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# THE SOVIET

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Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

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## ALLIANCE OF THE SOVIET REPUBLICS

Budapest, June 4th.—The Hungarian Correspondence Bureau's office at Moscow forwards the following wireless:

On June 1st, a solemn session of the Central Executive Committee of Soviet Russia took place in the evening, attended by representatives of the Soviet Republics of Ukraine, Lettonia, Lithuania, and White Russia. In accordance with the recently passed resolution of the Ukrainian Central Executive Committee, the Central Executive Committee expressed its opinion in favor of close alliance of the various Soviet republics. The Secretary of the Presidium, Kameneff, declared in opposition to the rumors spread by the enemies who falsely represent Soviet Russia as animated by a desire for conquests from neighboring nations, that Soviet Russia on the contrary stands firmly on the basis of a self-determination of nations and of independence for the neighboring Soviet republics. But just in order to secure precisely this mutual support, and the defence and liberty of the working masses of the Soviet republics against the White Guard bands maintained by the Entente, the Soviet Republics considered a close alliance between them to be necessary, so that their working masses may defend themselves with their united forces against foreign invaders and White Guards.

After Kameneff, Rakovski, President of the Ukrainian Soviet Government, delivered a speech to the same effect.

A resolution was passed in which the policy of conquest and of a general counter-revolution on the part of international imperialism was denounced, and in which it was declared that a military alliance of the Soviet Republics of Russia, Ukraine, Lettonia, Lithuania, White Russia and Crimea was necessary in order to defend the workers and peasants of these republics against the attempts to subject them to the yoke of serfdom. Furthermore, the Central Executive Committee of Russia deems it necessary to unite under a single control the military organization of the various Soviet Republics, and the administration of their railroads, finances, economic councils, and labor commissariats. This is to be attained by a union of the central executive committees and the central economic councils of all the republics in question. With this object in view, the Central Executive Committee is to elect a special commission which is to enter into negotiations with the central executive committees of the various Soviet Republics, and the carrying out of these principles.

## Returned Men and The Labor Question

Being the second of a Series of Leaflets on Working-Class Problems from the Standpoint of ex-Servicemen's Real Interests. Issued by Vancouver Local No. 1 of the ex-Soldiers' and Sailors' Labor Council of Canada.

BULLETIN NO. 2

Comrade:

Returned men are very much in the public eye just at present, and the words, "Returned Soldier" are very much in the mouths of a certain section of the public. The "sympathy" of the returned soldier seems quite suddenly to have become something worth possessing.

Many of us have already discovered that those who have our name most frequently on their lips have but little regard for us in their hearts. Perhaps you too have discovered that. If you have been doing any thinking on your own account there is no doubt but what you have.

In the army, as you well know, the individual is by no means encouraged to think for himself. The less he thinks and the more readily and unquestionably he obeys orders the better soldier he makes. "Their's not to reason why. Their's but to do—or die" describes his condition excellently.

It does not take a great deal of life under these conditions to subtly

undermine a man's natural independence of thought. Without knowing it he becomes more or less "off his guard" and is what a hypnotist would describe as "responsive to suggestion."

There is a certain class in society—that class from which most of your officers were drawn—which is very well aware of this fact and is endeavoring to make use of that knowledge to use you to serve its own ends.

You will have noticed, of course, how ever since you were returned and more particularly just at the present juncture, all kinds of influences have been brought to bear in a subtle endeavor to mould your opinions, to settle your viewpoint, and direct your efforts into certain channels.

Statements in the daily press, periodicals published by certain returned soldier organizations, lectures and discussions held under the auspices of those organizations, all are designed to keep the ex-soldier in that state of mental subjection to which army discipline has reduced him.

Now, we are not making any bid for your "sympathy." We do not ask you for anything. We just want to take this opportunity to remind you that, once you have your discharge in your pocket and a civilian coat on your back, you are FREE—at least insofar as your thoughts and opinions are concerned. You once again have the right to think for yourself. And we ask you to exercise that right—to disregard the baneful influences which are being brought to bear upon you—and give your calm, critical and unbiassed attention to the social and industrial problems which confront you.

If you will do this we have no doubt as to where your sympathies will lie. For we know that you will decide, as we have decided, that, as wage-workers, our interests are identical with the interests of the working class and opposed to those who exploit and oppress that class. You will realize, as we have realized, that those who would "use" you now to advance their own selfish ends would cast you aside like a worn-out glove as soon as those ends were accomplished.

The problems with which society is confronted are now more acute than ever before. Practically nothing so far has been done for the returned man and there is little prospect of anything being done until he recognizes just where his real interests lie and lines up with the rest of the members of his class.

The powers that be have recognized long since that once out of uniform, the returned soldier or sailor is just exactly what he was before he enlisted—a wage worker and nothing more—and, as such, he must take "pot luck" with the rest of the working class. It is very plain to be seen what sort of luck that will be if we allow ourselves to be divided and pitted against each other for the benefit of the exploiter and profiteer.

Our only hope is to recognize just where our real interests lie and line up shoulder to shoulder to enforce recognition of those things which are ours by right. We must realize that there is a stronger bond even than that bond of sympathy and comradeship which draws us together as ex-soldiers and sailors, and that is the bond of vital, material interest which unites us all, irrespective of trade or profession, as members of that class in society which is compelled to work for its living.

It makes no difference whether you earn your living with a pick or shovel or with a pen. Those distinctions between the different trades which existed prior to the war are being rapidly swept away under stress of the enormous economic pressure which is developing. Perhaps you have not yet actually got back into harness. Perhaps you are taking a brief holiday with the gratuity which a benevolent government allows you. This gratuity, however, cannot last long. Very soon you will be compelled to look for work. And your attitude in the present crisis will do much to determine whether there will be any work for you and what the hours and pay will be. It will help to decide whether you will have to make the best of a bad bargain as a lone individual or whether the representatives of a powerful working-class organization will be able to demand for you the wages and conditions of labor which you have a right to expect—but which will never be given you voluntarily.

The problems which confront you as a wage-worker are identical with those which confront every other member of the working class. And the workers themselves must solve those problems. No other class in society is able or likely to solve them in a manner satisfactory to the workers.

These matters demand your instant and serious consideration. What are you going to do about it?



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### The Strike and the Class Struggle

The late strike was forced upon the workers of Canada by the master class deliberately. Their purpose in this was twofold; first, to justify a continuation and, if possible, an intensification of present senseless and tyrannical legislation; second, by bringing on a clash prematurely to forestall our efforts to effect a more perfect class organization.

They are not much afraid of our present form of organization; they believe, and with too good reason, apparently, that they have a very practical method of checkmating harmonious and unanimous working-class action; and they know that our educative work is so productive of results, that from it will develop shortly an infinitely more scientific and result-producing organization.

While no intelligent man expects anything from strikes, as society is now constituted, in the way of economic improvement, we do know that education and intelligence, aye, and increased solidarity, come from all such experiences. "Hope, long deferred maketh the heart sick," is an old saying. It does not apply to us. Aching nerves, hunger and slums in the presence of the leisure and other good things that we have produced for others, but which we are not permitted to enjoy ourselves, make us a d—d sight sicker. We know, however, that in time these things are certain to provide the training to build up the will that will break down the inertia and the obstacles built up by long ages of tyranny and oppression.

Hence, we never hesitate, never decline the challenge of the master class on the main issue—the class struggle—no matter how futile may be the immediate object, so long as the conflict will stir the mental activities of the workers in the direction of an understanding, while the present system abides, of their slave position therein.

So the class struggle goes on; nothing can stop it short of the complete abatement of its cause. When a setback occurs the faint-hearted cry, "What's the use!" and the Bourbon-minded think that henceforth all will be well with class robbery and that exploitation will go on to the end of time.

Their respite, however, is only temporary—a lull in the storm—a trough in the waves—the negative arc in one of the minor cycles which, taken all together, make up the all-embracing onward sweep of evolution. The causes that underlie economic unrest are not to be minimized by temporary concessions; much less by coercion. The revolution in the economic life of civilized man is being compelled by the cosmic forces inherent in nature. It is not dependant on individuals nor governments; and only blind fools think that repressive laws against men or ideas can hinder it for the briefest moment.

The late disturbances have a special lesson for all workingmen, of which we hope to write later. Is it not time for the workers everywhere to wake up? Organized men especially; that we found out where our interests do really lie; that we took stock of ourselves; cleaned out the bats from our mental belfries—the vampires and other vermin—the vicious and unsound ideas that divide the working class and obscure the class struggle!

Our long range executive committees have betrayed us long enough. Many of our organizations have lost, if they ever had, their democratic character. The cure for the errors of democracy is now, as always, more democracy—a more complete, a more perfect democracy. And there is no real democracy to be found in anything except in immediate control by the rank and file.

### Revolutionary Socialism in France

Frederick R. Kuh.

The evolution of French socialism was appreciably accelerated when Jean Longuet's faction, "les minoritaires," emerged from the

1918 party congress as "les majoritaires." To-day the ascendancy of Longuet is visibly threatened by the growing communist sentiment in the party's ranks. In his adherence to the Second International, Longuet alienated from his following many of the radicals, who at once cast their lot with Lorient—chef of the extreme left, who fought valiantly for French socialist affiliation with the Third International. But Longuet is far too sensitive to his comrades' tendencies to commit the error of his own predecessors. And though his faith is still with the Berne International, it is a vacillating faith, and Longuet regards this moderate programme as on trial; in case of its continued aloofness from Moscow, he is thoroughly prepared to link his destiny with Lenin's programme. The highly significant function of Lorient is to exert formidable pressure upon the "majority," which is consequently bending, with growing rapidity, toward the left. In view of this changing status, it would be false to consider French socialism irrevocably committed to the Second International. With Italian socialists firmly in accord with the Russian communist regime, we may reasonably anticipate a bouleversement d'idees among Longuet's element. A "senance extraordinaire" is already being spoken of as a possibility for reconsidering the official alliance with the moderate International.

Before the war, Lorient and his fellow-extremists in the socialist party, as he himself remarks, "simply did not count." To-day those socialists who acquiesce in his programme number—at a fair estimate—60 per cent. of the party.

"Against his own will, Longuet is continually being forced to our position," Lorient told me. "He is absorbing our 'minority' at the cost of adopting our plan of action intact."

Lorient, who is treasurer of the party, is, like MacLean, a school-teacher. Though he was recently removed from one of the foremost Parisian ecoles, the government (for Lorient is employed in a state institution) did not dare treat him with the impudence meted out to our Nearings, but contented itself with relegating the Bolshevik educator to a more "quiet sector" of the city. Lorient has crystallized his programme in the following demands—which he offers "aux masses proletariennes, en les appelant a le realizer."

1. Complete acquisition of power by the proletariat;
2. Inauguration of obligatory work;
3. Socialization of the means of production and of exchange, land, industries, mines transportation . . . . . under the direct administration of the peasants, workers, railwaymen, marine transport workers.
4. Distribution of produce through the media of co-operatives and municipal stores, operated under collective control;
5. Municipalization of dwelling houses and of hospital service;
6. Transformation of the present bureaucracy, by confiscation, to the direct control of the employees;
7. Universal disarmament, concomitant with the union of all proletarian republics in the Internationale Socialiste.

It is absurd to discuss the advance of socialism in France without contemplating the weight of French syndicalism, which, numerically and morally, is the determining factor between the tricolor and the drapeau rouge. We cannot consider the 72,000 members of the socialist party capable of inaugurating a proletarian dictatorship without the united co-operation of the 1,300,000 members of the Confederation Generale du Travail. It is, unquestionably, the C. G. T. which is paralyzing the advent of the revolution in France. Before the war, the Confederation was sovietiste in thought and intention. But the present guides of this organization have retained little from these former days except a revolutionary vocabulary. That the workers are far in advance of their trailing leaders is clearly indicated by the partial strikes, occurring frequently throughout France, despite contrary orders from Jouhaux, secretary of the C. G. T.

It is the chasm between the C. G. T. and the Socialist Party which heartens Clemenceau more than endless and fictitious reports of Bolshevik military reverses. Until the current conservatism of the C. G. T. is superseded by its former revolutionary spirit, the immediate prospects for a French Soviet Republic are, indeed, slight. Jouhaux, the C. G. T.'s leader, is an erstwhile anarcho-syndicalist, who completely abandoned his position at the outset of the war, when he wilfully subordinated his partisanship in the class conflict to the war of the bourgeoisie. When Jouhaux received a staggering blow from a Paris policeman during the May 1 riots, he regained his class-consciousness long enough to resign from one of his governmental posts. But the effects of the injury were not sufficiently internal, and to-day Jouhaux remains the primary obstacle in the path of a rapprochement between French syndicalists and socialists.

Pierre Monatte, exponent of the C. G. T.'s revolutionary traditions, aptly pigeon-holes Jouhaux as a chauvin, and lets it go at that. "Reformer" is the contemptuous characterization made of Jouhaux by Frossard, secretary of the Socialist Party. I asked Frossard whether Jouhaux might not justly be called a Gallic edition of Gompers. Frossard faced me with a gesture of remonstrance.



"Ah, no!" he said. "I should not speak that bitingly—even of Jouhaux."

If the prodigal Confederation is soon to return to the fold of revolutionary industrial unionism, it is to be through the leadership of Monatte, editor of *La Vie Ouvriere* and captain of the C. G. T. minority. Monatte was conscripted during the early period of hostilities, when conscientious-objecting was a fatal diversion in France. Once more a civilian, he is publishing his revolutionary journal and rallying thousands of his fellow-workers to his side,—workers who, bitter against their betrayal, are eager for a regime which shall emanate wholly from labor. Monatte's temper may be illustrated by his unequivocal statement to Tom Mann, the veteran English syndicalist.

"Remember," Monatte admonished Mann, "that Bolshevism, Spartacism and our own syndicalism are divers names for the same thing. An Internationale which fails to comprise the Bolshevik and Spartacist programmes, which is, in fact, founded with the hidden thought of combatting these two movements, will be regarded by us a dupery which must be crushed relentlessly. For us there can be no true International outside of the Third, instituted at Moscow."

It is the imminent declaration in favor of the Third International by both the C. G. T. and the Socialist Party that Loriot believes will automatically unite the vital forces for the revolution.

That the French troops, satiated with lies and resentful of being lured on into fresh imperialist enterprises, are, for the large part, in whole-hearted accord with the insurrectionary workers, was vividly manifested on May 1, when Clemenceau used only his agents de police, tactfully refraining from ordering soldiers against the workers. I witnessed one episode (trivial but eloquent) on that memorable day, which points to the genuine trend of the poilus' sympathies. A garde republicaine was viciously clouting a mild laborer, with true Lawrence, Massachusetts, enthusiasm; a cavalryman, seeing the outrage, dismounted and delivered himself a dreadnought kick, planted upon the policeman's stern. The worker grasped the poilu's hand; the fic effaced himself; and the cheers of that interminable crowd echoed and re-echoed through the Place de la Republique.

"What guise will the French revolution take?" is a familiar query that falls too obviously within the speculative realm. This much may be said; that both Loriot and Monatte advocate a replica of the Russian revolution for France, though less compromising and with such modifications as are requisite in view of the 20,000,000 French peasants, petits proprietaires, virtually all owning their farmhouses, an inadequate acreage and a few cattle, differentiating their status from the vast system of absentee-landlordism that was Russia. But already these peasants are finding a new bond with the "left" in the chain of socialist co-operatives, moulded upon the Rochedale pattern, which are springing up throughout the countryside, and particularly in the Meuse, as antidotes to the villainous profit-mongering of bourgeois merchants. Through their own stores, the peasants are able to purchase everything at half the "market" price.

The minimum estimated budget of 22,000,000 francs this year (about 600 francs per capita tax) is hastening the precipitate debacle of the Clemenceau reign. Clemenceau's capitalist policy is resting as a torturing burden upon the shoulders of peasants and workers, who are solidifying with the extreme left of the socialist party in their efforts to keep the Quai d'Orsay Tiger from their doors.

As sand sifts through the hour glass, so is the socialist sentiment of France moving, steadily, and irresistibly, toward communism and dictatorship of the proletariat. And when the brief hour of Pichon and his cronies has expired, the workers will rise to direct the destinies of France, marching side by side with the revolutionary Labor in Russia and Germany, as torch-bearers of the Commune's traditions. As the French bourgeois government sinks deeper and deeper into the pit of insolvency, of militarism and of white-guard conspiracies, the pendulum of revolution is given an added impetus by the disillusioned masses. And when the workers of France realize their power to its fullest extent, they will hail as leaders men of the heroic stature of Loriot, whose cry of "Prise total du pouvoir par le proletariat" is today the triumphant watchword of French progress.

Paris, May 26th.

\*"Complete assumption of power by the proletariat!"

## Greece Refuses to Fight Against Soviets

It is well-known that Greek troops constituted a large part of the Entente forces in Odessa and in the Crimea. "L'Humanite," of Paris, May 22nd, prints the following Russian wireless of May 19th, announcing the refusal of Greece to continue the fight against Soviet Russia:

"The Greek Admiral in Sabastopol has assured the representative of the Red Army that henceforth Greece will not participate in the

operations against Bolshevik Russia. Previous to his departure he called with other diplomatic representatives on the President of the Revolutionary Committee and repeated his assurances of Greek sympathy for Soviet Russia. In their private conversations the Greek representatives condemned in strong terms the Entente's action of forcing the Greeks to participate in operations against the Red Army."

## The Russian Prisoners in Germany

When the history of the Great European War is written, it will include the narration of changes greater than those produced by any other war of modern times. Not the least among these is the actual shifting of great bodies of men over great distances, sometimes resulting in their being settled in new environments for years to come. The example of the Russian prisoners of war taken by Germany, and the sufferings experienced by them during their almost permanent stay in that country, is a chapter in the history of warfare that is unique, and its unusual quality is by no means lessened by the fact that this peculiar form of detention is likely to last for some time.

It will be remembered that the Imperial German Government did everything in its power to weaken its enemies not only by military attack, but also by arousing separatist tendencies in the enemy's country. Numerous attempts were made to pervert feelings of discontent in foreign countries into internal racial strife, and for the pursuit of this aim, Russia was perhaps the most favorable field. Propaganda was carried on by German agents in the various parts of the country, to arouse racial feeling between its component parts, and in this way it was hoped by the Imperial German Government that Russia might be broken up into a number of weak and disconnected states.

The numerous prisoners from the various parts of Russia, who fell into the hands of Germany in the course of the war, became the object of a peculiarly characteristic form of propaganda. They were concentrated in camps where many new educational devices were applied. Ukrainians and Poles who had been permitted to remain illiterate under the Czar, were taught their native Ukrainian and Polish tongues, with the object of developing in them whatever latent feelings of aggressive nationalism they might have possessed. The Imperial German Government wished to implant in the hearts of the various races of Russia a hatred of the Russian central government that would prevent them from ever again feeling any solidarity with the masses of the great Russian people, and the process of imparting to them the rudiments of an education in their native tongues appeared to be the most effective way of giving them a tangible feeling of difference from their Great Russian neighbors. It was hoped that after these men were returned to their native homes, they would become able defenders of narrow provincial ideals, as opposed to general Russian ideals, and that they might therefore advocate alliances with Germany rather than with Great Russia, thus weakening the coherence and unity of the then powerful Russian Empire.

We shall now point out that the effort to use the war victims captured from the enemy, for weakening the enemy from within, has also been made by certain Allied powers, but with this interesting difference: the old German Government was dealing with Czarist Russia and made use of nationalist strife in this process; while the Allies are facing a revolutionary Russia and are using the same victims for purposes of counter-revolution. (See the Paris despatch on the revised armistice terms in the "New York Times" of January 18, 1919.)

In the "New York Times" of April, 3rd, 1919, Mr. Frank Bohn, a renegade Socialist, contributes an extremely interesting article entitled: "The American Peace Condemned as a Support of Bolshevism and a Betrayal of Democratic Russian Elements." In the course of this article, Mr. Bohn proves beyond doubt, although that was hardly his chief intention in writing it, that he was active in the attempt to win over the Russian prisoners in Germany for purposes of counter-revolutionary aggression within their native country. Speaking of the time when the so-called "American Socialist Mission" was approached by "the United Russian Democracy," to aid in mobilizing the Russian victims of Czar and Kaiser against the Soviet Government, Mr. Bohn says, among other things:

"As all the most active workers in this democratic group are Socialists, they naturally came to the American Socialist Mission for help. Our mission met their executive group in general council. For weeks after, various members of both groups met often. We examined very carefully into the facts they presented and into their arguments and plans. Our American Mission delegated me to assist them in securing support for their policy. The request we wished to make was simple and, we thought, reasonable enough. We decided to take up only the matter of the Russian prisoners of war. Let me here emphasize the fact that these sixteen hundred thousand Russians were our



allies. They were captured while fighting bravely in our cause during the first three years of the war. On November 11 they were in rags, barefooted, and subsisting in many camps by eating the bodies of those among them who had died of starvation and disease. Why were the American, the French and the British prisoners of war rescued and the Russians left to perish like rats in a trap? Who dare say that it was not a sacred duty on the part of ourselves and our allies to treat these men as our very own? However, two months had passed before we took up this matter in the way described above, and planned to conduct democratic propaganda and organization among these prisoners while they were being fed and clothed."

The "democratic propaganda" conducted by Mr. Böhn's interesting organization was—to gather the implications of the above paragraph—an effort at systematic recruiting of Russian war prisoners for use in counter-revolutionary offensives against their home government. And the revised armistice terms that were accepted by the German Government on January 16th included provisions that unfortunately were well suited for the purpose of rendering possible a distortion of the announced pretensions behind the transfer of Russian war prisoners from German to Allied control. While the new armistice terms provided for a transfer that is to result in better feeding, housing, and transportation conditions for those unfortunate victims of the world war, the condition after Mr. Böhn's "democratic propaganda" organization got to work seems to be this: feeding, clothing, and housing the Russian workers became mere devices to entice them into counter-revolutionary recruiting offices.

Now, in spite of the clear language of the armistice terms on the subject of the desirability of a humane treatment of the Russian prisoners in Germany, reactionary influences in the councils of the Allied powers have, as Mr. Böhn's article only too clearly shows, made the ostensibly kindly intentions of the revised armistice terms a means of gaining cannon-fodder in the service of reaction in Russia.

Already in January, the Armistice Commission had exposed itself to a possibility of uncharitable interpretation on this question, as is shown by the following news item in a Norwegian daily of January 27th:

"Berlin, January 27.—Alleging that Russian prisoners of war in Germany are being sent home only in order to strengthen the military forces of the Bolsheviks, the Allied representatives of the Armistice Commission demanded last Saturday that the home-sending of Russian war prisoners should stop. The German Commission protested against this order and maintained that such an act would lead to revolts as the Russian prisoners already for some time had been notified of their impending return."

But when this item was printed in the Norwegian daily, the Russian Soviet Government had already learnt of the new clauses in the revised terms and had already protested, in the following interesting message, against any misuse of Russian prisoners for counter-revolutionary purposes. We print in full the protest of the Soviet Government (also taken from a Norwegian newspaper of January 27):

Petrograd, January 22nd. (Official Wireless of the Russian Government). The Russian Soviet Government has sent the following note of protest because of demands made by the Allied powers, that they control matters concerning Russian war prisoners in Germany.

With the greatest astonishment the Russian Soviet Government has learned through wireless dispatches that among the new armistice agreements entered into by the Central Powers and the Allies is a clause which provides that the Allies shall control matters concerning the Russian war prisoners in Germany and their return home. The Russian Government declares that such an agreement has been made without the approval of the Russian Government and even without its knowledge. The care of Russian war prisoners in Germany is the concern of the Russian Government, and the Russian Government alone is competent to assign the administration of this matter to another power. The Russian Soviet Republic was not vanquished by the Allied powers and it has not entered into any agreements with them. The violation of the rights of the Russian Soviet Government therefore is an infamous and villainous act. In as much as the German Government is a party in this international crime against the Russian war prisoners who are found on its territory, we place the entire responsibility for the consequences of such an act on the German Government.

This act on the part of the Allied and German Government causes us all the more anxiety as we have sufficient knowledge of the unscrupulous methods employed by representatives of the Allies who tried to induce Russian war prisoners in Hungary and on the Balkan peninsula to enlist in the White Guards who are fighting against the Russian Republic.

The Russian Soviet Government brands before the whole world this barbarous act on the part of those who are ignoring the most

elementary human feelings and who would compel the returning Russian prisoners of war to fight against their own country.

Likewise we brand before the whole world the abominable practice of these representatives of the Allied powers, who make Russian soldiers who refuse to lend themselves for such purposes, the victims of all kinds of persecutions and atrocities. The Russian Soviet Government is aware of the barbarous crimes which representatives of the Allies have perpetrated against Russian war prisoners on German territory occupied by the Allies. Attempts have been made in those territories as well, to compel Russian war prisoners to fight against the Russian people. For instance, in Cologne, Russian prisoners of war who refused to enlist in the White Guards to be sent against the people of Russia, have been beaten in the prisons with rubber clubs by colored French soldiers and interned in dark cells where they have been kept without food for several days and finally threatened with court-martial and execution.

The barbarous unscrupulousness of the Allied powers who have without cause and without declaration of war invaded Russia, where they have perpetrated a multitude of crimes, is sufficiently known, and these, their new crimes against the Russian war prisoners are to be classed in the system already so well known to us.

If, however, the German Government supports such acts, it is placing itself on the same level as the Allied powers in this respect, and we will have to regard this act of the German Government against Russian war prisoners as a deliberately hostile act against the Russian Soviet Republic. We also declare that German comrades who are in Russia will not in any way be held responsible by us for such acts on the part of the German Government which murdered Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.

People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Chicherin.

Unfortunately, the condition of the Russian prisoners held in Germany has not yet improved in this respect, and it is not surprising to find that the prisoners resent it even to the extent of making riotous demonstrations. Certain persons in the councils of the Allies appear to have learnt too well the lesson of the Imperial German Government in its propaganda methods, and the assignment of foreign (American) officers to conduct the propaganda here mentioned, among the Russian prisoners, will be found noted, with the names of the officers in question, in the "New York Times" of February 17th. We shall probably have occasion to revert to this subject again.

## Scarlet Standard Hoisted

Judging by Swedish newspapers the Allied naval operations against Russia in the Baltic Sea are meeting with obstacles similar to those experienced by the French fleet in Odessa. Stockholm "Politiken" announces that about the middle of May the French fleet had to be taken away from the Baltic because of the refusal of the sailors to fight against their fellow-workers in Russia. Another dispatch in the same paper mentions a similar occurrence on one of the British warships stationed in the Finnish Gulf. In both instances the red flag was raised by the sailors.

Nothing has been reported here about these events. The British censorship still is perfect, especially in respect to news of this character. But the truth will come out somehow, sometime. And the story is always the same. The common sense of the masses of the people actively reacts against the senselessness of the war against Soviet Russia.

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