

### FIVE YEARS OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND THE PROSPECTS OF THE WORLD REVOLUTION

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workers' faculties have been established, many hundreds of thousands of young people are learning, are learning too quickly perhaps. If we are not working too rapidly, then within a few years we shall have a large number of young people capable of changing the apparatus down to its foundations.

Should our opponents perhaps be inclined to throw it in our faces that Lenin himself admits that an enormous number of foolish errors have been committed, I should like to reply: Yes, but do you know, our foolish actions are of a very different kind from yours. We have just started to learn, and we are learning so systematically that we are sure of attaining results. But if our opponents, that is, the capitalists, and the heroes of the Second International, relate the foolish errors we have committed, I can give here an example taken from a famous Russian author. I shall alter this example a little, so that it has the following aspect: When the Bolsheviki do anything foolish, the Bolsheviki says: Twice two are five. But when the opponents, that is, the capitalists and the heroes of the Second International, do anything foolish, they say: Twice two is a tallow candle. This is not difficult to prove. Let us take for instance the agreement with Koltchak, the treaty agreed to by America, England, France and Japan. Are there any states in the world better educated or more powerful than these? And they promised to help Koltchak. That was a fiasco which even humanity's liability to err cannot explain. And as a second example: the Versailles Peace. What have the civilized powers done here? How can they now find any way out of the confusion and absurdity? I believe it to be no exaggeration when I repeat that our foolish actions are as nothing in comparison with those committed by the capitalist world in combination with the Second International. I am therefore of the opinion that

#### The prospects of the world revolution are good

And, with one condition, I believe they will become better still.

In 1921 we passed a resolution at the Third Congress, relating to the development of the organization of the Communist Parties and to the methods and content of their work. The resolution is excellent. But it is almost completely Russian, that is, it originates entirely from the Russian phase. Therein lies the good of the resolution, but also the bad, for it is almost incomprehensible to a foreigner. It is too long; it has 50 or more paragraphs imbued with the Russian spirit; it is too Russian, too completely impregnated with the Russian spirit. Should an exceptional foreigner understand the resolution he cannot fulfil it. We have not found the way of passing on the results of our Russian experience directly to the foreigner. And if we cannot do this, we can make no progress. I believe it to be of the greatest importance for us all, Russians and foreigners alike, that now, after five years of Russian revolution, we have the opportunity of learning. I do not know how long the capitalist powers will allow us the possibility of learning quietly. But we must utilize every moment in which we are free from military activity, from war, for learning. We Russians know how to learn.

The whole party, and all social strata in Russia, prove this by their striving after education. It is a moot point whether it is proletarian or bourgeois culture. I do not exactly see how that is to be decided. But in any case, in my opinion, what we first need is reading and writing, and proper comprehension of what is read. Abroad they do not require this any longer. They need something higher. And what is required most of all is that which we wrote regarding the development of the organizations of the Communist Parties. Our foreign comrades signed this without reading it, without understanding it. To learn to understand it should be their first task. They must absorb a piece of Russian experience. How will this be done? Perhaps the Fascisti in Italy may for instance render us good service in this connection, and enlighten the Italians on the point that they are not so very cultured, since black hands still prevade the country. I am

convinced that in this sense we must say not only of the Russians, but that for other countries too the exigencies of the coming period demand above all that they learn. We learn in a general sense. They must learn in a quite specific sense, in order to really comprehend the organization, the construction, the methods, the substance of the revolutionary work. When they do this, then I am convinced that the prospects of the world revolution will not only be good, but excellent.

## The Clarion Mail Bag

BY SID EARP.

IN spite of the frequent assurances by professional writers to the daily press as to an approaching era of good business and prosperity, the fact of the utter weakness and unsuitability of Capitalism as a Social system is becoming ever more distinct. Confusion and strife, crime and poverty is growing apace; and the question in the minds of thinking men is "when and how will the end appear?" For our part we can only say that future circumstances will decide. The facts of the present we do know, the chief among which is, that the great mass of society clings tenaciously to customs and beliefs which are no longer justifiable in the light of common sense. To the clearing away of an outworn ideology and the inculcation of a scientific habit of mind must our efforts be directed. Truly a great and thankless task, but not impossible of achievement. While the opportunity is with us, let the truths of Scientific Socialism be spread abroad amongst the working class upon whom alone lies the heavy responsibility of social reconstruction.

Except for a notice of change in address from Hamilton, Ont., Eastern Canada is not represented in the "Mail Bag" this time. From Winnipeg comes a Clarion sub. and a short semi-business letter from Sec. T. Mace of the O.B.U. An encouraging letter comes from Craik, Saskatchewan, asking for particulars and samples of literature. May good results follow is our earnest hope. Moose Jaw is represented by a sub renewal from Com. H. T. Spencer. Alberta shows up well this time. A brief letter from Com. Wiley Orr of Seven Persons, Alta., speaks well of Lestor's lectures in that district; they would like to hear more of him. Also encloses a dollar for twenty copies of the Clarion with Com. McPherson's article, "The Farmer's Misery" on front page. He considers this article as well worthy of distribution. From Innisfail and Sheerness, Alta., come a couple of sub renewals, and an order for literature from Com. Ed. Fiala, Retlaw. From Meeting Creek and Edberg also come orders for literature. Com. Geo. Donaldson sends greetings and a sub from Stanmore. From Swalwell comes an order for literature, a Clarion sub and kind words for McPherson's article in our recent issue; copies are requested for distribution. Two subs come from Whitla and one each from Hardisty and Pakan. Two subs come from Com. C. W. Springford of Blackfoot and an order for pamphlets from Vulcan.

From Fernie, B. C. Com. Erickson writes a short note with two subs and literature order enclosed. Two subs also come from Vanderhoof, B. C. Com. C. F. Orchard writes an interesting letter from Kamloops, B. C., in which he expresses appreciation of the Clarion and the Party position. Also "Having heard statements to the effect that the worker was robbed as a consumer as well as a producer I would like at some time to see this explained in our journal for others' benefit as well as my own." We think Cusack might do this and oblige everybody! Com. Goodspeed, Balaklava Island, sends a sub renewal and a dollar for the Maintenance Fund, also kindly greetings to the members of the S. P. of C. From Ladysmith, Sam Guthrie sends in a sub.

Writing from Beaverdell, Com. W. Clarkson sends a renewal of his sub and asks that it be sent to Yorkshire, England. He says he does not want to miss a single "charge of ammunition." Two fifty cent subs come from Victoria. Com. Wm. Livingstone writes from North Vancouver enclosing sub renewal and cheque to cover dues to Local No. 1.

Two further subs also come from the North Shore. From Sumas, Washington, U.S.A., Com. L. G. Atkins sends kind words of appreciation and a sub renewal. He congratulates the comrades of Vancouver, "the whole bunch."

The Detroit Socialist Educational Society request that their Clarion bundle be cut to twenty copies per issue until the street meetings start again. From Blackwell, West Coast New Zealand, come two letters: One from Sec. Daly of the Communist Party enclosing two Clarion subs, and the other from Com. E. Hunt enclosing four subs and commenting upon conditions in that district. He says that the slaves are facing a grim struggle in New Zealand, and that the need for educational propaganda was never more urgent. Also refers to the splendid work done by Com. J. A. McDonald who was with them some time ago, and expresses great appreciation of the Western Clarion.

And so it goes: grim struggles for a mean existence in a world abounding with all that makes for a pleasurable, useful life. And they call it Christian civilization, which means a slave civilization. May its downfall be quick and complete.

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