

Notes of an Internationalist

OTTO BAUER MAKES CONDITIONS

By JOHN PEPPER.

A GREAT good fortune is to be our share. Otto Bauer, the leader of the Austrian social-democracy, stated in a large meeting of functionaries of the Vienna social-democratic organization that under certain conditions he was ready to undertake a journey to the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. The Bolshevik god is truly good. He has prepared for us this beautiful Christmas present.

Mr. Otto Bauer is so extremely gracious that he condescends to pay a visit to our workers' and peasants' republic. Of course Otto Bauer sets certain "conditions." It would be altogether too much of a good thing if so prominent an Austro-Marxist as Mr. Otto Bauer, who even has been minister for foreign affairs of the bourgeois Austrian republic, were to declare himself ready, unconditionally, to visit our unhappy land now deserted by all social-democratic democracy and idiocy.

WE do not care to discuss his conditions at present, he really does not demand too much. "Only" the legalization of the social-democratic party in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, in other words, liberty for counter-revolution and the undermining of the dictatorship of the proletariat. He really does not demand very "much," he only asks for the liquidation of the Communist movement in Europe, in other words, a monopoly for the social-democratic party in leadership of the proletariat, or, otherwise as stated, an open track for unrestrained betrayal, for limitless opportunism in the labor movement. Mr. Otto Bauer's price is really quite cheap. He is ready to journey to the only workers'

and peasants' republic in the world in exchange for two "little" concessions, namely, the liquidation of the proletarian dictatorship in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and the liquidation of the European Communist movement, that is, the liquidation of the Russian as well as the world revolution. Now, it is well known that we in the workers' and peasants' republic are very hospitable but we fear that, notwithstanding all our hospitality, we shall liquidate neither the Russian nor the world revolution merely to be able to welcome Otto Bauer here as our guest.

OTTO Bauer said something more. He not only fixed "conditions," he also "recognized" the great progress which our Union of Socialist Soviet Republics has made on every field in recent times. We would like to recapitulate the things that even Mr. Otto Bauer was compelled to "recognize." He noted:

1. The development of our agriculture;
2. The development of our industry;
3. The improvement of the material condition of the working class;
4. The gains registered by the Soviet government in social legislation;
5. The progress in the field of popular education;
6. The general achievements of the Bolsheviks in recent years have proven that it is possible to get along without capitalists."

IT is of course, not unimportant that I so-dyed-in-the-wool a menshevik as Otto Bauer is compelled to admit these basic facts even tho with a bit-

ter-sweet smile. But every day from morning to night, for eight long years, Mr. Otto Bauer has done nothing but "prove" that the Bolsheviks are the enemies of socialism and that what is going on in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics is not socialist construction but rather the compromising of socialist ideas. As a superior "European" he always tried to prove that the "Asiatic backwardness" of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics could lead only to a peasant swamp and never to socialism. For eight years Otto Bauer has cursed the Bolsheviks because they eliminated the bourgeoisie, because they proved practically to the workers the non-essentiality of the capitalists, and now, all of a sudden Otto Bauer declares the greatest achievement of the Bolsheviks to be that they have demonstrated to the entire world that workers can get along quite well without capitalists.

We are very grateful for this "recognition" on the part of Mr. Otto Bauer and we find but consequent that, five minutes after this "recognition" he is so terrified by his own courage, that he demands the legalization of these Russian mensheviks whose only program is to convince the working class that capitalism is unsparable, that he demands the liquidation of the European Communist parties, whose sole program is to render capitalism superfluous to the workers not only of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics but of the whole world.

Fight School Retirement Plan.

Three of the 70-year old teachers that were placed on the pension list have petitioned Judge Hugo M. Friend to enjoin the school board from putting the emeritus service decision into effect until its validity is determined. The petitioners point out that since its validity has not been passed on it can be revoked or changed at any time to suit the school board. The aged teachers want to be sure of their pensions.