consider what bolshevism meant and to therefore exert every effort to blot it out. This is one of the rakes falsifications ever spread broadcast. The facts are as follows:—

Decree published by the Russian Federated Socialist Republic, December 18th, 1917:—

DECREE CONCERNING MARRIAGE

The Russian Republic henceforth recognizes civil marriages only.

Civil marriage is performed on the basis of the following rules:

1. Persons who wish to contract marriage declare (their intention) orally or by written statement to the department of registration of marriages and births at the city hall (regional, district, township, Zemstvo institutions), according to the place of their residence.

NOTE: Church marriage is a private affair of those contracting it while civil marriage is obligatory.

2. Declarations of intention to contract marriage are not accepted (a) from persons of the male sex younger than 18 years, and of the female sex, 16 years of age; in Transcaucasia the native inhabitants may enter into marriage upon attaining the age of 16 for the groom and 19 for the bride; (b) from relatives in the direct line, full and half-brothers and sisters; consanguinity is recognized also between a child born out of wedlock and his descendants on one side and relatives on the other; (c), from married persons, and (d) from insane.

3. Those wishing to contract marriage appear at the department of registration of marriages and sign a statement concerning the absence of the obstacles to contracting marriage enumerated in Article 2 of this decree, and also a statement that they contract marriage voluntarily.

Those guilty of deliberately making false statements about the absence of obstacles enumerated in Article 2 are criminally prosecuted for false statements, and the marriage is declared invalid.

4. Upon the signing of the above-mentioned statement, the director of the department of registration of marriages records the act of marriage in the book of marriage registries and then declares the marriage to have become legally effective.

When contracting marriage the parties are allowed to decide freely whether they will henceforth be called by the surname of the husband or wife or by a combined surname.

As proof of the act of marriage, the contracting parties immediately receive a copy of the certificate of their marriage.

5. Complaints against the refusal to perform marriage or incorrect registration are lodged, without limitation of time, with the local judge in the locality where the department of registration of marriage is; the ruling of the local judge on such complaint may be appealed in the usual way.

6. In case former books of registration of marriages have been destroyed, or lost in some other way, or if for some other cause married persons cannot obtain a certificate of their marriage, those persons are given the right to submit a declaration to the respective department of registration of marriages, according to the place of residence of both parties or one of them, to the effect that they have been in the state of wedlock since such and such time. Such declaration is attested, in addition to the statement stipulated by Article 3, by a further statement of the parties that the book of registration has really been lost or that for some other sufficient cause they cannot obtain a copy of the certificate.—From Russian Documents (New York Nation.)

Our only regret is that in this country we have not as they have in Russia, a Press Tribunal, otherwise severe punishment would have been meted out to those responsible for such corrupt "news" the wording of which portrayed the debauched minds of the origin-

THE WEEK

(The Nation)

Have the Allies yielded too late? "It is a race against time and the Spartacides," says a recent dispatch from Paris, telling of the final reluctant decision of France to allow food to go to Germany. Three hundred thousand tons of food a month are now promised to fight the Allies' cause against Bolshevism and terror spreading westward. The mere promise of food will strengthen the hand of the German Government, but it begins to look as though more blood must be spilled before Germany can pull herself together into a coherent, organized national whole. Forceful revolution seems to be the only human recourse against hunger and desperation. When General Plummer reports that the British soldiers of the Army of Occupation will themselves revolt rather than endure longer the sight of women and children dying of famine, it is not hard to imagine the mental state of the starving women and their husbands and sons. The "race against time and the Spartacides" bids fair to be a close one. The strikes and the revolutionary disorders appear to be temporarily under control at the cost of hundreds of lives, but the very stringency of the Government measures of repression indicates the real extent of the unrest. It is interesting in this connection to note with how much complacency the press remarks upon the wholesale execution by the Ebert Government of hundreds of revolting Spartacans. There is no talk of terror or massacre or refusal to deal with a Government of assassins. Obviously, execution is the only way to handle counter revolutionists—in Germany. The fact of the matter is that the Allies have need of a Government in Germany, a Government crippled to be sure by terms ever more severe, but still something in the shape of a "stable" Government with which they can make peace and to which they can render their bills for fabulous indemnities.

At least General von Hindenburg has the unique distinction of a definite Russian policy. Almost simultaneously with the announcement by Bonar Law that none of the Allies would recommend dispatching the necessary forces to quell anarchy in Russia, comes the report that von Hindenburg is recruiting troops to fight the Bolsheviks on the Baltic front. Bonar Law complains that conditions are terrible in Russia; starvation is the newest crime of which the Bolsheviks are guilty. The people, he asserts, are starving to death at the rate of 200 a day in Petrograd alone; and yet the Allies, think over the cost, procrastinate and refuse to act. Only Hindenburg seems to have the duty, and he is doing it. When people are starving the obvious remedy is to kill them as rapidly as possible. If any Bolshevik apologist should attempt to excuse the crime of starvation on the ground that, while the Germans seized and pillaged the food supply of the Ukraine, the Allies completely cut off Soviet Russia from access to the crops of Siberia, it is probable that neither Bonar Law nor von Hindenburg would find it necessary to make any reply. Von Hindenburg, as a simple man of action, would go on recruiting troops to crush the infamous thing, and Bonar Law would shake his head and regret the lack of a positive Russian policy. The Allies have failed in their war on Russia; they appear to have failed almost as signally in their awkward attempt at conciliation. Are they winning their subtler war of starvation against Soviet Russia?

ators of the same. However, it developed from the cess-pools of Capitalism and thence it shall return.

Here is another manufactured lie from the Montreal Gazette:

"The Bolshevik Leaders and high officials live a life of luxury and dissipation in the finest palaces and hotels of the city."

Note the difference as described by men like Colonel Raymond Robbins; Major Thomas D. Thacher and many others who have spent months in Russia:—

"Some remarkable personalities have been included among these commissars. They work for workmen's salaries, 600 rubles (about \$90) a month, with an extra allowance of 100 rubles for each dependent. Thus Lenine, whose wife is employed in the Department of Education, gets 600 rubles, and Trotsky, who has a wife and three children, gets 900 rubles. Both Lenine and Tchicherin, the Commissar for Foreign Affairs, come of old and well-to-do Russian families. Trotsky is the son of a prosperous Jewish merchant. In Petrograd Trotsky and his family lived in a little garret room in Smolny Institute, the Soviet headquarters.

"Tchicherin served as a diplomat under the Czar before he became a revolutionary Socialist. While Commissar of Foreign Affairs in Petrograd, he lived in a shabby little lodging-house in the working quarter, and members of the American Red Cross Mission, who had occasion to call upon him at his office, would find him transacting affairs of state clad in a soiled sweater and baggy old trousers."—February Good Housekeeping.

Thus the Capitalist Press spreads its poison and the unthinking swallow it. Let us refuse to remain longer under their venomous spell.