



**THE GERMAN MAJORITY AND RUSSIA.**

The German Socialist Majority Press at first threatened their Government with all sorts of dire consequences if they pursued annexationist aims in the East. When it was clear, however, that the policy of annexation prevailed, the Press changed its tone, blamed the Bolsheviks for the breakdown of negotiations, and finally acquiesced in the action of the Government both in the peace concluded with the Ukraine and with the onward march of the German army into Russian territory. The "Frankfurter Volkstimme" (Majority) forms an honorable exception in this connection. It condemns the Ukraine peace treaty and the general policy of the Junkers in the following terms:

"If the Government is forcing its own terms on the Russians, Lithuanians, etc., by means of militarism, it could easily act in the same way towards the people in Germany. Although we are not in complete sympathy with the Bolsheviks, yet it is plain that they desired to put an end to the horrors of war and capitalism, and that they were not the cause of the breaking down of the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk. This was due to the Germans who forced a brutal peace."

**IN FRANCE.**

Five votes were cast against the war credits in the French Chamber recently, Bras, a workers' deputy for Saone-et-Loire, declaring "I will vote against the credits, because I do not desire to grant money for the purpose of pursuing Imperialist aims."

On March 27th, "Le Populaire," the weekly organ of the Moderate Socialist French Minority, made its appearance as a daily evening paper.

In connection with the statement of the Socialist Internationalist Group of the Nord a Bourges published in "The Call" for March 21st, the following appears in the "Journal du Peuple":

"The case of Pas-de-Calais is still more arbitrary than that of the North, and thanks to what is called the 'Fraudulent Revolution' there were certain congresses in which there were more delegates than sections in the Federation. Naturally, all were of the majority except the admirable section from Boulogne, which always remains faithful to the Socialist doctrines. As in the North, they looked up chosen friends to form new groups, and bad luck to those who allowed themselves to discuss the majority dogmas, because someone always arose to defend them. These dishonest proceedings have disgusted the greater part even of those who were specially selected and chosen. However, as the members of the Pas-de-Calais are mainly minority, it is not considered necessary to form any new organization."

**IN SWITZERLAND.**

Notwithstanding the fact that compulsory national service is now formally abandoned by the Government because of widespread unemployment

in the canton of Zurich hundreds of men have been obliged to leave their own work and help to clear land. The Acting Committee of the Olten Conference prepared a report to the working classes, and a conference is to be held of delegates from Socialist branches and trade unions. Another cause of dissatisfaction is that Munzenberg is to be expelled the country on account of his alleged part in the Zurich riots. Many Socialist papers have been stopped because of their agitation for revolutionary action.

Holzmann, the Bolshevik representative who is in Switzerland, has been very active. His activities resulted in the formation of a Soviet of Russian deserters at Yverdon, quickly dissolved by the Government. The Swiss Government cannot get rid of Holzmann, the French having refused to allow him to return through their territory.—The Call, England.

**NORWAY.**

The annual meeting of the Norwegian Socialist Party last week showed the strength of the Extreme Left (Syndicalist) wing. The new Executive is composed entirely of Syndicalists, and the Congress adopted a resolution approving the principle of a general revolutionary strike, if that were necessary to realize their aims. Unfortunately, only brief reports of the Congress have come to hand.

**THE SPREAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL.**

In a striking editorial on the condition of things in Finland, where the class war with its Red Guards and White Guards has broken down all racial divisions, Wednesday's Manchester Guardian pointed out that the movement of ideas that was there incarnated was not confined to Finland. It had overspread Russia and most of Scandinavia. From our own experience we would say that the idea of the International, of the solidarity of the workers as opposed to their rival Imperialist exploiters, whose cruel plotting has plunged the world in ruin, is making headway over the whole earth. In the Politiken George Brandes has written a stern warning to the Powers, who are responsible, under whatever pretext, for prolonging the war. He says:

The human race needs peace, and cannot wait for it until a few more millions have been slaughtered. If the nations do not make peace now that which I foretold in the summer of 1916 will come to pass. There will be an upheaval in the masses of all countries, and the Social Revolution, which has been restrained while humanity still had left one ounce of sense, will break out with a fury equal to the present war. It has already broken out in Russia and Finland, and in other countries it will follow the war as "The Commune" followed in 1871, and the vestiges of an intellectual-aristocratic civilization possibly remaining after the war will be swept away and levelled to the ground.

**RUSSIA.**

**Organizing Production.**

Ransome's message in the Daily News of April shows that the Bolsheviks, in spite of all their other difficulties, are developing the metal mines in Western Siberia. New lines of railway are being constructed where necessary, and it is clear that the Bolsheviks intend to prove that they can organize production efficiently. The whole of the Ural district is arranged as a single national enterprise. The workers are the paid servants of the people, all arrangements being controlled by a Soviet in which the workers of the district have a minority. The majority of the votes belong to the representatives of the organizer appointed by the people as a whole through their central organ. This principle of giving the local workmen a minority in the representation obtains throughout the whole of the new organization of industry. Only in this way can the nation ensure that the interests of the local workmen are not preferred to the detriment of the nation as a whole. Each industry has its local committees and its central committee, which controls the raw material, finance and the disposal of the output, thus effectually controlling even private concerns not yet taken over by the State.

The conditions in Petrograd are not nearly so bad as generally supposed. The Government is maintaining some sort of order and the lack of food is less serious than we have been led to suppose. The Soviets are all powerful, and it is very much as if in this country we had a Government run by the rank and file of the trade unionists, the small shopkeepers and the agricultural laborers, the heads of the trade unions and all the wealthy classes being excluded from power.

One other item we must add. At a meeting in Moscow Radek stated that the Government, looking forward to the re-opening of the German frontier and a great flow of Russian raw materials into Germany would shortly decree a State monopoly of exports in order to safeguard Russian trade. So the Socialist State of Russia slowly entrenches its frontiers.—Labor Leader, England.

**INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY OR AUTOCRACY?**

(By Francis Brill.)

(Reprinted from The Hamilton Herald.)

Mr. Brill was Socialist candidate for mayor in the last municipal election in Buffalo in which contest he polled 13,000 votes.

He held that the events of the last year had proved conclusively that such conditions cannot prevail much longer. If the working class of the world wished to cast off the fetters which the capitalists had fastened on it, it must show a capacity to take charge of its own rightful heritage—the right to fashion its own destiny along genuinely democratic lines, instead of being led and driven to war by the caprice of economic masters, whether those masters be monarchs, kaisers, czars or presidents. "We have the right to demand this, and we exercise that right," he declared.

Personally, he was not of those who saw nothing but terror and blood-eyed lawlessness in the present Russian situation. The uprising was the birth-pang of the movement that must ultimately come all over the universe, did the working class ever intend to come by its rightful heritage. He would call on the German Socialists to do the same with

their Kaiser as the Russians had done with their Czar.

"I iterate that the Russian situation is very complicated, if we believe all we hear and read; but those Russian revolutionists know what they want, and they have pursued the right course to achieve their own ends. In the first few months of this war, the casualties in killed alone among the Russians amounted to over two millions. Yet everything was said to be all right in that land. But now because a monarchy has been overthrown, because a few capitalistic tyrants have been put out of the way, everything, you read, is chaos. Do not be deceived; things are not so bad in Russia as certain interests try to make out. Those Russian Reds are causing as much mental disturbance to Rockefeller as to the German Kaiser; They all see in the Russian uprising symptoms which foretell an era they know too well threatens—and will subjugate—the economic mastery they have so long wielded over the working class of the world."

Mr. Brill read excerpts from recent writings of the editor of the London Economist, Roger Babson, noted statistician of Wall Street, and President Wilson, each one of whom had said, that an era of Socialism was sure to be ushered in on the heels of the world war. The editor of the London Economist—conceded to be the most reliable living authority on such matters—had predicted that if the war lasted many months longer that European civilization would be wholly destroyed. This same authority had said that industrial England girded for war had been a revelation to the world, and proved only too clearly what labor had long contended, that frictional wastage of capital and labor could be effaced by co-operation. "If, therefore, we could get rid of war," wrote this noted authority, "and could all co-operate as we have since the start of the war, every man and woman should not only have all the necessities of life, but some of the luxuries, too, in return for a day's honest, decent labor."

The effect of Roger Babson's prophecy was similar: "Call it radicalism, Socialism, Bolshevism, or what you will there is no gainsaying the fact that a social renaissance is on the horizon," he wrote.

In a similar vein wrote President Wilson recently to a New Jersey paper: "The birth of a better day—a day which not the wisest political seer can measure—is coming for the masses of men and women. War is changing the mind of Europe as well as of America."

"I quote these noted men," continued Mr. Brill, "to convince you, as my own opinion would not carry as much weight as theirs. The capitalists of the world are perturbed over the Russian situation, and I want to impress upon you that, when the reconstruction period comes, the masses must have the power, must have a democracy that is worthy of the name."

A scathing arraignment of "democracy" in the United States was given by the speaker, who said that as long as there were such atrocities as had occurred at Calumet, the massacre at Ludlow, hanging of Frank Little at Butte, Mont., deportation of 1,200 citizens from Bisby, Ariz., such civil war as had raged among the coal miners for eleven months in Virginia—so long as these things occurred, the masses in the United States, he declared had a right to call their "democracy" a sham.

W. S. Bruton presided.