

BOLSHEVISM—THE POISON OF PRODUCTION

*A Collection of Responsible Opinions Revealing the True
Condition of Russia under Bolshevik Rule.*



R. SAMUEL GOMPERS, President of the American Federation of Labour, made the statement, on the eve of his departure to Paris to attend the International Labour Conference, that American organized labour will fight the spread of Bolshevism with every energy at its command. "Bolshevism," he declared, "is as great an attempt to disrupt the trade unions as it is to overturn the Government of the United States."

Again, at the annual meeting of the American Federation of Labour at St. Paul, Mr. Gompers said:

"I am not going to give up voluntarily the labour movement with its achievements of to-day, to look for the chimerical to-morrow. I think the greatest, the most radical, the most idealistic, and the most fantastical declaration which any body of men has made has been by the Bolsheviks of Russia. And they have lost, not only the meat from the bone, but the bone itself, and have not even the shadow. We here prefer to go on in this normal way of trying to make the conditions of life better to-day than they were yesterday."

In pursuance of such normal methods lies the salvation of democracy. There is no virtue in Bolshevism save the virtue that good may bring out of evil. It is not the purpose here to review the progress and causes of the Russian Revolution, but to reveal the truth, so far as it may be gathered, of Bolshevik rule. The old régime in Russia fell owing to its incapacity to

deal with the complex political problems raised by modern war. The further course of the revolution was determined by the rapid disintegration of the Russian army and by the early assumption of power by extreme social elements. From the first there was intense rivalry between the Duma Committee and the Council, or Soviet, of Workmen's and Soldiers' Deputies. The first Provisional Government was a compromise between the Liberal and Constitutional Duma Committee and the Revolutionary Socialist Soviet. Kerensky, who was Vice-President of the Soviet, became the representative of the socialistic groups in the first Provisional Government. From then until now the history of the revolution has been a struggle between factions, in which extreme has given place to extreme, until to-day Lenin and Trotsky, under Bolshevism, control the country and menace the world with extravagant doctrines. It was on November 7 that the Bolsheviks captured the Soviet Congress, attacked the Provisional Government in the Winter Palace, and seized the supreme power.

A close student of Russian affairs, in the September *Round Table*, says:

"The Bolsheviks, led by the cold and stubborn fanatic Lenin and the clever adventurer Trotsky, solved the problem of power in a reckless and simplified manner of their own. They cared little enough for Russia; their aim was to bring about a world revolution. They attracted the soldiers by the promise of immediate peace, the peasants by the promise of the immediate socialization of land, and the work-