

The A.F. of L. Entrenchment

"Holy Family" Took Action To Make Positions Secure

In the closing hours of the Atlantic City convention the "Holy Family" of the American Federation of Labor became apprehensive of the security of their future position and decided to entrench themselves.

There has been a strong tendency inside of the A. F. of L. to modernize the organization. Many workers have come to realize that the obsolete plan of craft organization is but the reflex of craft production and should pass away with the passing of craft production. They have come to understand that any organization that proposes to protect the workers in modern industry must be formed upon an industrial basis as a reflection of industrial production.

Further, as the development of the capitalist system has given a political character to strikes, by the more frequent and sudden use of the political weapons against the strikers, wage slaves have come to appreciate the value of calling a strike of the whole community.

These tendencies towards industrial organization and the general strike menace the security of the position of the ducesators in the American Federation of Labor and they have taken steps to stop it.

The Constitution of the Federation has been amended to make it illegal for any organization or members of the organization to advocate a general strike or industrial organization without the consent of the General Executive Board of the American Federation of Labor. Everyone knows how much chance there is for the Executive Board to approve of that kind of agitation.

There is an old saying that if a calf is given enough rope it will hang itself. It is quite certain that the A. F. of L. is getting enough rope. The question of its hanging rests with the workers.

The Treaty of Versailles

Turns Over The Leaf For Revolutionary Period of "Storm and Attack"

By G. Chicherin, Russian Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs.

The Versailles peace treaty signifies not peace but a further continuation of war. It creates a condition that can produce nothing else than a continuation of the war. Besides, this is the purpose of the framers of the treaty, namely, to make the war conditions lasting in order to be in better position to combat the working class movement. The present de facto oligarchy keeps itself in power by inciting the workers of different countries against one another. It is obvious that the capitalist governments formulated such a peace as signifies a continuation of war. It is a war in so far as it drives certain workers into conflict with others; it is a peace in so far as, by the continuation of bloodshed, it does not kindle revolutions. Thus, in the last analysis, calculates the oligarchy. Whether their calculations are correct—that is another question.

One instrument of the unbroken warfare seems to be the League of Nations, which, under the Treaty of Versailles, implies a continuation of the coalition, not a peace organization for whose foundation Imperialism is clearly not fitted. But even this coalition can not exist for long; on the first contact with reality it will, of itself, fall to pieces.

The only purpose of the League of Nations is to serve as a demagogic cover under which is hidden the continued coalition of the Entente powers against their German rivals. The League of Nations used to be a demagogic means to work up the patriotism of the masses already ceased to believe the stories told them for such a long time, and in the Entente nations; but conditions have changed. The mob has all that demagoguery on the League of Nations is already somewhat stale. I am convinced that it will not delay for one moment the rapidly spreading revolutionary movement in the Entente countries.

Besides the very fact of a continuing existence of a military coalition shows that the conditions created at Versailles are but a new form of prolongation of the war; it shows that the old world is not in a position to solve either the contradictions formed by it, or the problems which it establishes for itself, and that the moment has arrived for the new society to take the legacy which it alone is in a position to manage.

As to general disarmament, it is only a new manoeuvre to continue the rule of the oligarchy. Universal military obligation prepared the masses for revolution. The workers used the arms put into their hands to threaten their masters. Therefore the oligarchy is obliged to turn to the system of voluntary service and, instead of the national militia, there are organized bands of White Guards.

This program of disarmament is also a new demonstration that

the Treaty of Versailles is hurrying to reconcile not only national but class antagonisms. Germany brought to such financial exhaustion that the German people even if they worked day and night, could not recover from this condition. As to the other aspects of economic life, Germany is made entirely unable to pull itself out of the condition into which it is put. All this leads only to the result that the antagonism of interests in the international field will take on a most lingering, sharp and serious character.

Lorraine and the Sarre Basin constitute a prize of war, and through this acquisition the French hope to gain a large stake for their own pocket. The working class has nothing to gain on this, but it is a fact, on the contrary, that French capital is afraid of the revolutionary traditions of the French workers, and therefore frequently shows the inclination of fastening itself on a foreign labor market.

In the department of Meurthe and Moselle, French capital has not to deal with the French working class, but with a motley mass of workers of all sorts of nationalities. The French capitalists thus strengthen their class condition and still less than before reckon with the Parisian worker and their revolutionary inclinations.

In general, what is done at Versailles is not in a position to bring a condition of quiet; it only drives the workers into the street. This still-born treaty of the Allied powers turns over a new leaf in history for mankind: a revolutionary period of "storm and strike."

Russian Accusation

Workers' and Peasants' Government Ask For Investigation of An Atrocity

We reproduce the following from a Budapest paper, a copy of which was recently received in this country:

A charge that the British military executed without trial 26 Bolshevik prisoners who were on their way to confinement in India is contained in a wireless message, sent out by the Soviet government at Moscow, picked up by the steamer Franklin. The wireless does not state where the executions took place, beyond indicating an indefinite area near the Caspian Sea. The message also indicates that the prisoners were not shot by British soldiers, but by trans-Caspian counter-revolutionaries acting under orders from British officers. The message picked up by the Franklin is given here for the first time:

"News leaked out not long ago that a number of Russian revolutionary emissaries who had been captured were being deported to India by train. The train that carried them was brought to a lonely spot of the desert and the escort appointed by the British military authorities and the trans-Caspian counter-revolutionaries executed the orders given them. They shot their prisoners, 26 persons in all, and buried their dead victims in the sand. This atrocious and cowardly deed being committed, the British military authorities carefully tried to conceal it. General Thomson having requested Chaykin, of the Russian Soviet Government, to communicate to him the evidence upon which his statement was based. Chaykin demanded that the security of the witnesses should be guaranteed and that a mixed commission should investigate the crime, the impartiality of the investigation being thus secured. However, General Thomson rejected these just demands, clearly showing that the only desire of the British authorities was to take revenge upon those who had disclosed to the world their criminal deed. But the truth being now known, no stratagem can conceal it any more or save the perpetrators of this atrocity from public shame.

"The British Government, whose representatives have so often vilified the Russian workers' and peasants' government for the so-called red terror that is really a necessary act of self-defense; disfigured and magnified it by calumny; this same British Government is now publicly convicted of having committed a base and cowardly murder of defenseless prisoners whose only crime was that they remained faithful to their popular workers' and peasants' government.

"The British Government cannot point out any similar acts on the part of the Russian Soviet Government, the latter not being capable of such cowardice and treachery. The British Secretary of State having called the Russian Soviet Government murderers in its life and death struggle against a world of enemies, every honest man will now see who are the real murderers.

"The Russian Soviet Government protests before the laboring masses of the world against the shameful deed of the British authorities and appeals especially to the class-conscious workers of Great Britain who will not fail on the side of honor, of real justice and of social good.