

BOLSHEVISM AS IT IS; SOME PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

(By J. E. Oupovalov, Chairman of the Volzhsk Metal Workers' Union, Member of the Ural Trades Union Delegation now in Great Britain.)

The Bolsheviks allege that they are Socialists—nay, more, that they are Communists—and that their aim is to establish Socialism not only in Russia, but over the world. It is, however, not enough that they should proclaim themselves Socialists, deeds must prove that their aims are in accordance with the theories of Socialism and that they would actually lead to Socialism.

I myself am a convinced Socialist, and I believe that the fundamental premises of the realizability of Socialism would be a fully-developed and prosperous industrial, agricultural and political liberty, and a widespread culture. But, above all, Socialism cannot be imposed by force and aggression, it will only come as the result of a voluntary and collective subordination of the majority of the community to its central authority, penetrated by a profound and firm conviction of their task and the means of its realization. Without such premises, Socialism is impossible.

On closer investigation of Russian politics, we shall see that not only the Bolsheviks but all the other fundamental premises, but they are consciously destroying the title that has been achieved at the price of a prolonged struggle against Tsarist autocracy.

Extermination of Intellectuals. The Bolsheviks have seized power by means of armed aggression and prolonged to this day, was to exterminate the best intellectual forces of the country, those forces which fought for the liberation of Labor, and whose leaders perished on the scaffold, in prison and in exile.

While the Bolsheviks were masters of the province of Nizhni-Novgorod I was employed at the Sormovo Works and was a member of the Council of Workers' Deputies. In the course of a short space of time I was imprisoned three times, and twice officially sentenced to death. I escaped by the chance of the intervention of my party comrades and members of the intelligentsia were shot.

It was the same throughout the whole of Russia, and I affirm that the number of persons who perished during the last two years greatly exceeds the number of victims during the whole reign of Nicholas Romanov and his predecessors.

Organizations independent of any political party, were transformed by the Bolsheviks into party organizations and subordinated to the commissaries. The same was done with the co-operative societies, which were transformed into party co-operatives. All social principles were exterminated, the co-operatives were transformed into private Communist shops, and the latter into party shops.

No Real Soviet Power. The Bolsheviks affirm, and it is believed abroad, that power in Russia belongs to freely-elected Soviets. In reality elections are conducted under pressure or even by order of the Bolsheviks. Soviets are "constantly" being simply dispersed.

The seizure of power by the Bolsheviks on November 7, 1917, coincided with the sittings of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets. The Bolsheviks wanted to form a new Government composed exclusively of members of their own party, and a Government of their own party, and a Government of their own party, and a Government of their own party.

In February, 1918, after the conclusion of the shameful Brest-Litovsk Treaty, the Soviet of Workers' Deputies met in Nizhni-Novgorod for the purpose of electing delegates to the All-Russian Congress, which would be called upon to decide the question of peace. The Bolsheviks immediately sent a band of armed Letts and we were dispersed.

In March, 1918, the Sormovo workers demanded the re-election of the Soviet. After a severe struggle the re-elections took place, the Mensheviks and Social-Revolutionaries obtaining a majority. But the former Bolshevik Soviet refused to hand over the management to the newly-elected body, and the latter were dispersed by armed Red Guards on April 8.

Workmen Dispersed by Force. In connection with Russia's complete industrial and commercial ruin, resulting from the Bolsheviks' attempts to introduce Socialism by force, a wave of discontent passed over Russia, finding expression in the peasant and workers' strikes. These strikes were unorganized, the insurgents, lacking arms, were of course, unable to resist the detachments of Letts, Magyars and Chinese, and together with their families, paid a heavy price for daring to be dissatisfied with the "Workers' and Peasants' Government."

Mindful of the rising wrath of a people, organized Labor realized the necessity of directing this movement, and, while endeavoring to keep the people from useless sacrifices, to prevent the masses from falling under the influence of reaction.

On June 22, 1918, the Social-Democratic Committee of Sormovo called a Provincial Non-Party Labor Conference for the purpose of discussing current events; 350 delegates present, representing 350,000 workmen. The afternoon meeting passed off safely, but before the opening of the evening meeting a detachment of Letts, who had gathered in front of the conference premises were fired upon by a Lettish detachment by order of the Bolsheviks, and that several peaceful workmen were killed and wounded.

I fail to understand how many of our Western comrades can imagine the Bolsheviks, who have abolished all civic rights and liberties. If they are dissatisfied with their standard of rights, if they wish to acquire influence in the management of industry or to nationalize this or the other of its branches, all this can be accomplished by exercising their political rights. Let them send their adherents to Parliament, and they will achieve their purpose by peaceful means without having recourse to the destructive methods of the Bolsheviks.

Any minority dominating a majority by force leads to reaction in all spheres of life, and consequently the realization of Labor ideas is set aside.

A Bird in the Hand. The sun shone on the gold cross of St. Paul's, on the untidy groups of people gathered on the steps below, on the little lady in black who slipped and fell, on the handmaid, on the wedding pigeons that flapped lazily from another of the outstretched hands that offered them food. They were not hungry; they were, indeed, already overtaken, unlike many of those who saved up portions of their daily bread for this lunchtime diversion. But they belonged emphatically to the class of pigeons that will eat out of anybody's hand, in which respect they possibly resembled some of those who fed them.

"I do adore pigeons!" cried one enchanted girl, as a fat bird on a perch looked down at her. "Look, Wilfrid, isn't it a lamb?" Wilfrid was unresponsive. Pigeons to him were things that you shoot at with a gun. He had no use for pigeons that were lambs. Pamela, he reflected, was sentimental about animals. She loved to rescue stray dogs and cats, which were much better dealt with by the authorities, and which were finally left to the mounds when Pamela rushed off after her next class. Still, Pamela was Pamela; and he had no use, personally, for women who were not rather absurd; dear things, admit animals, but Pamela was certainly a social success with the pigeons of St. Paul's. Young men and women from neighboring offices, who came every day to feed the birds, found themselves deserted for this pretty idler from the West End. "Praps it's her rings," said a work girl enviously. "Diamonds!"

"You can have her diamonds," retorted another. "Give me her hat. That velvet looks a treat with the bird of Paradise, don't it?" "Lady fond of birds?" observed a road-sweeper, who stood smoking at the elbow of Pamela's husband. "Yes, rather, yes," said Wilfrid. He welcomed support for his masculine isolation. No use for this sort of thing, himself, he went on easily. "Good sport, pigeon shooting, in the South of France, where it's done, don't you know?" "That's right," said the road-sweeper, but merely as a form of polite acquiescence. "I take it you don't believe in the brotherhood of animals, now?" Pamela's husband was sure he did not believe in the brotherhood of animals. He supposed it was the same thing as the training of the birds, of which he remembered reading when he was a boy at Winchester. He was not a crank, anyway, whatever the road-sweeper thought. "Oh, well," he smiled. "I've no use for the kind of brute who overdrives his horses or kicks his dogs about; and I subscribe to a society for the Prevention of What-not, and all that. But I don't profess to think sport is wrong."

"Perhaps you're right," said his companion, genially. This encouraged Wilfrid expanded his theory. "Sport keeps a nation from getting soft, that's the way I look at it," he proceeded. The little lady in black reached them. The road-sweeper thanked her and gratefully joined the little group. Wilfrid smiled ironically as he contemplated the picture of a pierced bird of Paradise, dripping with gore. "We are a goodly people," he observed. "In no other country in the world would you find people—quite decent fellows, too, some of them—bothering about the feelings of some feathered creature in an African forest. Of course, I grant you it don't seem particularly necessary to slaughter birds just to trim women's hats. But, then, women—bless them!"

His wife, tired of feeding birds in the hand, came and joined him in studying the printed appeal for the life of the bird in the bush. "Ugh! What a horrible picture!" she said with a little shrug of distaste. "Why can't these cranks preach their sentimental rubbish without offending one's taste as well?" The sun shone down on the overfed, waddling pigeons, on the little groups of kind people throwing crumbs, on the gold cross of St. Paul's and on the glowing colors of the bird of Paradise that lay coiled with perfect taste round the hat of the woman who adored pigeons.

BOARD RECOMMENDS INCREASES FOR N. S. WORKERS. An increase in the scale of wages paid to employees in the coal mines of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company is recommended in a report made to the Minister of Labor by the Board of Conciliation which investigated the disputes between the company and men.

BRITISH RY. UNION SEEK AN INCREASE

Sliding Scale Adopted in January Opens Way. New trouble over wages is looming up on British railways. The settlement reached in January has already been condemned in newspapers and on Saturday executives of the Railwaymen's Unions brought before the Central Wages Board a claim for another flat rate for an advance of £1 weekly.

The outstanding feature of the January settlement was the institution of a sliding scale which automatically advanced wages by one shilling weekly to meet every first points increase in the cost of living. Since the acceptance of this principle the men are entitled to one shilling advance, but the new claim of £1 weekly is intended to be additional to the assured sliding scale increase.

The success of the Dockers' Union in establishing in open court their claims for a minimum wage of 15 shillings daily together with the recent advances gained by the miners have whetted the appetites in every industry, and the railway men's new demand is the precursor of many big wage claims to be discussed in the near future. It is significant that in these negotiations the two rival unions, the Locomotive Engineers, led by Bromley, and the National Union of Engineers, headed by Thomas, are for the first time making common cause. Only the railway shopmen, who depend on the Amalgamated Society of Engineers to further their claims, are standing outside the present discussion.

No hasty action is probable, as the January settlement established the National Wage Board by which such questions must be investigated for one month before a strike occurs. The profferer is one of the excuses—one of the good excuses, which the "Reds" offer for their present attitude. And if the "Reds" would only centre their attention there and help us get rid of the profferers, that would be doing a regenerative and constructive act.

Two Pictures. All right with the world? I don't know. In Hyde Park I saw two well-dressed nurses in a panic. Each wheeled a costly carriage—I cannot call it by such a common name as a "pram"—and in each carriage, as Daisy Ashford would say, was a sumptuous infant in raiment. And it was coming on to rain! Let not one drop fall on these precious charges. Up with the hoods on the carriages! Down with the umbrellas! Parkians and safety! Quite right, top.

But I came to the Green Park. Six little boys approached me. Four sat on a small soap box on wheels, pulled by two others. When they saw me looking curiously at the chariot the riders jumped off. I wondered why. I looked inside. Yes, there was a hidden baby at the bottom of the box—no, two! Twins!

I don't think I ever saw such a thing in London before. Tiny mites, perhaps three weeks old, fast asleep, their little arms pinched with the cold, their only shelter the forms of the boys who had been sitting above, if not actually upon them. I watched the chariot go cheerily over Westminster Bridge, skilfully dodging the traffic. Then I went to hear a well-known bishop speak on equality of opportunity. —Daily Herald, London.

JOINT COUNCIL OF INDUSTRY OF MANITOBA. The personnel of the joint council of industry for Manitoba, to be established under the Industrial Conditions Act will, according to information from official sources at the Parliament Buildings, Winnipeg, be as follows: Chairman, Chief Justice T. G. Mathers, Court of King's Bench; representatives of labor, Alderman W. B. Simpson and H. J. W. Powers, president of the Trades and Labor Council; representatives of the employers, John Stovel, of Stovel and Company, printers, and H. B. Loyal, of Manitoba Bridge and Iron Workers.

COST OF LIVING IN U. S. COAL REGIONS

Miners' Wages Increased Only 49 Per Cent. Since 1914. The cost of living in the anthracite mining regions has increased 92 per cent. since 1914, while the wages of the mine workers have advanced only 49 per cent. since that same period, according to figures submitted by representatives of the miners at today's meeting of the sub-committee appointed to negotiate a new wage agreement for the hard coal fields.

While the increase to the day men in some instances is in excess of that given the contract workers, the miners pointed out they were applied to exceptional low wage rates. The home workers also presented family budgets, prepared in the mining region, showing that it cost \$2.12 per year for the necessities of life. They provided for no luxuries and omitted many things which are not necessities, according to our American standards, the miners declared. Figures prepared by the United States Bureau of Labor statistics, showing the "minimum comfort budget" for a mine worker's family is \$2,242.94, they said. While the budget takes as a basis a family of five, the mine workers declared, the average miner's family consists of more than five persons.

The budget and figures were presented by the miners in reply to statistics produced by the operators to show that the average earnings of the mine workers were approximately \$1,500 per year, and represented a living wage. The operators also attacked the accuracy of the miners' figures, which purport to show that the average wage of the daymen in the anthracite fields is but \$390 per year, and the contract men from \$1,200 to \$1,400. The mine owners presented data showing that the wage advances received by the workers since 1914 average approximately 79 per cent. Reports from the mining region received here today declared, the coal companies had placed an embargo on local deliveries and are making deliveries on retroactive contracts, which will insure access to meet any increased cost

AGENTS WANTED. We want a local representative in every town and city in Canada to take yearly subscriptions for the Canadian Labor Press. An excellent spare time proposition with unlimited possibilities. For full particulars address Canadian Labor Press, Agency Division, Room 110, 123 Bay Street, Toronto, Ont.

Schrader Universal Tire Pressure Gauge. The Schrader Gauge contains a large air chamber which has only one opening. During the operation of testing the tire pressure, the air chamber of the tire and the air chamber of the gauge, become one combined, continued chamber, so hermetically connected that no leak, no matter how infinitesimal, is possible. The inner mechanism is such that no matter in what position the gauge is applied to the tire, top, side or bottom—the indicating sleeve remains at the point to which it has been forced by the air pressure, until pushed back into place. Guaranteed absolutely accurate and endorsed by Tire Manufacturers as the most reliable gauge on the market. Price in leather case, \$1.75. Manufactured by

What an Independent Investigator Said Under Date of Wednesday, March 17. Two Canadian gentlemen, Mr. Willard and Mr. Denault, who became sufficiently interested in this company's proposition to consider investing in it, herewith reproduce the telegram they see the oil field and the company's holdings with their own eyes. We took the precaution to go to Texas and sent to Mr. Denyes, General Manager of Canadian-American Resources, Ltd. Grandfield, Oklahoma, March 17, 1920.

L. E. DENYES, Manager, Canadian-American Resources, Limited, 1006 Royal Bank Building, Toronto. We met Judge Stephens and toured Burk Burnett oil field, around your property. Mr. Willard and I find more than double the number of wells adjacent to this property than is shown in blue print. A man must see this field to realize its magnitude. It is most wonderful. Leaving tonight. DENAULT.

This company makes conservative statements as to its properties and its prospects, as the above telegram shows, but we could very properly make some astonishingly alluring forecasts as to the profits and dividends that will come to this company when a few of our wells are driven. We shall be ready to start work very soon, and should have a number of wells flowing by mid-summer. It is likely that the present generous Bonus of Common Stock will be reduced when the oil starts to come in. We own 60% interest in the leases of 4,818 acres right in the producing area of the Burk Burnett oil field. These leases are valued at this moment in excess of \$6,000,000.00, and their potential value, when wells are driven, is greater in millions of dollars than any person would feel capable of putting down in figures. We might state that, in one year, in the Burk Burnett oil field alone, over \$9,880,000.00 was paid in dividends, equal to over 200 per cent. on the capital actually expended. Wonderful returns to the investor are within expectations on this proposition.

NO "LAY-OFFS"

There is no better assurance that wheels will turn unimpeded and that the workman's time will go on without "lay-offs" than to have all wheels and pulleys in the factory equipped with

GUITA PERCHA & RUBBER LIMITED P.M.S. MILL SPECIAL TORONTO-CANADA. BELTS. Every length width and thickness desired. Our belts are designed to meet the requirements of the most difficult transmission service.

On my way there I engaged myself as a founder at the Volzhsk Factory, situated a thousand versts from Nizhni-Novgorod. This coincided with the famous Labor rising at the neighboring Izhsk Works; 40,000 workmen and the local peasantry, oppressed by the Bolshevik oppression, revolted. They were joined by 10,000 Volzhsk workmen, and the Bolsheviks were overthrown. What did the Bolsheviks do on finding themselves at the head of affairs? They acted in direct contrast to the Bolsheviks. The former Soviet Workers' Delegates dispersed by the Bolsheviks were re-established and handed over the power to the Provisional Committee of Members of the Constituent Assembly, which is a purely class Labor organization. All democratic public institutions abolished by the Bolsheviks were immediately re-established. Trade unions were stamped out by the Bolsheviks, and once more became purely class Labor organizations.

For defence against the Bolsheviks the insurgent workmen formed themselves into a regular military unit, led by officers recruited by mobilization. Without ammunition, barefoot and ill-clad, the workmen resolved to die rather than again submit to the Bolsheviks. I will not narrate the exploits of the Volzhsk and Izhsk Labor divisions. Later they formed units of Admiral Kolchak's army, fought the Bolsheviks to the bitter end, and now have probably all perished. I have given a truthful narrative of some of my experiences as a workman under the Bolshevik yoke.

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SHAM "UNION" BLOWS UP. The Actors Fidelity League has blown up and the Actors' Equity Association will admit all eligible members of the defunct outfit. The League was formed during the New York actors' recent strike and received the blessing of theatrical managers, who vowed that they would close their theatres before they would recognize the Actors' Equity Association.

The managers failed to estimate the sticking qualities of the actors and actresses, among whom were the stars of the American stage, and the managers found that the strikers were doing what they themselves threatened—close the theatres. A settlement was reached and the Equity Association announced that between \$30,000 and \$70,000 had been paid their members as a result of improved conditions. One day last week the managers paid \$14,000.

Authorized Capital, \$50,000,000. Common Stock, \$35,000,000. We offer for sale, Treasury Stock. Proceeds to be used for development of Oil Wells on our Texas Leases \$500,000.00 (50,000 Shares) 7% Cumulative Preferred Shares (Par Value, \$10 each), with 100% Bonus of Common Stock. Dividends on Preferred Stock accrue from date of issue, and are payable quarterly. Literature and Full Information Furnished on Request.

CAPITALIZATION

Preferred Stock, \$15,000,000. The Company has acquired from Frank Patton, J. H. Spikes, O. H. Heavens, James A. Stephens and Clay Donovan, of the State of Texas, one of the United States of America, a sixty per cent. (60%) interest in 4,818.47 acres of oil land in the Counties of Cotton and Tillman, in the State of Oklahoma, for the price of \$299,095.00 in cash.

The Company has agreed to pay a commission not exceeding Ten per cent. (10%) to persons for subscribing or agreeing to subscribe for the shares offered to the public, or for procuring or agreeing to procure subscriptions for any shares of the company. The estimate of the amount of the preliminary expenses of incorporation of the Company is Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00).

The Head Office of the Company is situated at 1006 Royal Bank Building, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Copy of the prospectus was filed with the Provincial Secretary of the Nineteenth day of November, A.D. 1919.

STATUTORY INFORMATION. The By-laws of the Company provide that the qualifications of each Director shall be the holding of at least ten shares of the stock of the Company. The Directors, who are not salaried officers, are allowed a fee of Twenty Dollars for each attendance at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

The minimum subscription upon which the Directors may proceed to allotment is ten shares and the amount payable on application and allotment is Ten dollars per share. The Company purchased from Easton Marshall Ansley, of the City of Toronto, County of York, 1,931 acres of land in the Province of Ontario, in consideration of the sum of \$100,000 and \$49,350 shares of the Common Stock of the Company, of which 1,750,000 shares were placed in trust to be used for the best interest of the Company as the Directors may direct. An agreement for the purchase of the land was executed and dated the Eighteenth day of November, A.D. 1919, and may be seen at the Company's Head Office, in the City of Toronto, during business hours.

Canadian - American Resources, Limited. Head Offices: 1006 Royal Bank Building, Toronto.

The Hamilton Bridge Works Company, Limited HAMILTON, ONT.

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