

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER IN SOVIET RUSSIA.

(Editor's Note:—Through the mass of lies which have been told about Russia it has been difficult for American workers to perceive the truth in the situation in the new republic. It was for this reason that The Federated Press nearly three months ago commissioned William Z. Foster, best known to the American Trade Union movement as a leader in the recent steel strike, to go to Russia and write of conditions as he found them. The first of Mr. Foster's articles follows:)



By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER
(Federated Press Staff Writer)
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Moscow, May 11.—The Russian revolution is one of the very greatest events in human history. It is full of the most vital significance for the workers of the entire world. At all hazards they must become acquainted with what it really means. Unfortunately, up to the present time, because of the machinations of the employers and the exploiting class generally, the great masses of workers have not grasped its true import. Particularly is this the case in the United States. Hence, in order that American workers may be put in possession of the facts and thus awakened to the importance of the tremendous movement here, The Federated Press has commissioned me to write a series of articles on the Russian situation, as seen by a trade-unionist. Therefore, as I go along, I shall describe as best I can, the existing institutions of Soviet Russia: how the workers think, act, and live; their struggles against their oppressors, and their prospects for the future.

To begin with, however, it will be necessary to caution American trade unionists to lay aside their prejudices against Russia. Almost everything they have heard or read about this revolutionary country is malicious falsehood, poison-gas propaganda set afloat by reactionary interests to discredit the Russian revolution, which is the most profound and important

movement ever undertaken by any working class on the face of the globe.

Russia is Victim of Liars.

For American trade unionists it is no new thing to see working-class movements misrepresented and vilified by the kept press and other hangers-on of the exploiters. In fact, practically our entire machinery for giving expression to so-called public opinion, and for bringing the news to the people has degenerated into a propaganda agency of organized Big Business, with the chief goal in view to discredit and destroy labor organization of every kind. But all our experience with the hired liars of America is as nothing compared with the experience of the Russian workers. Their vast movement is of incomparably greater volume and moment than ours; it threatens the very existence of the capitalists of the whole world. Consequently it has aroused a tremendous opposition. Universally the social parasites, desperately alarmed, have called to their service the entire body of united liars and defamers and vilifiers of every country. Every device known to man has been exhausted to convince the world, and before all the working-class, that the toiling Russians and their leaders are monsters in human form and that their revolution is subversive of all that is good in social life.

American Workers Misinformed.

The worst of it is that great armies of workers in outside countries have been duped by these deliberate fabrications. Again I say that this is particularly true of the United States. In every other country at least the organized sections of the workers have been able to rise above the employers' propaganda and to understand the situation so that they have been led to pledge their moral support to the Russian workers in their gigantic fight for liberty. But not so with us; our trade union movement alone is openly hostile to the Russian revolution, and to its sad discredit has joined hands with the dark forces of Imperialistic Capitalism that are seeking to destroy it. We have swallowed the employers' propaganda hook, line and sinker. Our conceptions of the Russian situation are on a par with those of the New York "Times" and have been drawn from the same sources.

We have not even taken the trouble to examine the situation for ourselves. Ours is the only important labor movement in the world that has not sent a commission to Russia to find out for ourselves what is really going on in the revolution. This is a pitiable condition. It is a disgrace, and it is high time that we wiped it out and got into tune with the organized workers throughout the world by extending to the Russians our heartiest sympathy and support in their hard struggle.

(To be continued.)