

WHAT OUR FRENCH COMRADES THINK

[By Eden and Cedar Paul]
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[Being a translation by E. and C. Paul of a manifesto issued by the committee for the Defence of International Socialism, and subscribed by many members of the new Majority of the French Socialist Party.]

The French Socialist Party advises the proletariat to remain calm, but to prepare manfully for the trials which are ahead.

Revolution and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat

The Party recalls the fact that it has invariably warned the workers against any movement inadequately prepared, and against impulsive manifestations which would serve merely to give the government a pretext for repressive measures. But it likewise recalls the fact that it has invariably insisted that when, owing to the errors of the bourgeoisie, a revolutionary crisis occurs, it is the duty of socialists to take the decisive steps essential to the fulfilment of their historic mission.

Hostile on principle to fruitless violence and to individual manifestations of revolt, the Socialist Parties consistent in their principles have never ceased to promote the methodical organization of the workers. In lands where constitutional monarchy or bourgeois republicanism prevails, Socialists have made the utmost possible use of popular freedom in order to increase the powers of proletarian activity. But Socialists have never ceased to proclaim that there will be no true democracy, that there will be no government by the people, so long as a class living by ownership exercises dominion over the world of the workers. Invariably socialists have maintained that the proletariat, while making the best possible use of such first elements of democracy as have been wrested from the bourgeoisie, is entitled, when ever circumstances are favorable, to have recourse to revolutionary activity for the establishment of integral socialist democracy.

The very foundation of socialism is the inalienable right of the dispossessed class, to overthrow it by revolution. . . .

The Class Struggle as a Method of Socialist Activity

No less in accordance with the consistent teaching of international socialism is the Party's decision that its activities must in future be guided more than ever by the principle of the class struggle.

The peculiar conditions that obtained during the war may have obscured for a time the clarity of this principle, but in accordance with it we now insist upon unflinching opposition to bourgeois dominion; we condemn any participation in the exercise of that dominion; we insist upon the systematic and symbolical refusal of military and civil credits; we affirm the absolute autonomy of the Socialist Party as the political party of the workers; and we naturally reject all thought of an electoral alliance with any other political party during the first ballot.

Hoping to re-establish that socialist unity which is indispensable to the activity of the proletariat, the Party declares that those who refuse to recognize the essential principles of the class struggle and of Socialist opposition to all other parties, and those who refuse to accept the necessarily internationalist character of Socialism are the declared enemies of Socialism.

"Now, more than ever, when the revolutionary state of affairs becomes more accentuated day by day, the proletariat needs definite guidance. . . .

"The French Socialist Party speaks loudly and clearly. It raises its voice against capitalist society, which is responsible for the war; it advocates the complete destruction of militarism; it labors for the liberation of the workers by the establishment of collective production and collective ownership; it appeals to the revolutionary energy of the proletariat, in whose cause it proposes to employ every possible form of activity.

Anti-Foreigner Pogrom

Once, in our innocence, we thought that pogroms were a peculiarity of jew-baiting days, in the "dark ages"—the days of feudal serf and baron and intolerant priest, or of Russia under the Czars. But we were mistaken, for here we be in the 20th century of light and learning" and democracy, in the great free west, in, comparatively speaking, a manless land abounding with natural resources, and we are actually reverting to the barbarisms of our "dark" minded ancestors. So much for boasted progress.

Anti-foreigner pogroms are publicly advocated, and without protest, and so tacitly encouraged, by those who have assumed our moral and intellectual tutelage, on other occasions. Then their volubility filled all the spaces of the earth and echoed from the skies again when—when the moral aspect of the issues could be made "safe" and popular and profitable. We ought to abase ourselves in the dust and shower the ashes of contempt on our heads for the shame of black reaction; for the shame of reverting back, yes, back to the territorial exclusiveness of tribal days, as a solution of the problem of unemployment. There is another solution, the twentieth century socialist, the international proletarian solution. Bring the earth and its resources, the means of production and the people together through the social ownership of the means of production and produce for use. That is the upward and the forward way.

In connection with the agitation against the alien the following extracts from a clipping from an issue of the Vancouver "Province," in 1912, date not known, will be interesting as to who is responsible for the presence of the foreigner in this country and their reasons for bringing him here. The clipping quotes an advertising dodger which was circulated amongst the workers in Russia. The extracts will indicate the nature of its contents: "The General Agency, 'The Transatlantic,' in London, England, has been commissioned to place 1,500 men in the following works: The Dominion Steel Corporation and Dominion Coal Co., Limited, in Glace Bay, and the Dominion Iron & Steel Co., Limited, in Sydney, Canada.

"The following men are required:

COMRADE AITKEN ACQUITTED

All friends will be pleased to hear that Comrade Aitken of Cumberland has been acquitted at the assizes of the charge of supplying draft evaders with food, etc. It will be remembered that he was arrested, shortly after the killing of Comrade "Ginger" Goodwin, in the hills behind Comox Lake as a draft-evader, by the Dominion policeman, Dan Campbell. Aitken and Comrade Joe Nay, Jor, who was acquitted at the last assizes, were both arrested for practically the same offence. The firm of Bird, Macdonald & Earle, of Vancouver, had charge of the defence. Comrade Aitken wishes us to convey his thanks to all those who rendered him assistance in his need.

BRITAIN'S IRON HEEL**Bulgarian Socialists to be Severely Punished**

A telegram from Athens to the "Matin" says: "A Bolshevik movement at Varna having been attempted by Socialists and Extremists from Sofia, the Allied authorities caused the town to be occupied by British troops, and martial law was proclaimed. All the ring leaders are to be tried by British court-martial, and severely punished.

(Note.—Varna is the chief port of Bulgaria. The telegram seems to suggest that the Socialists are ready in power at Sofia, the capital.)

"Nothing is so terrifying to the Socialists of today as the folly of their opponents."

—George Bernard Shaw.

"Miners (Cutters), possessing certificates, payments by the ton. Cutters earn from 60 to 100 roubles a fortnight. (One rouble equals 51½ cents). . . ."

And so on through all the different occupations around the mines, smelters and quarries. Another 1,000 to 1,500 unskilled laborers were also required at from 14 to 15 cents per hour. "No knowledge or experience" was required and the surroundings and conditions of work were characterized as "pleasant." Knowledge of the English language was not necessary, because as the circular stated, "that in Canada there were many Russians and many workers from Austria and the Balkan states, so that every worker could get along with his mother tongue." And this is how the immigration laws were evaded: "Every worker will receive from this office a certificate of employment gratis. Whosoever possesses a certificate will experience no difficulty in landing in Canada."

That is evidence to show what interests brought these foreign workers to Canada from the ends of the earth, and by what methods and specious promises they induced them to come here. It was capitalistic interests that brought them here, in the first place, in order to beat down the wages and the standard of living of the English-speaking workers, and now they would instigate an "anti-foreigner" pogrom in order to split the working-class forces and so retard their march to knowledge and power.

Many public men today are admitting, according to press reports, that the workers display a knowledge of the history of society and of economic science and a power of stating their position, superior to that of the bourgeoisie. Do not let us tarnish that reputation by being led to make our foreign fellow-workers the scape-goat for the evils of the capitalist system of production for profit. Do not let us take the cowardly part of umpiring on the under-dog. Let us show more economic sense, and, irrespective of the accident of birth-place, more class solidarity. Do not let the bourgeois draw a red herring across their trail by instigating amongst us an internecine working class pogrom.

Is British statesmanship prepared to send British soldiers or short of that, to justify sending poison gas, flame-throwers, guns and ammunition to be used on Russian soil and to keep this unhappy people in all the torments from which Western Europe was released by the armistice? . . . —Manchester Guardian.

Messrs. Cathal O'Shannon and Thomas Johnson, Irish delegates to the Berne Conference, have sent a telegram to the Hungarian Minister of Education, congratulating the workers on having established a republic.

Mistral, writing in "Humanite," tells that of the 12,000 Germans in Nicolaieff whom the Allies tried to use against Bolsheviks, that one-half laid down their arms and the other went over to the Bolsheviks.

During the trial of the Glasgow rioter at Edinburgh, a witness was sworn, and when the judge came to "I swear by almighty God," the witness, Malcolm McFarlane, asked: "which God do you refer to?" Don't ask questions," said the clerk. "Well," said the witness, "the reason I ask is that you appear to be the Handy Andy of the pantomime." The council decided not to ask the witness any questions, and he was ordered to stand down.

Propaganda meetings every Sunday night, at 8 p.m., Empress Theatre, corner of Gore avenue and Hastings street.