

RUSSIAN SOVIET REPUBLIC

(Continued from last issue)

In its efforts to create a league—free and voluntary and for the reason all the more complete and secure—of the working classes of all the peoples of Russia, the Soviet Republic declared itself a federal republic and offered to the laborers and peasants of every Nation the opportunity to enter as members with equal rights into the fraternal family of the Republic of Soviets (through action taken) independently in the plenipotentiary sessions of their Soviets, to any extent and in whatever form they might wish.

The Soviet Republic has declared war upon war, not only in words, but also in deeds; and in doing so it formally and in the name of the working masses of Russia announced its complete renunciation of all efforts at conquest and annexation, as well as all thought of oppressing small Nations. At the same time the Soviet Republic, to prove the sincerity of its purposes, broke openly with the policy of secret diplomacy and secret treaties, and it proposed to all belligerent Nations to conclude a general democratic peace without annexations or indemnities, upon the basis of the free self-determination of peoples. That standpoint is still firmly adhered to by the Soviet Republic.

Compelled by the policy of violence practised by the imperialism of all the world, the Soviet Republic is marshalling its forces for resistance against the growing demands of the robber packs of international capital, and it looks to the inevitable rebellion of the working classes for the solution of the question of how the Nations can live peacefully together. The international Socialist rebellion alone, in which the laboring people of each state overthrow their own imperialists, puts an end to war once for all and creates the conditions for the realization of the solidarity of the working people of the entire world.

Taking its stand upon the principles of the Internationale, the Soviet Republic recognizes that **there can be no rights without duties and no duties without rights**, and therefore proclaims at the same time with the rights of the working classes in a rejuvenated society the following outline for their duties:

1. To fight everywhere and without sparing their strength for the complete power of the working classes, and to stamp out all attempts to restore the dominion of the despoilers and oppressors.
2. To assist with all their strength in overcoming the depression caused by the war and the opposition of the bourgeoisie, and to co-operate in bringing about as speedy a recovery as possible of production in all branches of economy.
3. To subordinate their personal and group interests to the interests of all the working people of Russia and the whole world.
4. To defend the Republic of the Soviets, the only socialistic bulwark in the capitalistic world, from the attacks of international imperialism without sparing their own strength and even their own lives.
5. To keep in mind always and everywhere the sacred duty of libe-

rating labor from the dominations of capital, and to strive for the establishment of a world-embracing fraternal league of working people.

In proclaiming these rights and duties the Russian Socialist Republic of the Soviets calls upon the working classes of the entire world to accomplish their task to the very end and in the faith that the Socialist ideal will soon be achieved to write upon their flags the old battle cry of the working people:

**Proletarians of all lands, unite!
Long live the socialistic world revolution!**

II.

General Provisions of the Constitution of the Russian

Socialistic Federal Republic.

The fundamental problem of the constitution of the Russian Socialistic Federal Republic involves, in view of the present transition period, **the establishment of a DICTATORSHIP over the urban and rural proletariat and the poorest peasantry**, the power of the Pan-Russian Soviet authority, the crushing of the bourgeoisie, the abolition of the spoliation of men by men and the introduction of socialism in which there will be neither a division into classes nor a state of authority.

1. The Russian Republic is the free socialistic society of all the working people of Russia, united in the urban and rural Soviets.
2. The Soviets of those regions which differentiate themselves by special form of existence and National character will be united into autonomous regional associations ruled by the sessions of the Soviets of those regions and their executive organs.
3. The Soviet associations of the regions parti-basis of federation, at the head of which stand the Pan-Russian session of the Soviets and, in periods between the sessions, the Pan-Russian Central executive Committee.

III

Concerning the Russian Soviets.

Section first: Concerning the suffrage.

1. The right to vote and to be elected to the Soviets is enjoyed by the following citizens of the Russian Socialistic Soviet Republic of both sexes who shall have completed their eighteenth year by the day of the election:
 1. All who have acquired the means of living through labor that is productive and useful to society and are members of the trades associations, namely:
 - (a) Laborers and employees of all classes who are employed in industry, trade and agriculture.
 - (b) Peasants and Cossack agricultural laborers who hire no labor.
 - (c) Employees and laborers in the offices of the Soviet government.
 2. Soldiers of the army and navy of the Soviets.
 3. Citizens of the two previous categories who have to any degree lost their capacity to work.
- II. The following persons enjoy neither the right to vote nor to be voted for, even though they belong to one of the categories enumerated above, namely:
 - (1) Persons who employ hired labor in order to obtain from it an increase of profits;
 - (2) Persons who have an income without doing any work, such as in-

terest from capital, receipts from property, and so on;

- (3) Private merchants, trade and commercial intermediaries;
- (4) Employees of communities for religious worship.
- (5) Employees and agents of the former, police, the gendarmerie corps and the Ochrana; also members of the dynasty that formerly ruled Russia;
- (6) Persons who have in legal form been declared demented or mentally deficient, and also deaf and dumb persons;
- (7) Persons who have been punished for selfish or dishonorable misdemeanors.

II—VII

Principles for the Administration of the Russian State.

The government is based upon the smallest settlements (villages and hamlets), the inhabitants of which may elect one representative to each 100 persons. The rural Soviets are under the authority of the Soviets of the Wolosts (districts), and these latter under the Soviets of the Ujesd (larger regions). The urban and Ujesd Soviets elect delegates to sessions of the government or Oblast Soviets. Each of these bodies chooses independently its own executive committee.

THE KEYSTONE to the whole constitution is embraced in:

VIII

Concerning the Pan-Russian Congress of the Soviets.

- (1) The Pan-Russian Congress of the Soviets consists of representatives of the urban Soviets (one delegate for each 25,000 voters) and representatives of the government congresses (one delegate for each 125,000 voters).
- (2) The Pan-Russian Congress of Soviets will be called together by the Pan-Russian central executive committee at least twice a year.
- (3) The extraordinary Pan-Russian Congress will be called together by the Pan-Russian central executive committee upon its own initiative or upon the demand of the Soviets of districts embracing at least one-third of the entire population of the republic.
- (4) The Pan-Russian Congress of Soviets elects the central executive committee of not more than 200 members.
- (5) The Pan-Russian executive committee is responsible to the Pan-Russian Congress of Soviets.
- (6) **The Pan-Russian Congress of Soviets is the highest power in the republic.** In the periods between its sessions that power is represented by the Pan-Russian central executive committee.

It is further provided that the central executive committee shall be divided into eleven colleges for administrative functions. These are:

1. Foreign policies.
2. Defence of the country (army and navy).
3. Social order and security (militia), census of the people, registration of societies and associations, fire department, insurance, organization of the Soviets.
4. Justice.
5. Public economy (with subsections for agriculture, industry and trade, finances, railways, food supply, state property and construction).
6. Labor and Social welfare.

7. Education and enlightenment of the people.
8. Public health.
9. Post, telegraph and telephone.
10. Federal and national affairs.
11. Control and auditing.

AMERICAN SOCIALISTS MAKE DECLARATION.

Record of History, that the American Socialist Party is the only "Anti-Kaiser"—Anti Junker" Party in United States.

Chicago—"Our record of opposition to the German kaiser was consistent, continuous and uniform before the war. It will continue until the kaiser is dethroned. We shall attack the institutions of kaiserism, until they are banished from the face of the earth."

With this declaration the Socialist Party, through its national executive committee here, has thrown down the gauntlet to the imperialists and exploiters of America and their press, who have carried on a continuous campaign against the Socialist Party in an effort to create prejudice against it, charging it with pro-Germanism and with being a willing tool of kaiserism, un-American and disloyal.

The declaration has been issued in the form of a letter to the National Security League, which addressed, a hypocritical declaration to the national conference of Socialist officials and the national executive here, stating that the league is not opposed to the Socialist party any more than it is opposed to the Democrats and Republicans. The letter, giving the reply of the Socialist Party, is in part as follows:

Speaks for Propertyless

"The Socialist party assumes to speak for the class whose contribution to this war must of necessity consist of all they have. The propertyless make the supreme sacrifice, whereas the service rendered by your members to the government in winning the war consists of construing honest criticism of the war managers as treason, and reasonable suggestions regarding it as sedition. The real lawbreakers and the real traitors are those who are reaping millions of profit as a result of the war; who, not by harmless words, but by predatory acts and conscienceless deeds, have embarrassed the government to the extent that the direction of industry is being taken from them. They have resisted every proposition to disgorge even a portion of the vast profits they have wrung from the nation's distress, and are even now, by powerful lobbies in the national Capitol, seeking to evade their just share of the public burden.

"The opposition of the Socialists of America to German imperialism and the kaiser is historic; it dates from the first opportunity we ever had of expressing our abhorrence to a government whose power was derived from hereditary succession. The members of your league, and many of those who support it, have entertained most extravagantly and lavishly, and with every indication of approval and commendation, the personal representative of the Hohenzollerns, Prince Henry.

Entertained by Kaiser

"Another member of your league, Theodore Roosevelt, was entertained

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