

## The Three Sins of The Bolsheviks

(From The London Herald)

### 1st.—THEY PUBLISHED THE SECRET TREATIES:

This enraged all the Allied Governments and all the Allied diplomats. It showed them up in the eyes of their own peoples. It exposed in all their indecency the Imperialistic plans of conquest they had drawn up without the knowledge or consent of Parliament or of Senate. It discovered the fact that whilst on the public platform Allied statesmen were making broad their phylacteries and proclaiming to the world the high moral character of their intentions, all the time in secret and in darkness they were consenting to annexationist designs which had never been sanctioned by the people who were making the sacrifices. It made bare the whole black business of Secret Diplomacy.

The Diplomats and the Foreign Office and the Cabinet Ministers (—with all their toadies and flatterers and hangers-on) will never forgive the Russian Government for this.

### 2nd.—THEY NATIONALISED THE LAND, THE MINES, THE FORESTS, THE BANKS, AND THE INDUSTRIES OF RUSSIA.

This enraged all the Capitalists and Mineowners and Concessionaires, who naturally desired to exploit to their own advantage the inexhaustible riches of Russia.

The land decree declares all private ownership of land to be annulled without compensation to the owners. All mines—coal, petrol, salt, etc.—forests and waterways possessing national importance are to pass into the possession of the State.

How abominable! The land to go to the cultivators! The people who cultivated the land actually to possess it! Sacrilege! Infamy! A long wail went up from the Dukes. "If the mines belong to the State, where will the Company promoters be?" "And what about the gigantic profits we expect to make out of the fabulous wealth of Russia?" "The Bolshevists must be madmen." "Let's stamp them out."

Moreover, "factory controlled by the workers" had been established, so it is not surprising to read in the Times twelve months ago that "many old-established British industrial enterprises here have been liquidated or sold, as it is quite impossible to put up with the ignorant control and exorbitant demands of the Russian workmen."

The Capitalists and the Concessionaires and the Mineowners and the Exploiters will never forgive the Russian Government for these measures of practical Socialism.

### 3rd.—THEY ABOLISHED THE NATIONAL DEBT.

This naturally enraged the holders of Russian bonds—and there were a great many people who had invested in these securities, especially in France. It is true that the action of the Russian Government, as the Manchester Guardian pointed out at the time, was, for a government which had already abolished large property in land and other forms of private ownership, "more or less consistent." It is also true that much of this debt represented money lent, not to the Russian people, but to a corrupt and tyrannical Tsardom, and that, indeed, some of the capital thus subscribed had been used by the autocracy to shoot down the Russian workers in 1905.

Some little hope, however, still remained; "the vast wealth and resources of Russia will be there and available to pay her debts, when the Lenin gang have run the short length of their tether" said the Financial Editor of the "Daily Mail" whilst a little later the Japanese Ambassador is reported (Daily Express) to have made the threat that "Japan would hold the Maximalist Government responsible if

Japanese capital in Russia were endangered, and would reserve the right to intervene, if necessary; while, if forced to do so, she would demand territorial compensation."

At any rate, we can assume that the Bondholders and International Financiers will never forgive the Russian Government for this.

The reasons for Allied intervention in Russia thus became perfectly clear. From the time when Socialism was first put in active operation in Russia down to the present moment the efforts of the Capitalist classes and the Capitalist Press of Western Europe have been directed to encourage every movement in Russia—middle-class, capitalist, reactionary, royalist, militarist or nationalist—which might embarrass the central Government and destroy the Socialist State. Sometimes it was General Korniloff who was thus favored, sometimes General Kaledin, sometimes General Alexieff, sometimes Admiral Koltchak—sometimes it was the Cossacks, sometimes the Ukrainians, sometimes the Finns. Any stick was good enough to beat Lenin with—although, alas and alack! some of the sticks broke in the process and others left many a muddy stain upon the hands of those who used them. And how the sea of carnage and misery has been extended and deepened by this support of Civil War and internecine strife!

### Two Bad Shots

Two very bad shots were made by the Allies in this connection. The Ukraine is a very rich part of Russia. It is the region of the famous "black earth" upon which great crops of corn are grown. It contains the cities of Kieff and Odessa. And it was hoped that by withholding the corn and coal of the Ukraine and Southern Russia from Petrograd the Bolsheviks would be starved and frozen into surrender. There were two parties in the Ukraine: There were the Bolsheviks, who established a Soviet, and there were the rich and the middle classes, who had set up a Rada, or old-fashioned Parliament. The French Government supported the latter: they actually lent the Rada 7,000,000 pounds. Immediately it had secured this money the middle-class Government of the Ukraine made a deal with Germany, signed a separate peace, and, by thus weakening Trotsky's hand at Brest-Litovsk, helped to force the Russian Government to consent to that humiliating peace. (It must be noted that it was the custom in this country to describe the Bolsheviks as "German agents" at the very moment when they were appealing to the German and Austrian Socialists to revolt against their Governments, inciting the subject races of Austria-Hungary to rebellion, pouring revolutionary literature across the frontier of the Central Powers and using language about the German militarists which would make the most ardent Hang-the-Kaiser advocate wince. To give two mild examples, they described the German militarists as "military millionaires" transmuted the tears of their people into pearls for their wives," and characterized Chancellor von Hertling as "a hypocritical, impotent old Jesuit.")

By giving financial aid to the Ukraine Rada the Allies had made an extremely bad shot. They made another bad shot in Finland. The middle-class Government of Finland declared for separation from Russia. Its independence was recognised by France. Instantly the Finnish Government entered into an alliance with Germany and secured the assistance of German troops to slaughter Red Guards and to down the Bolshevik movement in Finland in an ocean of terror and blood.

### AMERICA AND THE DUTCH EAST INDIES

By Robert R. Thyssen

When we Americans think of the Dutch East Indies, our thoughts are of pearls and coral shores; of fantasy and romance. But England and Japan are thinking of the Dutch East Indies in terms of commerce, exploitation, political intrigue. The romance in their perspective is confined to rubber forests and mines of manganese and other valuable minerals. Of more immediate importance still is the recent discovery of the greatest oil field in the world in Java.

The present naval trend is toward oil-driven ships; the Dutch East Indies are rich in fuel oil, in a dozen rare minerals, and in edible fats. The world is much in need of the latter at present, and the cocoanut oil of the islands is well adapted to supply the world's need. Java, Sumatra and Borneo are the principal islands and they belong chiefly to Holland.

England has long had covetous eyes on these islands. She is insinuating now that Holland is pro-German in order to win America to her viewpoint. Japan, too, is at work industrially in the islands, spreading her own propaganda. America cannot afford to be indifferent to these activities. Holland is looking for aid in the development of the great wealth of these possessions. Capital is needed; it is

American capital Holland desires. There is a rich field here for American investors.

The islands are beautifully thrown, like a string of emeralds, across the equator. About one-third of Borneo is held by England, the rest by Holland. But England's share is not the part of the island she now wants. When it was divided up England took the part she thought of the greatest value—the plains, and left the apparently worthless mountain districts to Holland. Now it happens that the hilly country is fabulously wealthy, and England is aware that she got something less than the lion's share in the partitioning; a little error on her part which she is anxious to rectify. Hence, the charges of Holland's pro-Germanism, back of which, naturally, is a desire to lighten Holland of her colonies.

Much of the commerce of the islands is intended for the United States, even at this time; but we shall not get much, if England can prevent it.

One instance may be given here of British energy; out of ten cablegrams sent recently to Java to the United States to place orders for merchandise, eight were held up by the British authorities at Singapore and went into the British waste-basket. How long shall we be indifferent to our trade interests?