

TOPICS OF THE DAY

THE COLLAPSE OF RUSSIA

Russia has transformed herself into a Socialist Republic, and for the time being all our maps are out of date. Her Baltic Provinces are gone, along with Finland, the Ukraine, and Caucasia; Odessa and her Black Sea Ports are in alien hands; and her steady march beyond the Caspian, which was long thought to menace India, may now be taken up by the military power which practically holds Russia in thrall. The great colossus is shown to have had feet of clay. Unless any uprising develops in the near future, which seems rather unlikely, the Soviet vote just taken at Moscow will control the situation, at least to the end of the war. Society was once defined as "Anarchy *plus* the Policeman," and in Russia the policeman has been eliminated. Lenine and Trotzky have seen to that. The latter is said to have wanted to put up a fight, while Lenine avowed his readiness to "sign any treaty which would enable them to prepare for a new struggle." To encourage his followers, he even pointed out what powers of recuperation Prussia herself had shown after the victories of Napoleon. He also complains that he and his precious following have been left in the lurch by the masses of the population in the Allied countries, as well as by those of the Central Powers,—"workmen and peasants like ourselves." Instead of starting revolutions on their own account, they have preferred, he says, to follow military and imperialistic leading. When the war is over, it will be easy to show that the best results were secured by the nations whose soldiery knew what it was fighting for. That is where we are strong. There is not a Canadian in the trenches to-day who could not give a reasoned account of why he is there, in terms of British freedom. To this their German antagonists can oppose only the orders of their military masters, and their ambition to