

Dawn of Seventh Year in Soviet Russia Sees Growing Sentiment for U. S. Recognition in 68th Congress

By JAY LOVESTONE.

One of the most important issues to be met by the Sixty-Eighth Congress, opening on Dec. 4th, will be the question of resuming trade relations with and recognizing Soviet Russia.

There are all sorts of rumors afloat in Washington as to what the Administration is planning to do regarding Russia. More and more it is becoming noticeable that the old Hughes-Gompers policy of damning Russia is nearing its end.

Since the end of the Sixty-Seventh Congress much water has flown under the bridge of Russian-American relations. The fact that England has organized a grain-trading corporation to deal with Russia, the intensified activity of France in trade relations with the Soviet Republic, as shown by the great impression made by the Russian trip of Herriot and the advocacy of recognition by M. Demonzie, one of the leaders of the Chamber of Deputies, and the increasing interest of American business men in Russian developments, are hastening the formation of a definite American policy towards Soviet Russia.

Fall for Soviet Recognition.

Last summer saw many American congressmen and senators visit the Soviet Republic in order to get a first hand view of the actual conditions. One of the most prominent visitors was ex-Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall. Mr. Fall is highly influential in the innermost circles of the Republican Administration. Ex-Secretary Fall was a particularly close friend of the late President Harding and many looked upon his visit to Soviet Russia as a sort of a semi-official attempt by President Harding to get a line on the basis for a new policy towards the Workers' and Peasants' Government.

Amongst close students of governmental affairs at the Capital the consensus of opinion is that since Hughes has addressed his last note, denouncing Soviet Russia, there has been no event of greater importance and effect making for the resumption of friendly normal relations between the United States and the Soviet government than the fact that Mr. Fall, upon his return from Russia, has definitely declared himself for an economic and political pact between America and Russia.

Mr. Fall's position has been particularly helpful to the advocates of Soviet recognition in that his close connections with the Administration tend not only to counterbalance the harmful influence of Secretary of State Hughes, but also take the edge off the attack persistently waged against the Workers' Republic by Mr. Gompers.

Look for Strong Fight in Congress.

Unless unforeseen circumstances intervene, there is every likelihood for a strong fight being made on the floor of Congress for a renewal of the trade treaty with and recognition of the Russian government.

With the exception of Congressman Britten, all the legislators who have visited Russia during the summer, are either for the resumption of trade relations with or for the complete recognition of the Soviet government. Amongst the ardent advocates of Russian recognition in this group are Senator Robert M. LaFollette, who is in a very influential position in the Senate, Senator Wheeler of Montana, Senator Ladd of North Dakota, Congressman Frazier of Wisconsin and Representative Hamilton Fish, Jr., of New York.

Senator King of Utah, Senator McKellar of Tennessee, and Congressman Beedy of Maine, who have all been in Soviet Russia last summer, have come out four-square for the resumption of trade relations between the two countries.

But there are other senators and congressmen who have not had the opportunity to see the Soviet Government at work and who are very sympathetic for a restoration of normal dealings between the United States and Russia. In this group are found such powerful figures in the Senate as William E. Borah of Idaho, and Senator George Wharton Pepper of Pennsylvania. The recent winning over of Senator Pepper to Russian recognition is especially significant and helpful, because of the high standing the Pennsylvania Senator has in conservative circles. It is even believed by many who are in intimate touch with the Administration that Senator Pepper will be the one to introduce a resolution for Russian recognition at the coming sessions of Congress.

What Will Congress Do?

More and more it is becoming evident to many of our legislative solons that the only way to prevent a complete collapse of the American market, that the only possible relief for the farmers, and that the most effective way of preventing a new and more serious depression in this country is thru recognition of the Russian Republic.

There are three distinct proposals for Russian-American relations that the Sixty-Eighth Congress will be confronted with. One group will stand for the complete recognition of the Soviet Government; a second group will fight for a resumption of trade relations. The Administration policy will be one of dodging the fight on this question and will very likely take the form of an attempt to send

a governmental commission to look over the situation in Russia and present a report, which should serve as a basis of American policy. It is not likely that the constituents of the first two groups will fall for this ruse. Whether they will succeed or not in getting across recognition or trade relations one cannot say at this date. But it is certain that the enemies of Russian recognition in the Sixty-Eighth Congress will have a hard job ahead of them in December. Gompers Antics Not Taken Seriously.

In Washington the actions of the American Federation of Labor on the question of Soviet Russia are not taken seriously. As a rule the Senators and Congressmen are experienced convention machine-men themselves and they know very well that the fact that Gompers was able to steam-roller an anti-Russian resolution at the Portland convention, is not at all an index of where the American workers stand on this question.

The lie to Gompers' charge that the workers of this country are opposed to recognition, has been given most decisively in a series of articles against the Communists run by several of the leading newspapers. In one of these articles Mr. James M. Lynch, the author, a dyed-in-the-wool reactionary, former president of the International Typographical Union and former New York State Industrial Commissioner, has thus answered Gompers: "It is my impression that the great bulk of the organized wage earners favor recognition of the Soviet Republic."

Up to the Workers and Farmers.

There is one way in which the resumption of normal relations between the United States and Russia can be assured. This is the pressure that the working and farming masses can bring to bear on the government. The next Congress, in view of the fact that we are on the eve of a national election, will be prone to take more heed of strong popular sentiment for Russian recognition. The workers and farmers of America must make their voice heard in no uncertain words that they are for Russian recognition. This is the only way in which Congress can be forced into line for the restoration of normal relations between America and the Workers' and Peasants' Republic of Soviet Russia.

Amalgamation in Germany.

BERLIN.—A further step in the direction of industrial unionism will be taken as a result of a referendum just completed among the members of the Pavers' Union. In the referendum, in which 67 per cent. of the membership took part, 4,218 votes were cast in favor of amalgamating with the Stone Workers' Union, and 2,537 votes were given for amalgamation with the building trades workers.

Amalgamation with the Stone Workers will take place Jan. 1, 1924.

MOSCOW.—The Russian Textile Workers' union is said to have organized 380 elementary schools with 40,000 children; 43 secondary schools with 5,000 children; 140 clubs with 207 studios; 291 libraries; 205 schools to eradicate illiteracy from among adults, and 196 kindergartens with 15,000 children.

ROME.—Italian teachers who refuse to surrender their belief in the value of democracy and education are being treated with great severity by the Mussolini dictatorship. Women teachers are being dismissed in large numbers.

Cut Wages but

The big copper interests have announced wages. In the Utah mines the workers Butte and Arizona wages will be cut approximately 10 per cent.

In the moving picture industry there big producers as Adolph Zukor, the Famous Players-Lasker Corporation, and the Metro Pictures Corporation, are planning a reduction in wages.

Tho there is no widespread unemployment for the first time shows the normal and is not increasing.

At the same time the anthracite interests that the Federal Trade Commission has they are selling "at prices that are neither big concerns like the North American Coal Packing continue to pile up big profits. a 50 per cent stock dividend assuring the in stocks in the last two year. The North year increased its surplus after the payment of dividends, over sixty per cent.

Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Co. 6,000 workers, has reduced operations to Mass, the Star Worsted Mill is working plants have closed for an indefinite period. Co. has closed 750 out of its 5,000 looms. N. C., has closed four of its plants using Co. of the same town, is also curtailing