

Lenin or Wilson — the Bourgeoisie Scents Danger

By Nicholas I. Hourwich

IF one could, for a moment, take himself to the skies and secure a bird's-eye view of the stormy, bloody struggle, the sufferings and tears that are agonizing our world, it would appear clearly as a struggle between Bolshevism and Capitalism—a deadly clash between the new, glorious proletarian-communist society towards which humanity is advancing, and the old rotting capitalist system which is desperately trying to save itself from destruction.

The ultimate result of this clash—which the bourgeois press, accustomed to think in terms of "great men," calls a struggle "between Lenin and Wilson"—is easily foretold. At this moment, the forces of the two opponents are almost equal; but the forces of one, the revolutionary proletariat, grow and multiply, while the forces of the other, Capitalism, are rapidly on the wane. . . .

It is quite natural, accordingly, that a view of this great spectacle of struggle and revolution provokes a feeling of sadness in the bourgeois press.

Precisely this spirit is wafted from an editorial recently appearing in the big bourgeois paper, the *New York American*:

"The fate of the world is being decided not in Paris, but in Berlin." This is the tragic announcement, at the very beginning of the editorial. But as you may glean from a further reading of the editorial, and

particularly, if you are capable of reading between the lines—the real situation which evokes this spirit of resignation is that the "fate of the world" is being decided, not in Berlin, but in—Moscow. . . . Berlin, in this case, plays the part of a "dam" which holds back the Bolshevik revolutionary stream that threatens to flood the whole of Europe.

It is not surprising that the thought of the writer of the editorial runs ahead of events, and paints a lurid picture, full of horrors, of what may happen when "this last defense of Europe against anarchy" will be destroyed and "Prussia fall into the hands of the Reds." . . .

And the picture, indeed, is a terrible one! . . . "The other governments of Europe will tumble in swift ruins. . . . It is impossible that either the French or Italian Governments can retain power over their proletariats if the resources and population of Germany and Austria are added to the vast territory and the millions of people over which the Red Flag now waves."

And, for the information of those who doubt that France and Italy might become "victims" of Bolshevism, the *American* says:

"Every well informed man knows that the Reds in

France and Italy and in England, too, are eagerly waiting to strike great blows for the International, and that the signal for these blows would be the Red Flag waving over Berlin and the message that the Red Armies of Russia, Prussia, Bavaria, Austria and Hungary were marching to the help of their comrades in Paris and in Rome."

"Red Flag and the Hymn of the International are neither one new to France or to Italy. And there are millions of Frenchmen and Italians ready to be led to march under the blood colored banner, singing the songs of revolution. . . ."

In horror at this picture painted by his imagination, the writer of the *American* editorial turns to the statesmen sitting at the Peace Conference in Paris with the appeal to lessen their bellicose spirit and spare "democratic Germany," and not to throw it into the embrace of the "reds" by too exacting and humiliating demands.

"Remember,"—the *American* cautions severely, but at the same time softly—"remember, if Berlin falls beneath the blows of Bolshevism, the Peace Conference will be lucky if it can find ships to carry its members away from Europe."

Have not these "words of caution" something to do with events at Murmansk among the American troops, and our own situation in this country?