

"The Bolsheviki, though hampered by undesirable tools, are clearing the country of bribery and corruption. Terror has ceased. It has been greatly exaggerated. If Nikolai Lenine had not been in bed as the result of a wound there would have been no 'Terror' in Moscow. There have been no executions in Moscow for two months. During the 'Terror' there were 400 executions; of which 60 per cent. were corrupt soviet officials. Inefficiency is being remedied by rapid recruiting from the educated classes.

"Any government established by us will need the support of foreign bayonets, as the Russian proletariat are thoroughly imbued with Bolshevism."

THE APPEAL OF THE FINNISH WORKERS.

The following proclamation, copies of which have only lately reached this country, was issued at Stockholm early in August by the Central Committee of the Foreign department of the Finnish Workers' Government.

Again we appeal to the workers in all countries. Comrades! Frightful is the fate of the Socialist workers in Finland. Four months have elapsed since the defeat of the revolution, but still the White Terror is raging in the country. It is obvious that the Finnish bourgeoisie intends to destroy all the organized Socialist workers, all the seventy or eighty thousand revolutionaries, who are now starving in detention camps in various parts of the country.

From day to day the endless destruction of the organized workers continues. Hundreds die every day of hunger and disease. From day to day their executions go on, based upon decisions of special field court-martials, and instigated by the spirit of revenge and class-hatred on the part of individuals. In every detention camp the number of such murdered workers grows into hundreds upon hundreds. It is estimated that the White Terror in Finland has already killed almost as many people as lost their lives in the civil war—about 20,000 men, women and children; and this mad orgy of murder is not yet ended.

More than 100 field court-martials pronounce their sentences, life imprisonment, long prison terms, confiscation of private property of individuals. They are not treated as prisoners of war, but as ordinary criminals who are accused of murder, pillage, etc., the verdict covering all their acts from the time of the Socialist Government, and action taken in open warfare during the civil war. Arbitrary decisions of the courts and class hatred dictate the sentences.

The White Guards themselves say that the life of a Socialist is not worth that of a dog, and without any penalty anyone may kill a Socialist at any time.

Comrades, workers of all countries. Listen to the martyr outcry of organized labor in Finland. Let your voice be heard! The White Terror, which the Finnish bourgeoisie does not want to stop, intends to destroy the proletariat of Finland to the last man and woman. We appeal to that international solidarity which has been proclaimed so long. Urge your governments to take up the blood question of Finland!

Comrades in Russia, who yourselves have experienced the cruelties of the White Guards! Remember the fate of the revolutionary workers of Finland, and be ready to fight to the last drop of blood against the attacking enemies of the revolution; and arouse the workers in other countries in our defense!

Comrades in Scandinavia and in the Allied countries! Arouse a storm of protest against the executioners of the people of Finland! Spread the news about our fate to the people of the world!

Comrades in Germany and Austria! If our words reach you at all, we want to say to you, rise and put down your government. It was the German army which defeated the workers rule in Finland and which is now facilitating the reign of the White Terror. Do not say to us "Am I my brother's keeper!" It is better to die than to be an international scab and an executioner of the workers.

"The crucified labor of Finland appeals to its class comrades in all countries. You must prove in practice that international class solidarity does exist. Comrades and workers in all countries, listen to the martyr outcry from Finland!—New York "Nation," Nov. 30.

RUSSIA AND THE CZECHO-SLOVAKS.

A Stockholm dispatch of November 3, announced that M. Tschitcherin, People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, had telegraphed to the Provisional Czecho-Slovak Government at Prague offering to allow the Czecho-Slovaks in Russia to return home if they would lay down their arms and guarantee their safety. On this point the following statement sent out by Russian wireless on Nov. 1, is close up in form. The statement is a good example of Russian official documents frequently communicated to the press by the British Government and printed in leading newspapers.

"The Russian Workmen's and Peasants' Councils' Government, which represents large masses of the working population of Russia, and which in all its actions has always expressed its will to defend the interests of the laboring classes, this Russian Government declares solemnly to the Provisional Government of the Czecho-Slovaks that never has it ever entered their minds to deliver the Czecho-Slovaks, who have found refuge in Russia, over to Austria-Hungarians."

This is a baseless affirmation on the part of the counter-revolutionary calumniators. At the beginning of this year the Councils' Government agreed with the French and English Governments as to permission for the Czecho-Slovaks in Russia to go to France, but months and months passed, and France, in spite of her promise did not furnish the ships for transporting these Czecho-Slovaks. In the meantime, agents of the French and English capitalistic governments led the Czecho-Slovaks into error, and subject-

ed them to counter-revolutionary influences. They put at their head Russian reactionaries, agents of the infamous old Czarist regime. All measures which the Councils' Government was forced to take against the Czecho-Slovaks were merely measures of legitimate defense against the counter-revolutionary movement, which aimed at the deposition of the people's authority in Russia. The many victories won by the Red army of revolutionary workmen and peasants of Russia over the Czecho-Slovak detachments and White Guards, prove that the Czecho-Slovak detachments are powerless to depose the revolutionary government of Russian workmen and peasants. The Councils' Government, in spite of the success of its forces, has no other wish than to terminate this useless shedding of blood, and declares to the Provisional Government of the Czecho-Slovaks that it is ready to allow the Czecho-Slovaks to cross Russia as soon as they have laid down their arms, and to give them a complete guarantee as regards security for their return home.

The Councils' Government wishes to enter into direct negotiations with the Provisional Government of the Czecho-Slovaks, with a view to elaborating the conditions for the return home of those Czecho-Slovaks who are willing to go back to the territories which are now under the authority of the Czecho-Slovak Provisional Government of Prague. The Councils' Government will thank the Czecho-Slovak Government for a reply."

(Signed) Tschitcherin,

People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs,
Moscow, Oct. 31, 1918.

New York "Nation" of Nov. 3th.

BOLSHEVIST TROOPS CONTINUE ADVANCE

The Christian Science Monitor, Dec. 19.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (Wednesday)—A message from the Esthonian War Department to the Esthonian delegation here states:

"The Bolshevist forces are advancing on a wide front. The winter weather and condition of the roads makes defense difficult. Our small army is facing the Lettish Bolsheviki, who are 20 miles from Dorpat.

"They are likely to occupy the town before the German evacuation on Friday. We have evacuated Wesenberg."

An Open Letter to American Liberals

By SANTERI NUORTEVA.

Representative of the Finnish Workers' Republic.

THE letter that follows has been sent to a number of prominent American liberals with whom Comrade Nuorteva, as official representative of the People's Republic of Finland, has repeatedly had occasion to discuss the general situation in Russia and in Finland.

They have shown interest in and appreciation of the importance and difficulty of the problems which the peoples of the countries in question were called upon to solve.

Comrade Nuorteva addressed these gentlemen not purely and solely as a personal matter, but as exponents and representatives of a group that has preserved and embodies the best American traditions, without having become contaminated by the sordidness of machine politics—the liberals of America.

They must accept the responsibility that goes with their station as well as with their historical antecedents—either protest against what they cannot justify or become responsible as fully as if they had themselves done that which they failed to oppose.

Sir:

So it did happen after all. America, the "sponsor of the new freedom," America, the "founder of world democracy," is in Russia to-day, together with the Japanese, British, French and Italians, Colonel Semenov, General Horvath and other Russian reactionaries, to destroy the Bolshevist revolution. That is what the intervention amounts to, all reassurances notwithstanding.

I don't know that I have any business to write to you about Russia. I don't know that you have any time or interest to spare to consider the world drama which is being played in the far East. I don't know whether your patriotic efforts at bringing about class harmony in America will leave you time enough to see how your government and other governments are trying their utmost to prove to the world in Russia that conflicting class interests never can be conciliated.

Yet, somehow, I cannot refrain from writing you these lines. The greatest crime the history of the world ever has witnessed is being perpetrated against the Russian people—under the guise of "helping Russia,"—a crime as much blacker than that of the German imperialists, as is a stab in the back from a man pretending to be a friend more repugnant than a blow in the face from a confessed enemy. The Germans were at least frank in their indecency. They never pretended "helping Russia." And in Germany even the despicable Scheidemanns had enough moral stamina to raise their voices in the German Reichstag against the brigand terms imposed upon Russia by the Brest-Litovsk "peace" treaty. German papers printed vigorous criticism of Germany's policy in Russia. Here nobody dares to say anything,—least of all you, the so-called liberals, who have been trying to persuade us, the "dogmatic Socialists," that class interests are not the paramount issue in the world war and that there is some guarantee to the democracy of the world in the idealistic aims of great individuals.

What are you doing in Russia, sir? I am saying you, because as long as you have not raised your voice in

protest, you are responsible for it along with all the others.

Why did you go to Russia, and what do you expect to get out of it? You went there to "help the Czecho-Slovaks," of course! That is what the diplomatic declarations said. To help the Czecho-Slovaks to get out of Russia to fight on the western front. But aside from the fact that these declarations speak of the westward movement of the Czecho-Slovaks,—and nobody certainly imagines that the Czecho-Slovaks can go to the western front by moving westward from Siberia—you will remember that the intervention plans regarding Russia were laid long before the editors of the American papers learned how to spell the name of Czecho-Slovaks, or before they knew whether the Czecho-Slovaks were inhabitants of Africa or Australia.

Some time ago I saw a plan of Russian intervention, which was submitted to the State Department by some great defenders of American business and democracy. It was submitted last March, and it openly spoke of the necessity of finding a pretext for intervention in Russia. Very frankly it contemplated the possibility of inducing somebody to invite an Allied intervention. The Cadet Party was expected to do the inviting—even the Cadets did not dare openly to invite foreign intervention in Russia. The statement purporting to come from the Cadet Party, inviting Allied intervention, was fabricated in Paris by former Russian ambassadors and other adventurers who represented nobody but themselves. Even Kerensky could not be induced to plead for an armed intervention in Russia,

(Continued on page 6.)