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# RED RUSSIA

(By John Reid.—By Permission of Liberator.)

(Thousands of dollars have been offered for these stories of the greatest event in the world, by the greatest correspondent on the American Continent.

The Canadian Forward has been fortunate enough to get permission from the author to publish this story which is also appearing

in the "Liberator." Don't miss reading it.

Mr. John Reid is the Russian Consul for New York State for the Russian People's Government.

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The true revolution may be said to have begun on that day. For their withdrawal was a sign of the withdrawal of confidence from the Government by the whole mass of the Russian people. Those who were left behind, the hostile cadets, Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries, realized what it meant, and there were many pale faces. Shrieks, curses, execrations, and imploring cries of "Come back!" followed the departing Bolsheviks. But they did not come back. And it was a blow from which the council never recovered. It was to go on deliberating and speech making, amid lethargic silence or uproarious tumult, for three weeks—appointing commissions, on land, on foreign affairs; Terestchenko was to come and make a dull, non-committal statement of international policy; Kerensky was to come twice to appeal with tears for national unity, and once to curse the Bolsheviks, along with the reactionaries, as traitors; there were to be illusory conflicts between the Right and the Left, and a multitude of words added to the immense torrent of hot Russian talk that flows, turbulent and endless, on and on. Only in the last days of its existence did the denatured Council hurriedly pass a resolution to solve the land question at once and to adopt an energetic foreign policy to secure peace. It was too late, then. But they would keep on discussing until that cold grey morning, three weeks after the departure of the Bolsheviks, when they were to be interrupted—all the doors of the great imperial council room suddenly filled with rough-looking big soldiers and sailors, bristling with bayonets, and a sailor shouting, "No more Council. Run along home." I had seen the Bolsheviks leave the earlier Assembly. In the corridor I stopped Volodarski. "Why are you fellows going?" I asked. "We can't work with that counter-revolutionary gang," he replied. "They have packed the hall, and now they have put over a combination with the Kornilovtsi to wreck the revolution." "What are you going to do?" I asked.

"We're going to call a new All-Russian Convention of the Soviets. That's where the real revolutionary force lies. Then we'll take over the

power. All power to the Soviets, where it belongs!"

It was this All-Russian Congress of Soviets that now loomed over Russia like a thundercloud. It was recognized to be the beginning of the Bolshevik regime, and by the bourgeoisie, the "centre" Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries, the Central Army and Fleet Committees, the Peasants Soviets and especially the Central Executive Committee of the All-Russian Soviets itself; no pains were spared to try to prevent it. Solemn resolutions, declarations in the press, delegations from the front, the fleet, from factories, Peasants' Union (reactionary), Union of Cosacks, Knights of St. George, Death Battalions. . . . In the Ivestia, official organ of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets, a determined campaign against the Congress was carried on. The "centre" Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries, led by the "Lieber-Dans" as they are called, sent instructions far and wide over the country for their party members to influence local Soviets into refusing to send delegates. But the Petrograd Soviet stubbornly insisted. At the date set, October 20, only 15 delegates out of a possible 900 odd had arrived; the Petrograd Soviet merely postponed the meeting until October 25, and sent another call. The next day more than a hundred arrived—among them many who had been delegated irregularly, over the heads of hostile executive committees. Confident of a majority the Bolshevik Petrograd Soviet sent word that it would grant increased representation to small Soviets, and seat all delegates. The Central Executive Committee realized that it was beaten, and sent frantic calls over the country to the Soviets to elect Menshevik and Social Revolutionist delegates—a despairing attempt to get a majority of the "right" and "centre."

In the meantime there were more sinister signs of resistance to the will of the masses. The government was making preparations to evacuate Petrograd; and Rodzianko, former president of the Duma and one of the cadet leaders, declared before a conference of business men in Moscow that the loss of Petrograd would not be a serious blow; for in the first

place the revolutionary Petrograd workers would not cause any more trouble and in the second place, the revolutionary Baltic fleet would be disposed of. And then came the declaration of the new government; suppression of mutiny at the front and anarchy in the country by force, and the transfer of the power of "irresponsible organizations" (that is, the Soviets) to the Dumas and Zemstvos.

The air was full of talk of the Bolshevik "demonstration"—the vistuplennie, or "coming out" of the workers and soldiers. Bolshevik agitators went the rounds of the Petrograd barracks and factories, insisting that the counter-revolutionary government wanted to open the front to the Germans, wreck the Constituent Assembly, destroy the revolution. Lenine made his appearance—in print in the columns of the Bolshevik paper "Rabotchi Poot"—preaching armed insurrection. On the extreme right the reactionary papers "Noviaia Rus" and "Jivoe Slovo," called for a bloody drowning of the left elements in blood, a pitiless military dictatorship. Burtsev's paper, "Obshchee Delo," advocated a strong, patriotic government of Kornilov, Kaledine and Kerensky! Evidently some of the Bolshevik chiefs themselves opposed the idea of an uprising, preferring to wait for the Constituent Assembly—but Lenine's great voice roared continuously, "Either armed insurrection or abandon the program of 'All power to the Soviets! The counter-revolutionists are preparing to destroy the All-Russian Congress and the Revolution!" Volodarski told me in the corridors of the Smolny that the will of the masses of all Russia was that the power should immediately be given to the Soviets. "The Lieber Dan crowd" are sabotaging this Congress," he said. "But if they succeed in preventing enough delegates to come here to make a quorum, well, we are realists enough not to depend on that!" Kamenev was of the opinion that as soon as the All-Russian Soviets had declared themselves, the Provisional Government would be forced to resign. . . .

Finally, the intention of the Bolsheviks in general was, I think, expressed best by Trotzky, who made a categorical public statement that the workers and soldiers would make no vistuplennie unless provoked, or unless some counter-revolutionary attempt was made. He was perfectly clear in his opinion that the masses of Russia, as represented in the Congress of Soviets, would demand by a huge majority that the power should pass to the Soviets; and of course if the government resisted!

At the meeting of the Petrograd Soviet in Smolny, the night of October 17th, Trotzky branded the assertions of the bourgeois press that the Bolsheviks contemplated armed insurrection as "an attempt of the reactionaries to discredit and wreck the Congress of Soviets. . . . The Petrograd Soviet," he declared, "has not ordered any demonstration in

the streets. When it will be necessary we will do so, and we are sure we will be supported by the workers and the Petrograd garrison. . . . They (the Government) are preparing a counter-revolution; and we will answer with an offensive which will be merciless and to the end!"

(To be continued.)

Next Issue—"An Interview with Trotzky."

## "Get" Bainbridge Again.

Just as this paper was ready for the Press, word was received that Judge Latchford, who suspended sentence at the time of the first Bainbridge conviction, nearly a year ago, called him into court on May 27 and sentenced comrade to three months at the Jail Farm.

The excuse offered for this action was the printing of the article for which Bainbridge was acquitted by the appeal court after the Second Conviction. We will print full particulars of the case in the next issue of the Forward.

## JAMES H. MAURER REFUSED PASSPORT

By State Department in Washington

### To Inter-Allied Labor Conference.

After seven weeks of delay, the State Department has finally ruled that James H. Maurer, the democratically elected delegate of the First National Conference of Labor, Socialist and Radical Movements to the Inter-Allied Labor Conference, is to be denied a passport. The reason assigned is most interesting:

"Because of present conditions the Department is issuing passports for European countries only in cases of necessary service. As it does not appear that Mr. Maurer's mission falls within that category, the Department is obliged to decline to grant him a passport."

It follows from the above that the hand-picked delegation of labor representatives, which arrived in England the other day, and which was appointed largely through the instrumentality of Samuel Gompers, has gone to Europe to render what the State Department deems a "necessary service." Yet the very first act of these men and women upon their arrival in London was to slap the labor movements of Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy and Russia in the face by insisting that no general international conference of labor could take place until after the war.

The situation is perplexing indeed. The one hope of a democratic peace lies in the workers of the world. Next to the Russian revolution, the most promising thing that has grown out of this war is the constructive programme and policy of the British Labor Movement. Prejudiced at first against the idea of an international gathering, in which both Entente and Middle Europe workers were to

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