

Strength of Bolsheviki Government

The Manchester Guardian of March 20, contains a despatch from a correspondent in Warsaw, capital of Poland, giving details of the strength of the Bolsheviki Government, of which he has a great opinion, and their methods for achieving it. Since the correspondent made his report, the Bolsheviki forces have made still further substantial gains and according to all reports the Soviet Government in Russia itself is more firmly established than ever because of its success in reorganizing the economic life of the country upon a new basis.

WARSAW, Feb. 21.—That the Soviet Government of Russia is engaged in carrying on a vigorous and far-reaching international propaganda to establish a Bolsheviki republic in Europe, extending from the Volga to the Rhine, a sort of Bolsheviki "Mittel Europa," was the statement made to me today by Georgy Gavrilovich Ledkevich, editor of the Warsaw Russian daily, "Warszawskaya Riech." M. Ledkevich, who is in daily communication with Russia as well as with the Russian refugees constantly arriving in Warsaw, said:

"There was organized in Petrograd in the last few weeks a committee on social uprising. At the head of this committee stands M. Zinovief, the chairman of the Northern Commune of Petrograd. The object of the committee is to foster social revolution in Central Europe. Included in the membership of the committee are Socialists from the Spartacus group of Germany and Radical Socialists from various other Central European states.

Bolshevik proclamations and pamphlets are published in every European language in Petrograd and Moscow. Trotsky and Lenin have set aside entire trains, consisting of three and four coaches, which are used for propaganda purposes. The coaches in these trains are fixed up as libraries and book stores, and they travel from one part

of the country to the other, distributing the revolutionary literature best suited to each community.

"The organization of the army is arranged with a view to making it effective not only as a fighting but also as a propaganda organization. Thus, near Baranovitch, for instance, there is stationed a Bolsheviki army of 30,000 Russian Poles. The idea is that when the time comes for this army to enter Poland, every soldier, as soon as he has stepped on Polish soil, can for a time drop his role as a soldier and become a schoolmaster to his own Polish people, teaching and converting them to the Bolshevik idea."

Intellectuals and the Government

With regard to the general position of the Soviet Government in Russia, Mr. Ledkevich said: "It is unfortunately true that the Soviet Government is growing stronger and stronger. The extent to which it now feels itself secure is best shown by the fact that it no longer has to rely upon violence to maintain itself. Men are still being shot summarily in Petrograd and Moscow, but not for political opinions. Summary execution is now meted out to robbers, murderers and other criminals. The last political execution of the Soviet Government was held on January 31, when five or six grand dukes were executed. Since then it has been very quiet.

"The Bolshevik regime is gaining in strength through the fact that all resistance on the part of the intellectual classes has ceased. The intellectuals of Russia are exhausted. They cannot struggle any longer and are now taking employment under Bolshevik management. Former ladies-in-waiting at court, whom for a time bitterly resented the unceremonious treatment accorded them by Bolshevik officials, are resigned now, and may frequently be found working as clerks in book or picture shops, or as waitresses in tea and coffee parlors. . . ."

WHY ARE YOU OUT OF WORK?

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in the advanced democratic commonwealths. The case of Imperial Germany during the period of the war is believed to show such a division of sentiment between the government and the underlying population, and also to show how such a divided sentiment on the part of a distrustful and distrusted population had best be dealt with. The method approved by German dynastic experience is sabotage, of a somewhat free-swung character, censorship, embargo on communication, and also, it is confidently alleged, elaborate misinformation.

Censorship Form of Sabotage

Such procedure on the part of the dynastic statesmen of the Empire is comprehensible even to a layman. But how it all stands with those advanced democratic nations, like America, where the government is the dispassionately faithful agent and spokesman of the body of citizens, and where there can consequently be no division of aims and sentiment between the body of officials and any underlying population—all that is a more obscure and hazardous subject of speculation. Yet there has been censorship, somewhat rigorous, and there has been selective refusal of mail facilities, somewhat arbitrary, in these democratic commonwealths also, and not least in America, freely acknowledged to be the most naively democratic of them all. And all the while one would like to believe that it all has somehow served some useful end. It is all sufficiently perplexing.

THORSTEIN VEBLEN.

SIMFEROPOL REPORTED CAPTURED

PARIS, April 15.—The Matin reported today that the Ukrainian Bolsheviki have captured Simferopol, in the Crimea, key to Sebastopol.

The "White Terror" in Finland

Workers Shot by the Thousand

[From the Manchester Guardian, March 20]

We have received from a Finnish correspondent an account of the "White Terror" which raged in Finland at the time of the suppression of the "Red" rebellion. He writes:

The greatest slaughter did not take place until the Whites, aided by over 10,000 German first-class troops, had completely defeated the Red Guards. It is well-nigh an impossible task in a few lines to give an impression of the unspeakable horrors which now followed, and which have no counterpart in the history of any other civilized nation in the world.

After the insurrection was over sometimes weeks and months later, there commenced a most frightful slaughter, with the permission of the Germans and by the order, assent, and full knowledge of the White Government. There are more than five hundred municipal districts in Finland, and to each orders for "reprisals" were given with the effect that in the following districts approximately the following numbers of workers were shot without any kind of legal procedure:

Kiehimäki, 600; Varkaus, 450; Lahti, 2000 (among them over 300 women); Forssa, 400; Häuho, 100; Jamsa, 400; Vihti, 450; Viborg, 4000; Tammerfors, 600; Hyvinge, 300; Lojo, 200; Karula, 76; Seinäjoki, 70; Kokkola (Gaolakarleby), 100; Nurmijärvi, 80; Kotka, 400; Helsingfors, 600 (125 women); Lammi, 300; Abo, 400; Jokioinen, 40; Kuhmoinen, 40; Palkane, 17; Jokela, 10; Karis, 40; Asikkala, 27; Borga, 14; Teisko, 80; Kexholm, 15; Kajana, 11; Kotojärvi, 16; Hirvensalmi, 10; Lavia, 10; Virolahti, 10; Perkkari, 39; Reikolli, 20; Atsari, 38; Jyväskylä, 10; Korpi-lahti, 30; Kemi, 50; Eurajoki, 14; Lieksa, 48; Kulkainen, 10; Karisalmi, 13; Voikka, 114; Yymi, 42; Joensuu, 30; Hoplaks, 45; Kokemäki, 60.

This makes a sum approximately 12,500 killed. And it is to be observed that these figures refer but to about fifty districts of the five hundred. Also, these persons were not killed in fighting during the civil war, but slaughtered weeks and months after the termination of the warlike operations.

Besides, according to official figures, between 80,000 and 90,000 prisoners were taken and kept in occasional prison camps, where the conditions, in consequence of deliberate neglect and bad organization, proved so miserable that approximately 15,000 persons, men, women and children, died of hunger and disease. In the barracks in Ekenas alone died 2,821 prisoners between June 4 and October 19, among them 2,256 without having been brought to trial. Over 60,000 have been sentenced to punishments between two years' imprisonment and death. All except some 6,000 have got their punishment changed to a conditional one and have been released (but remain deprived of all rights of citizenship). About 450 have been sentenced to death, but only a little over a hundred actually shot. Forty Socialist members of the Diet who remained in the country have got between eight years and lifetime unconditional prison. Out of 92 members only one was uncomromised and allowed to reoccupy his seat in the Diet.

The last general amnesty included also amnesty for all those who in one form or another had behaved "too severely" against the workers during the "cleansing" of the country. Accordingly no one can be brought to trial for having murdered any workers, stolen their property, etc.

GREAT BRITAIN

The Manchester Guardian reports the British Minister of Labor as saying that there were one million unemployed in that country. And still they babble of chaotic Russia.

BOLSHEVISM GROWS IN ITALY

WASHINGTON, April 14.—Bolsheviki propaganda is being spread broadcast in certain Italian cities, creating a situation of grave possibilities, a message to the state department intimated today. Extra police are patrolling the streets of Turin, a big industrial centre, and 500 cavalry troops are reported to have been quartered there to suppress possible uprisings. The troubles are officially spoken of as "an impending strike," and the Italian authorities, the state department said, have the situation under control. Turin is 75 miles southwest of Milan and its position at the junction of several Alpine mountain routes lends it much military importance. Its population is about 350,000.

RED PROPAGANDA AIMS AT U. S. TROOPS

WASHINGTON, April 15.—A mass of Bolshevik propaganda, believed responsible for undermining the morale of American troops in Russia, has been received at the war department. The propaganda was taken by army authorities from letters forwarded by soldiers to their relatives in the United States.

Much of the propaganda was directed at British troops. All pamphlets declare that Allied troops are in Russia as part of the conspiracy to restore a czar to power. One leaflet, under the heading, "All Lies," declared the Allied troops are in Russia against the will of the people, and that "except for a few hungry peasants," immediately around Archangel, the Russian people wish to be left alone to work out their own destiny.

"We don't mind admitting that we are humanitarian enough to hope that they never find the guy who called it the PEACE conference—there has been quite enough bloodshed in the world of late.