

# THE SOVIET

Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

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*This Is The Reproduction Of The "Potent" Leaflet That Produced a Mutiny Among The Allied Troops In Murmansk*

RUSSIAN SOCIALIST FEDERATED SOVIET REPUBLIC

On Whose Side are you ?

## Workers' or capitalists'?

The peoples of the world are not divided by nationality, but by class. Even if he is your fellow countryman, even if he is of the same race as you are, does that prevent him from sweating you? Does that prevent him from making you work for as many hours as possible, for as little money as possible?—Not in the least.

Even during the war, when the working people are sacrificing their lives, your and the capitalists have continued to exploit you, and your families.

For some aim of the capitalist is profit. They make profit out of food. They make profit out of the uniforms you wear. They make profit out of the guns you use. The war has been for them an Aladdin's Cave from which to draw wealth beyond the dreams of avarice.

What has been for the masses the cause of death, destruction, ruin and despair, has been for the capitalists a means of piling up colossal fortunes, both now, and in the future.

All profit is wrung from our class, from the sweat, and blood, and tears of the working people.

It is the same in all countries. In England, in France, in Germany, in Austria, and in Russia.

Does nationality count?—No! It is class that counts.

Working class or capitalist class, on which side are you?

Capitalists have investments in all countries. Where their money is there their hearts are also. There is no patriotism for them. But they always remain loyal to their class.

As against the working class the capitalists of all countries are united—they under and the mass war.

There are only two camps, the workers' camp and the capitalists' camp.

In which camp are you?

The interests of the workers of all countries are the same. No matter where you live, in England, France, Germany, if you are a workman you must work for a master, and he will only employ you if he can obtain a profit out of your labour.

The workers are always opposed to the masters. In England great strikes are now proceeding, because while you have come here to fight for "liberty", the master class at home wants to impose industrial conscription upon your fellow workers.

Real freedom, economic, and social freedom will only be achieved when the workers of all countries overthrow the master class, and take control in their own hands.

We in Russia have done this. We have abolished Capitalism and Landlordism in Russia.

You have a workmen's government. Your capitalists know that our revolution is a menace to them. They fear that the workers in other countries will follow our example.

They are therefore supporting the Russian capitalists against us. They are determined to crush our revolution and put the landlords, capitalists, and the Tsar back again.

And you have been brought here for that purpose.

What are you, a workman or a capitalist?

If you are a workman, then you must be on our side, for we are workmen too. We are of the same class.

An injury to the workers of one country, is an injury to the workers of all countries.

Refuse to do the work of our common enemy, the capitalist!!

Join with us in the fight against capitalism, and war!!

If you help to crush our revolution, you will only be helping to fasten the shackles of wage slavery more firmly on yourselves.

**Workers of all countries unite !!**

## PREDICTS BIG INCREASE IN GRAIN YIELD

Sir James Wilson Gives Optimistic Outlook in Interview with Broomhall

LIVERPOOL, Eng., April 23.—At the conclusion of a comprehensive statement regarding the international wheat position, Sir James Wilson, in an interview with Broomhall's, declared that by October 1, 1919, according to his estimates, Britain will have reaped a harvest of 11,000,000 quarters as compared with pre-war average of 7,500,000 quarters. And, although the total yield of wheat in France, Germany and Austria-Hungary will be much below their pre-war average, all importing countries in the world which on the pre-war average imported 77,000,000 quarters are not likely to import in the year ending July 1, 1920, as much as 92,000,000 quarters.

Sir James Wilson does not share the view of Mr. Hoover, who stated that wheat in the United States may sell at \$3.50 next season. By October 1, he says, the United States, Canada, and Argentina will find themselves in possession of an exportable surplus amounting to 113,000,000 quarters. In addition to this there is the prospect of an additional 37,000,000 quarters from Argentina, Australia, India, Russia and Roumania. Competition between exporting countries to get rid of their exportable surpluses is likely to be very keen, Sir James stated.

## Eugene Victor Debs, The Champion of The American Working Class

The following speech was delivered by Eugene V. Debs on March 12, before the Socialist Party of Cleveland, Ohio, and it was his last public utterance before he entered the Federal Penitentiary at Moundsville, W. Va.

**"RATHER SPEND LIFE IN JAIL THAN BETRAY SOCIALISM!"**  
DEBS.

"How true it is that there is a divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will! It may seem strange to you, but in my plans, in my dreams, I did not think of going to the penitentiary—and I—I had a thousand times rather go there and spend my remaining days there than betray this great cause.

"So far as I am concerned it does not matter much. The margin is narrow, the years between now and the sunset are few, and the only care that I have personally is that I may preserve to the last the integrity of my own soul and my loyalty to the only cause worth living for, and dying for.

"It is so perfectly fine to me to look into your faces once more, to draw upon you for the only word I have ever had, the only word that has ever come to me, the only word that I can ever speak for myself. I love mankind, humanity. Can you understand? I am sure you can.

"We are close of **an wave rushed in the direct** and when we get into close touch with each other we come to understand that our good depends upon the good of all humanity.

"I am opposed to the system under which we live. I am opposed to the government that compels you, the great body of the American people, to pay tribute to an insignificant few who enjoy life while the great body of the people suffer, struggle, and agonize without ever having lived. Can you understand? I am sure you can.

"Let me get in touch with you for a while. I am going to speak to you, as a Socialist, as a revolutionist, and as a Bolshevik, if you please.

"And what is the thing that the whole world is talking about? What is it that the ruling class power of the world are denouncing upon which they are pouring a flood of all their malicious lies—what is it? It is the rise of the workers, the peasants, the soldiers, the common man, who for the first time in history said, 'I have made what there is, I produced the wealth; I want to be heard.'

"Now, for the first time in history, his bowed head lifted, he stands erect and is beginning in his grim strength to shake off the manacles, straighten himself in the sunlight, in his gigantic attitude, opening his eyes, beginning to see for the first time, beginning to ask why it is that he must press his rags closer to his body, that he may not touch the rich man's costly silks that he himself produced—why it is that he must walk in alleys, while he is forbidden to enter the great palaces he has erected—why it is that he must support all the banquets of the world that he may not taste.

"He is beginning to think. That is Bolshevism! That is the revolution in Russia! That is the beginning of the end of capitalism and the end of the beginning of Socialism!

"And because we say this they are going to put us in jail. With every drop in my veins I despise their law and I defy them.

"The earth is beginning to shake beneath the feet of the profiteers. 'Have they outlawed the red flag here? The red necktie? The red socks? How perfectly foolish! Have you heard about the pope in the middle ages forbidding the comets to appear? Why, the other day the chaplain in the House of Representatives asked God to give Congress wisdom!

"I am appealing to you tonight—the crowd, the mass, the common people—I do not care anything about the Supreme Court, begowned, befettered, bewhiskered, old fossils, corporation lawyers, every one of them—they have not decided anything. They never have; they never will.

"Sixty years ago the predecessors of the same body confirmed the validity of the fugitive slave law. They declared that a black man had no rights which his master was bound to respect. They imagined

that chattel slavery was secure for all time. And within five years that infamous institution was swept from the land in a torrent of blood.

"They did not care to meet the issue. They did not decide that the Espionage law was constitutional. They dared not put that decision upon record. Have you read that law? The amendment is that law that makes it a crime for you to criticize crime in the United States? That makes this country take the place of old Russia under the czar!

"Have you ever read it? Know anything about it? Know that it is a gag upon your lips, fetters all your constitutional rights? That law—do I respect it? No!

"How perfectly fine it is to stand straight up and do what Wendell Phillips said: 'When they pass that kind of a law, put it under your feet.'

"Do not say a word against war—not one. That is treason—to the ruling classes. They make war; you do not. You never did. You paid all the bills, shed your blood, made all the sacrifices. You do not say a word. Have your limbs shot off, your eyes gouged out, gassed, come back, and then hunt for a job.

"The finest thing I know is to carry yourself as a man—face humanity, look up into the sun and not feel ashamed of yourself; walk straight before the world, and live with it on terms of peace, look at yourself without a blush. Have you ever tried it? If you have, you are a Bolshevik.

"The great world is in travail today. A great upheaval is shaking the foundation of capitalist society. The master class are driven to extremities. They are going to establish a League of Nations to preserve the peace, to prevent war. What does it mean?

"Simply this: That the master class itself is staggered by the cost of modern war. Here are all these modern nations, great and powerful in economic and military ways, straining to harmonize their various conflicting interests. In theory it is perfectly fine; but how ridiculous it is to imagine for a moment that the interests of nations that are innately in conflict can be permanently harmonized.

"What does it mean? It is the last, desperate, temporary expedient of the master class, the commercial interests, the economic interests, to prolong their sovereignty. Have you any views on it?

"What is it that is making the terms of peace? Is it not strange that the great people Germans not excluded, fought the war, made the sacrifices, should have no voice in making the terms of peace? The working class—the working class, which for 1000 years constituted the slaves, the tragedy of history—I recall it as I speak, I can see across all the centuries, the patricians of ancient Rome in the amphitheatres, while they poured their slaves into the Coliseum to destroy them for pastime—and through the middle ages, how the serfs were killed for their profit and glory—through all that, I can see the working class, that youth, the victim of the ages, the martyr of the centuries, you who went to war when it was declared, you who were in the trenches, you who shed your blood like water, you who suffered the agony that human speech can never tell, you who had your limbs torn from your bodies—you have no voice in that peace conference, no representation there.

"Just a second-hand one, Sam Gompers. The other day Sam, fourfoot Sam, was banqueted by a sevenfoot Russian duke, and the duke was in poor company.

"The world is in turmoil. Where is your representative; where did you elect him? What did you have to say about these terms? Not one real representative, but politicians and diplomats and thieves and liars, the tools of your masters—that is who is there.

"They are going to make the world perfectly safe for democracy, and that is why I am going to the penitentiary.

"You can think a bit, and I want to stir you into thought and action. We are on the eve of tremendous developments. The world before your eyes is being destroyed and recreated. Russia is making a beginning, the Soviet is just a sample. They have shed some blood, they have made some mistakes, and I am glad they have. When you consider for a moment that the ruling-class press of the world has been villifying Lenine and Trotzky, you can make up your minds that they are the greatest statesmen in the modern world. In that brief space of time they have done more than all the capitalist governments have ever dared to do in constructive work. They have refused to compromise. They said to the old reactionaries, 'You will not have any voice in the government until you do useful work.'

"In every previous revolution it was said that the working class was not ready. Russia did not know that it was ready; that is the trouble with the working class of the world.

"What have they done? They have given the franchise to men and women all over the republic. They have inaugurated many beneficent changes. They have said, 'We do not want the recognition of the United States, or of any capitalist government.' That is fine, inspiring; I applaud it with all my heart.

"In Germany the same spirit is at work today. We do not know, we cannot tell; the despatches are meager. And so it is in Bohemia, Bulgaria, Hungary, England, France, and in the United States of

America.

"They are going to suppress the red flag; you may not carry a flag except under your vest. That is the level of their statesmanship. Aren't you proud of it?

"In Germany—do you know what is going on there? In spite of all opposition, the Spartacans, the heroic followers of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, the most magnificent and heroic figures in Europe in modern history.—They are dead, but the revolution lives, and their magnificent souls go marching on.

"At the beginning they said that the Bolsheviks had ruined and bankrupted the country of Russia, and in the next breath we read that they are financing the revolution everywhere. The daughter of Trotzky stole 50,000,000 rubles, and Trotzky never had a daughter. The wife of Lenine went to Italy with trunks loaded with gold, and she never has been in Italy in her life.

"Is there a lie they have not told? Is there a calumny which they have not circulated about Lenine and Trotzky?

"They are fighting for your liberty, for you, if you only knew, and I am only too glad to pay my tribute to those men I love. Along this line Congress is making an investigation. The Overman committee has discovered that there is some Bolshevik agitation in the United States. It is to be ended by deporting, without trial, without hearing, 46 of our working people.

"How perfectly brutal and infamous and disgusting an example of how capitalism treats its workingmen. Compare the hard, horny palms of those who are to be deported with the lily-white hands of the deportees. You can see the difference. The deported were the producers. If they are to be sent abroad, I want to go with them!

"What you and all of us need in this hour of trial and travail is working-class solidarity.

"We need to unite. We need to get together. We need to feel the common touch. We need to recognize our kinship. The world is against us if we are not for ourselves. Through the history of the ages you have been oppressed, you have been downtrodden, you have been exploited, you have been degraded. When you go for a job to the master class you work under conditions they prescribe. You depend upon them for tools, you work for their benefit. Do you like this? This is capitalism.

"The system in which you enrich your master and impoverish yourselves—the system under which 5 per cent. of the people own the wealth of the country and the great body of the people struggle through all their years for an existence and pass away without ever having enjoyed one hour of real life. How pathetic and tragic it is that in our land, with its boundless resources and treasures, its machinery, its workers, everything for production for every man, we have in the midst of all these benefits the great body of the people struggling for existence.

"How foolish it is to vote for the perpetuation of such a system. Yet that is exactly what you do when you vote the Republican or the Democratic ticket, or any ticket, except the Socialist. While you are doing this the master-class looks upon you with sovereign contempt.

You who produce everything, you who really create, you who are conserving civilization—is it not humiliating to you, the bottom class, the lower order? That is the system that you support or help to destroy by your vote.

"I appeal to you just once to stand perfectly erect in the majesty of your humanity. You owe it to yourself.

"Look into the eyes of your brother and see the new light that is shining for the working class. We have been oppressed, we have suffered, we have agonized and now let us unite and stand together against capitalism. That is the plea I am making tonight.

"I do not desire to make any glowing periods. I wish I could read your hearts tonight, your attitude of soul.

"Let us unite industrially. If Germany had been organized industrially war would have never come.

"These crimson flowers that have just been presented to me represent the springtime, the springtime of revolution. I have faith in it and in humanity.

"There have been men and women of moral courage who dared to speak the truth as they saw it, who have been maligned and persecuted; they have been stoned and burned at the stake, their ashes scattered to the four winds. These men are remembered and it is to them that we owe our progress.

Remember that George Washington was denounced as an unprincipled scoundrel; Jefferson was said to be a violent fanatic; Samuel Adams a dangerous character; Patrick Henry was an incendiary.

"A little later there was a group of abolitionists who fought against an institution which had existed for 250 years in this country. Abolitionism was the Bolshevism of that day. Those men were ridiculed. Today they are honored, while the smug, respectable people of their day lie buried and forgotten.

"The great working-class movement will similarly triumph. Its emancipation from the ruling class must come soon."

In every country of the world the capitalist class has used the war and the possibility of persecution in the name of patriotism that

war times afford for a concerted attack upon its most hated enemy, the class-conscious working-class. Nowhere were real traitors, nowhere were those elements that directly served the enemy nation, so relentlessly pursued as those who dared to demand rights for the working class. In every country the labor agitator was more feared than the spy, the man who demanded the restoration of the elementary rights of the people more bitterly persecuted than he who openly expressed his sympathy with the cause of the enemy nation.

In this America has been no exception. Hundreds upon hundreds of political and class-war prisoners are in our jails because they dared to say what they thought about the causes of the war and the actions and motives of our ruling class. Hundreds are serving ten and twenty year sentences, because they belonged to labor organizations that refused to relinquish the right of the working-class to fight for better conditions, for better wages and shorter hours. Hundreds of young men are languishing behind prison bars because they refused to betray their own conscience by rendering military service. In the eyes of capitalism, man or woman can commit no greater crime than to espouse the cause of the working-class.

And in the same measure as they have been sacrificed because they have served their fellows of the proletariat, it is the duty of the working-class of this country to fight for their release. They have fought our battles, they have spoken our opinions, they have conducted our fight. It is up to us, to the working-men and women of the country to demand their release, to demand it insistently, unmistakably, in a great movement that will command the attention and the respect of those who sent them there.

## Cottins Defence—"Why I Tried To Kill Clemenceau"

We publish below a statement by Emile Cottin after his arrest following his attempt upon the life of the French Premier

I wanted to kill the man instigating a new war. I am an anarchist, a friend of the people, Germans not excluded, a friend of mankind and brotherhood. These words deeply penetrate into the heart of every man. Clemenceau is a tyrant, and a tyrant of the highest degree. Clemenceau is making the fighters for the popular cause rot in a free prisons of France. Clemenceau is the greatest enemy of the great free-thinking people. No wonder he is called "Tiger." But he is not a tiger—he is a man. Prior to the March revolution in Russia there were sent to the French front many Russian soldiers—the figure varying between 100,000 and 300,000 men. Reliable information it is impossible to obtain. They replaced English and French troops in the most dangerous sections of the battle line; well supplied with arms and provisions they took the place of a large number of the Allied troops, which were sent to police different sections of France.

Unexpectedly the revolution in Russia broke out. Russian soldiers immediately began to be insistent in their demands, and created a Soviet of the soldiers' deputies, which was arrested in its entire personnel. Nobody knows of its fate up to the present. This did not stop the Russian soldiers; they protested as a single man, and refused to advance. Their superiors were infuriated and began to threaten, but nothing could shake the Russians. At the council of the generals and colonels of the old regime, the tyrant-rulers, it was decided to take the Russians off the firing line and intern them behind the bars of the camp for the interned. They were recognized as enemies. But that was not the end of the sufferings of the Russians. Terrible conditions, executions of the leaders, arrests of the conscientious soldiers—nothing could shake the firm attitude of the Russian soldiers, who had scented the fire of the revolutionary flame in their native land. They categorically refused to obey. Detachment after detachment was sent to the rear guard camps, where they awaited their fate.

When the Kerensky government had fallen, the sympathy of the Russian soldiers was on the side of the Soviets of Workers and Soldiers' Deputies. But in spite of that some of the detachments of the Russian army still fought on the front lines. Russia signed the Brest-Litovsk treaty, and those troops that were under the influence of the revolutionary patriotism understood and decided to leave the struggle. The last detachments refused to go into action, basing their claim on the fact that they were neutral citizens; they understood the reality of the war. Their main demand was to return to their native land. This request—and then demand—the French premier, Clemenceau, ordered suppressed. The order of the French government was obeyed immediately, and many Russians, true sons of the cold valleys of Russia, fell before the bullets of the treacherous weapons of those cunning politicians. Many were wounded. Cle-

menceau's order "not to spare bullets" was executed according to all the rules of military tactics. With waving flags the battalions of the free republic returned from the places of their crime accompanied by the sounds of the "Marseillaise." A few days afterward a colonel was sent to the camp where the irreconcilable Russians were kept, who delivered a fiery speech. He spoke of revolution, of everything, and finished by an appeal to enlist into the army to fight against the Bolsheviki. Twenty thousand men believed these fables telling them that Russia was in danger and decided to save Russia. They were formed into detachments and were sent to the nearest military camp in order to be attached to the Czecho-Slovak army. The rest, tens of thousands of men, as one man, decidedly and determinedly answered: "The Russian people have concluded peace; they might have made a mistake, as you said; yet you treated us cruelly even after the downfall of the Czar's regime, and therefore we demand to be sent to our native land; there on the spot we will deliberate as to what must be suppressed for the Russian people."

The French authorities became enraged, and having caught the leaders of the military Soviets sent them without trial to hard labor, to an island prison, located not far from Bordeaux. The rest were exiled to places where no crow flies. After that a dishonest reaction was instituted: the Russian soldiers were tormented to the extreme. Then, having tormented them sufficiently, and enjoyed it enough, the Premier ordered irreconcilable Russians to be sent to Africa. Forty thousand men were sent there. While they were being sent into slavery there came unexpectedly a Russian colonel, decorated from head to foot with the Czar's medals, and facing the rows of soldiers responded to the order of Clemenceau with the following words:

"My boys, it would truly be a great mistake if we consented to go to war against our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and the whole Russian people. First of all what we need to do is to return to Russia, and there we shall see what government we Russians shall defend.

"You are sending my boys to slavery under the hot ray of the African sun. Send me also with them, for I believe exactly the way they do."

Clemenceau's order was obeyed, and forty thousand Russians for their fidelity to the popular cause were sent to slavery in the African plantations of the French.

Last November, after the armistice with Germany, tens of thousands of war prisoners were liberated, among them many Russians. As a stream of human wave rushed in the direction of the Allied lines en masse, passing the outposts and blockhouses. The Russians were in a terrible condition, beaten, wounded and barefooted. They did not resemble men at all, but rather apparitions. Having reached the American lines they were stopped, given American uniforms but were forbidden to proceed further. Where are they, what is the matter with them? There is no information. Where they are—martyrs—remains a secret. Their number reaches between 10,000 and 15,000 men.

Many refugees passing the battle line found themselves in cities they were caught and told: "You have no right to live in this country. You must return to Russia, and enlist in the Czecho-Slovak army. You must fight against the Soviets."

"We cannot do it," replied the Russian prisoners of war. "We must be sent to Russia and see the people at work. There on the spot shall we see whom we must defend."

I am an anarchist, a friend of the people, not excluding Germans, a friend of mankind, of the brotherhood of man.

That is where the heart of man lies. That is where lies the spirit of protest and revenge. I lifted my hand; the protest of the shot resounded, and the "Tiger" was wounded.

### WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT BOLSHEVIST RUSSIA?

Editorial taken from the Chicago Tribune, Saturday, March 22, 1919  
And now the Bolsheviki are virtually masters of Ukrania!

Isn't it about time for us to find out for ourselves just what this bolshevism is and amounts to in Russia? Haven't we by this time a rather vigorous suspicion that our news of that phenomenon has been and is doctored for us—and certainly not for our benefit, for it cannot benefit America to be deceived?

When bolshevism first appeared in the Russian situation we were told it was a noisy minority which had no influence among the Russians. When bolshevism overthrew Kerensky we were told that it would not hold power for any length of time. As time passed and bolshevism did not disappear we were told it was the dictatorship of a few who were imposing their ambitious will by force. We were told that the mass of the Russian people were not bolshevist. We were told they would rise to welcome foreign aid and overthrow the tyranny which the bolshevist handful was so mysteriously able to impose upon them. We were told that the allied troops were winning victories. They were strange victories which left the victors numerous versts farther away from the objective than before, strange victories in which the red troops suffered appalling losses while the al-

lied forces lost few, but were able to retire with part of their own supplies, while punishing the enemy by burning the remainder. Always the red armies are, or are about to be, crushed, and now after months of almost constant defeats we read that they are virtual masters of Ukraina, that they have an army of half or three-quarters of a million men, officered by trained soldiers of the former German and Russian armies.

At the same time a representative in America of the Soviet government offers on its behalf to deposit \$200,000,000 in gold in American and European banks for the purchase of supplies and asks our government "to re-establish normal relations between the two countries."

These are certainly not the accents of failure, weakness, and despair. Lenin and Trotzky have been in power a year and a half. In spite of constant reports of defeats, famine, and social chaos, in spite of the Murman and Siberian defections, they seem to be stronger than ever. There is a situation we are not permitted to see. Raymond Robbins evidently tried to describe it last summer, but he could not get a hearing until the senate called him the other day. But the public has a right to know what this phase of the Russian upheaval really is and not be confined to partisan reports and sporadic rumors.

Why has bolshevism survived and grown in Russia? What is its strength there today? The measures in which we have joined up to this time seem to be futile or worse. They were not our measures. It is time America asserted her right to know what she is about, to make up her own mind whether she is pulling others' chestnuts out of the fire or following a policy consistent with her own interests.

## Japan's Labor Troubles

(BY SEN KATAYAMA)

Since the recent rice riots the workers of Japan have been steadily asserting their power. In spite of rigid police rule and the use of troops in strikes, mass demonstrations are occurring more and more frequently. Demands for higher wages are being made not through the agency of labor organizations but by direct action in the form of mass strikes and labor riots which have proved very effective in the majority of cases.

Owing to the fact that the Japanese workers are forbidden to organize in labor unions they are forced to resort to strikes, sabotage and rioting to improve conditions, and in these struggles they are learning over night what their Western comrades have learned only through many decades of agitation. Since the outbreak of the Russian Revolution the spirit of revolt against the oppressive government in general and the greedy exploiters of labor in particular has been gathering strength until it burst forth in the recent rice riots and the continuous strikes and labor riots. There are still nearly six thousand workers in prison throughout the country who were arrested in the rice riots. Many have been tried and condemned to long periods of imprisonment and many are still in prison awaiting trial.

All over the country the bureaucratic regime and its supporters are crying loudly for the punishment of the rioters to the very limit of the law. By this means the bourgeoisie hopes to intimidate the workers from striking and rioting, but the effect is only to increase the spirit of revolt among the people's masses. The workers of Japan have already glimpsed the power of mass action in the rice riots and the recent strikes, and the struggle will continue. The readjustment of Japanese industry from a war to a peace basis will cause greater suffering and unemployment than was the case during the readjustment periods following the wars of 1895 and 1905, for Japan's present industrial conditions are more advanced, more centralized and have many more people dependent upon their continued operation. It is estimated that over a quarter of a million will be thrown out of work in Tokio, Osaka and a few other large cities during the present crisis. Already there are many unemployed in the industrial centers of the country and as the workers are unorganized the employers will cut down wages and dismiss the workers at their will. But this will itself bring further resistance from the workers and will develop the necessity of mass action in a wider sense than it has already been applied in the demand for higher wages. Thus the whole situation is helping the workers to awaken to the real situation—and they are awakening.

The bureaucrats, terror-stricken at the recent rice riots, while advocating the severest punishment for the ring-leaders of the riots have been attempting to organize labor unions dominated by the employers. These paternal labor unions are mostly taken up by retired and naval officers as a lucrative means of livelihood. Among these so-called labor organizations the most widely known, and to a certain extent well established, is the "Friendly Society of Labor"—Yu-Ai-Kai which is supported by the bourgeoisie. The president of the Friendly Society of Labor is Mr. Bunji Suzuki, a graduate of the Tokio Imperial University, who has been twice present at an-

nual conventions of the American Federation of Labor as the honorable fraternal delegate of Japanese labor.

He crossed the Pacific in a first class cabin, travelled in a Pullman and stayed at first class hotels in America. He was enabled to do this because he came to America in reality as the private secretary of Baron Shibusawa whose patronage of the Friendly Society of Labor has been the chief reason for its peaceful existence under the Imperialist-capitalist governments of Okuma and Terauchi and the present plutoeratic government of Hara. He has been truly styled the "Gompers of Japan." The only difference between the two is that Suzuki's Friendly Society is not by any stretch of the imagination an organization of labor. Its so-called members consist of subscribers to a monthly magazine largely edited and contributed to by bourgeois writers who invariably and pedantically preach that out-worn theory—"the identical interest of capital and labor."

It is reported in the Japanese press that Bunji Suzuki is again coming to America on his way to Paris to attend the international Labor Peace Conference. He will not attend the International Labor and Socialist Conference for he is the deadly enemy of Socialism. He has publicly declared that he will stake his life to crush Socialism in Japan. His real attitude to the labor question, which is borne out by his actual work in Japan, is to compromise between capital and labor. He opposes strikes and never was either a strike leader or adviser. When a strike does occur he attempts to step in and bring about a compromise, a compromise which is invariably in favor of Capitalism.

We, the Socialists, of Japan, are opposed to the methods and tactics of the Friendly Society of Labor. It is directly detrimental to the cause of labor, it poisons and kills the manly spirit of the real labor movement in Japan particularly among the young workers who read its paper. Just now the Japanese intelligentsia are attempting to interpret the labor and social phenomena of Japan and pacify the awakening workers by government permitted labor movements that will abandon the strike and the economic boycott and become the obedient servant of the employers.

But the great mass of the Japanese workers are rapidly awakening to a realization of their power and are making themselves felt in strikes and riots. The present economic situation of the workers is making them far wiser and more powerful than the pedantic Japanese intelligentsia. Japan is fast approaching a stage where the workers will assert their rights to the control of their own affairs. A close contact with the Russian Bolshevik revolution is being evidenced everywhere and though the government is trying to shut out the ideas of Bolshevism—the workers are practising the tactics that enabled the Russian workers to conquer power. Socially Japan is a steam boiler without a safety valve, sooner or later an explosion will occur. The government is shutting every mouth of freedom, freedom of the press and assemblage is denied to the workers and Socialists. The best indication of the coming social revolution in Japan is the rapid building of bastilles and the increasing jailing of the workers and poorest peasants. As sure as day succeeds night these bastilles must fall before the mighty wave of Bolshevism that is sweeping on to Japan.

## To All Interested In Knowing the Facts

### READERS—

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