



Petrograd Soviet Elections

The full returns of the elections to the Petrograd Soviet are not yet to hand, but the Bolsheviks have won an overwhelming victory. The results to June 21st show the return of 212 Bolsheviks, 21 Socialist Revolutionaries of the Left (who work with the Bolsheviks), 3 Socialist Revolutionaries of the Right, and 1 Menshevik.

This is in Petrograd, where starvation is rampant. And we are told by our Press that the Bolsheviks are ruling at the point of the bayonet!

Manifesto of the German Minority.

The following is the manifesto issued May 27th by the German Minority. We take it from the French Socialist Press:—

"On the threshold of the fifth year of war the Parliaments are about to reassemble. The hopes placed in them by large circles of the population have been radically deceived. War, misery, and the absence of freedom still continue. Every day new victims disappear in their tombs. In the East the sword of the conqueror has imposed a peace which has provoked immense ill-feeling and created new germs of conflict. In the struggle of the Russian people for liberty against Tsardom, German and Austrian bayonets have intervened in favour of counter-revolution.

"The armed alliance established a short time ago in Central Europe will also in the future divide the States into two enemy camps armed to the teeth. The coalition of one side with a view to developing the maintenance of military power is bound to have as a consequence a similar coalition on the other side. We are seriously menaced by the danger of a renewed struggle by all the Imperialist forces, after a short rest, for world-supremacy. So long as the international proletariat does not make a stand against the representatives of such a policy of violence and thirst for conquest we cannot dream of a general durable peace of the peoples."

The manifesto then points out the reactionary regime at home, and proceeds:—"The proletariat must defend its interests as a class against the avowed reactionary interests of the capitalist and landowning classes. The struggle against reaction at home is at the same time a struggle for a durable peace of the peoples. For the internal enemies of the people are also the prophets of a foreign policy based on force."

After describing the sufferings of the German people, the manifesto thus exhorts the workers: "Condemn the reactionary policy of the Government and of the bourgeois parties! Protest wherever and whenever you can, at all public meetings, against the deprivation of your political rights! Urge on the indifferent and apathetic, influence the public political conscience to become more a comprehensive, and strengthen our organisation! Make a stand against the aggravation of the conditions of life! Spread knowledge of the real reasons for the diminution of the

bread ration and of the true causes of the misery of the people during the war at all meetings and in intimate circles! Support with all your force the struggle for peace, liberty, and bread carried on in Parliament by the Independent Socialist Democratic Party!

"Workers, comrades, and citizens! Hence with all despondency, all cowardice, all disaffection! Let us arm the proletariat for the inevitable struggle for a brighter future! Let us remain faithful to the principles of International Socialism!"

Italian Socialists and the Offensive.

We have received the following resolution voted by the Italian Parliamentary Socialist Group meeting on June 17th, 1918:—"In view of the manoeuvres of certain political groups, desiring to preserve themselves and their misrepresentation of Turati's speech on Sunday, June 16th, in the Italian Chamber, specially by those factions who are described by Turati as the 'internal enemies' of the proletariat and the country observing how they ignore the unchanged political attitude of the party against the war, the repeated refusal to accept any responsibility for its continuation, and the reiterated lack of confidence in the Government; whilst in agreement with the sentiments expressed so eloquently by comrade Turati, which inspire the conduct of the Socialists, although this is not recognised by malicious opponents:

"The Italian Parliamentary Socialist Group therefore unanimously declares that Turati's pronouncement does not modify the ideals or the reasons derived from the struggle of classes, which animates the Socialist Party, causing it to remain firmly united; further, that Turati's sentiments are not in opposition to, but in perfect agreement with, the Party's irreducible opposition to the war, which explains the repudiation of any 'sacred union' having the aim of extracting from this war a new incentive to war, an addition to the oppression of peoples, and the consolidation of the capitalistic system, against which there will rise tomorrow—owing to the terrible lesson of facts—the true Revolutionary International of the Workers.

"The Italian Parliamentary Socialist Group expresses once again its profound sense of solidarity with all the victims of all countries and its indissoluble fraternity with all who suffer from the internal reaction that is born of war."

The Norwegian Socialist Party.

For some time there has been a keen struggle between the left and right wings of the Norwegian Socialist Party, and at the last conference the Left won a decided victory.

The Right presented a motion declaring that since the organisation of society must depend on the will of the majority in the country they cannot recognise rule by force, whether of the upper or the working class. The motion further disapproved of a general strike or of any revolu-

tionary action of the masses in their struggle against the high cost of living or as a means of helping a military strike for the abolition of militarism. Finally, the motion called on the workers to join their trade unions and to perfect their organisations for the purpose of winning a majority at the Storthing (Parliament) at the next elections.

The Minority resolution, on the other hand, refused to recognise the right of the possessing classes to the economic exploitation of the workers, even though this exploitation is supported by a majority in Parliament. The Labour Party of Norway must therefore retain for itself the right of employing any mass or revolutionary action in its struggle for the emancipation of the working class. The motion also greets with joy the formation of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council.

On the direct question of anti-military strikes the Right called on the workers to rally round the Norwegian Party in its demand for the legal abolition of armaments, and strongly disapproved of military strikes for the attainment of this end. The Left called on the workers to extend their organisations throughout the country for strikes against militarism and against compulsory military service.

After four hours' discussion the Left (hitherto Minority) resolution was adopted by 158 votes against 127. A further resolution declaring strikes within the army as being in accord with the principles of Socialism was adopted by 167 votes against 119. As a first result of this change of policy within the party the old Executive (Majority) has been replaced by an entirely Left Executive, with Tranmoel, Grepp, and Stang at its head.

It is interesting to note that side by side with the growth of the Left (Minority) wing the party as a whole has grown considerably. Last year the party membership increased by over 10,000, so that now such a small country as Norway counts 80,000 regular paying members.

The Recent Swiss Referendum.

C. Naine, writing in "Le Populaire," claims the recent vote on the question of a direct Federal income tax as really a great victory for the Swiss Socialist Party.

The figures were 310,000 against the Socialist motion and 270,000 for it; it was thus defeated by only 40,000, which he considers will swing round to the Socialist in another couple of years. At any rate, the formidable minority has already had one good result, that the bourgeois majority of the Swiss Parliament itself is relegating indirect taxation to a back place, whilst themselves proposing to institute a temporary Federal tax.

A second result of the referendum has been to show how far capital is concentrated in few hands. Thus the national capital of Switzerland is estimated to be 35-38 milliards. Of this, those (comprising the majority of the nation) possessing less than 20,000 francs (about £750) only possess between them little more than 4 milliards, leaving 31-33 milliards for the small minority.

There have been demonstrations in various parts of Switzerland demanding the more equitable rationing of food.

In Germany.

Quoting from "Vorwaerts," "Le Populaire" gives the following inte-

resting facts. In Saxony in 1914, the Socialist Party had 177,000 members. Now, however, the membership has fallen to 23,000 members. This fall is not due merely to mobilisations. No. 62,000 members in six electoral districts have left the old party to join or form the minority—the Independent Socialist Party of Germany. In addition, of course, in those districts which as a whole have remained faithful to the old party, many thousands of members have joined the Independents individually.

The "Leipziger Volkszeitung" (minority) shares with "The Call" the honour of having its national frontiers closed against it.

The Call England

BRITISH LABOR PARTY BREAKS WITH GOVERNMENT.

The British Labor Party has at last decided to sever its connection with the government. The resolution to break the truce was introduced by Mr. Henderson and which reads as follows:—

"That this Conference of the Labor Party accepts the recommendation of the Party Executive that the existence of the political truce should no longer be recognised."

Then the vote was taken after a little demur. A Card Vote: 1,704,000 for the resolution and 951,000 against. It was a beginning of the breakaway. Let those who have resisted it look out for the land-slide.

BOLSHEVIK MAJORITY.

Shanghai, July 31.—The Bolshevik faction has secured a majority in the municipal elections at Vladivostok, a despatch from that city reports. This gives them the right to nominate the mayor.

Herr Maximilian Harden is a plain spoken, brilliant and clear sighted, but somewhat erratic German journalist. Both he and his paper, Die Zukunft, have had varied careers. Harden exposed before the war some of the inner, vicious life of the high military and political circles. During the war he has been generally critical of the government and his activities have been, on occasion, temporarily curtailed. Nevertheless he continues to say true and unpleasant things about the Kaiser and the Pan-Germans with an impunity which is somewhat astonishing.

(Winnipeg Free Press.)

When any one in this country criticizes the war policy of the government and says some unpleasant things about them. Somebody is pretty sure to reply "If you said that in Germany you'd be stood against a brick wall and shot". Harden is only one of many Germans whose continued existence and immunity goes to show that there is more freedom of speech in Germany than in Canada or the United States.

Isn't it the irony of fate that Dr. Cody, high priest of Moloch and advocate of war to the bitter end, should be opposed by a returned soldier?

How the newspaper pimps of capitalism do keep on lying about the Bolsheviks! No wonder. Imperialists can never forgive them for the publication of Secret Treaties which exposed the hypocrisy of Allied pretence.

"What's for breakfast, Bill?"

"Well, if we 'ad heggs we might 've 'am and heggs, except we ain't got no 'am!"