

"A Poor Peace Better Than Proletarian Revolution"

By Nicholas I. Hourwich

THE development of capitalistic society was characterized by Karl Marx as a development that produces "its own grave-diggers." This characterization proves more than correct as concerns the Peace Conference in Paris; for this Conference, more than anything else, perhaps even more than revolutionary Socialist propaganda and agitation, has contributed to breaking down the illusions of "liberal, peaceful reconstruction" and to developing a revolutionary Socialist conception of the fundamental nature of Capitalism among the proletarian masses of all countries.

And, thanks to the "successful activity" of the Peace Conference, that which formerly was understood and prophesied by revolutionary Socialists alone is now becoming obvious to all.

The "Fourteen Points" of President Wilson, it is now clear, have been in the hands of the Allies (regardless of the particular aspirations of Wilson in this or that matter) nothing but bait with which to catch German fish.

These "Fourteen Points" at the time lulled the vigilance of the revolutionary masses of the German proletariat: these "Fourteen Points" provided a plausible excuse for the German diplomats to sign the armistice agreement dictated by the Allies and in obvious contradiction to the "points;" and now, when the conditions of the armistice have been complied with, when the Rhine provinces are occupied by Allied troops and Germany lies prostrate and almost helpless at the feet of the Allied imperialists,—these "Fourteen Points" are declared as rubbish, as a useless scrap of paper. Terms of peace are imposed upon Germany in comparison with which the infamous Brest-Litovsk conditions of peace imposed upon Soviet Russia by Germany appear as innocent, kind and meek.

The "Fourteen Points," we repeat, lulled the vigil-

ance of the revolutionary masses of the German proletariat and provided a plausible excuse for the German diplomats to sign the armistice. . . . It was simply an excuse. For we did not think at the time and we do not think now that these "points," for a single moment, lulled the vigilance of the experienced

Deporting Democracy

Letter from Herman Shuster, U. S. Immigration Station, Boston, Mass.

Circumstances compel me to appeal for your assistance. I am detained at the above mentioned station, and was arrested in Cleveland, Ohio, in December 1917, for failing to register. But as the U. S. authorities were unable to prove my right age they preferred to switch the charge to entering the U. S. illegally. Therefore, my deportation to Russia has been ordered by the Department of Labor, Washington, D. C. in May 1918, but up to date this order has not been carried out. They simply keep me in detention without giving me the opportunity to leave on parole or upon bonds until the deportation can be effected.

In the winter of 1917 I received, while at the county-jail, Cleveland, a letter from the Industrial Workers of the World, 1001 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill., (holding card No. 204,122 Industrial Union 200 M. T. W.) to the effect that a lawyer was ordered to see all members detained there. However, I have never seen the gentleman.

On February 4th inst. I mailed a registered letter to Mr. Louis Ratnosky, No. 27—4th St., New York City, (Labor Defender), but in spite of the fact that I have the return receipt at hand, I never heard of him.

Therefore I beg of you the favor to take this matter up and let me know whatever you might learn by inquiring into my case.

and alert German diplomats and generals, and their aids, the social-patriots; they never really and sincerely placed any confidence in the "points." The act of signing the armistice, under conditions of martial law and the revolutionary situation in Germany; allowing the Allies, in conformity with the armistice terms, to occupy the Rhine provinces, unparalleled in military annals; surrendering with conscious alacrity the revolutionary fleet to the Allies, the sailors of which had been the first to raise the banner of the Revolution,—all this we consider acts of deliberate treason and betrayal of the Revolution by the bourgeois diplomats and bourgeois "Socialists." It was an attempt to betray and disarm the German Revolution with the aid of foreign bayonets, an attempt which finds its analogy in the project of General Ivanov proposed to the Czar in the early days of the March Revolution, a project involving opening the Russian frontiers to the Germans and the surrender of Riga by General Kornilov.

The German "Socialist" traitors of the Ebert-Scheidemann persuasion and the ordinary bourgeois traitors knew and felt sure that the Allied knife thrust at the heart of Germany would descend, and with their connivance, since they were a party to the plot. And this knife was to descend, no so much in order to damage bourgeois Germany, but to devour and crush the German proletarian revolution.

And now it has come. The knife hanging over Germany has descended. The peace conditions imposed by the Allies will transform Germany into a vassal of the Allies. But we have no doubt that the German bourgeoisie and the Ebert-Scheidemann Government will, while protesting, pay this price and a still higher price if necessary, in order to secure in the Allies a guardian and defender against the proletarian revolution that is still threatening.

Better to save something than to lose everything!