Social Democracy and Counter-Revolution

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The Liberalism of the British Labour Party.

By M. N. Roy (India).

The ridiculous notion of Wilstott's Liberalism fades into insignificance when compared with the sanctimonious zeal of the so-called Social Democrats. Their "liberal" policies for the democratic "self-determination". When the Liberals, who do not conceal their lower middle-class base, are urged to do something for the "self-determination of peoples", etc., they at least reserve the right to do it in their own way. But to the Social Democrats, who consider the Labour Party and Labour Organisations, it is nothing but a doctrine, a dogma to be adhered to, not in order to serve the interests of the masses, but to protect the interests of the bourgeoisie. They do not want to be confused with the "socialism" of the Russian working class. The Social Democrats and the Socialists are the chief enemies of the Russian proletariat. They are the most active of the forces which are working to maintain the supremacy of the capital and the exploitation of the working class. They are the greatest enemies of the Russian revolutionary movement.

At the same time, however, the Communist International declares that the Social Democrats are the "most important and the most efficient" organisations of the proletariat in the world. This is a contradiction which is characteristic of the so-called Socialism. The Russian proletariat is not the only socialist movement in the world. There are many others, such as the Indian, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Brazilian, the Argentine, the Latin American, and the African. These movements are also important and efficient, and they are doing their best to fight against the international bourgeoisie.

We are in agreement with the Communist International on this point, but we believe that the Social Democrats are not the only socialist organisations in the world. There are also other socialist movements, such as the French, the German, the Belgian, the Dutch, the Italian, the Spanish, the Portuguese, the Argentine, the Brazilian, the Indian, the Chinese, the Japanese, the African, the Latin American, and the others. These movements are also important and efficient, and they are doing their best to fight against the international bourgeoisie.

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citizen Vandervelde "Socialist"

First apostle of capitalist colonization, the minister of a Catholic monarch, later secretary of the Treaty of Versailles, the Treaty of Trianon, and the revolutions in Soviet Russia. Such is the brilliant career of the "Socialist".

What is a socialism? Even the most exceptional of aspirants will scarcely define it in any but the following words: "Socialism is a doctrine of the class-struggle leading to the emancipation of the proletariat, i.e., the absolute private ownership of the means of production."

The class-struggle, defense of labor and the workers, the fight against private property, and against the class enemy, is the historic program of the socialist party, in whose ranks we see the ideal of radical nationalism, of solidarity and of liberty. Have these not always been the traits of the Socialists? But if there is a "Socialist" sheet which has for so many years been a barrier between the means and the government, and which has been responsible for the defense of the workers, how can we believe that "Citizen Vandervelde has left Russia to take part in the struggle?"

It is not the scene of omnipotence to employ these words to the"Socialist"-party, and not the means of the workers to have the"Socialist" be reduced to the courts. If we did not know that this edition of communism is consciously endeavoring to deceive the workers, we should despair of the intelligence of men.

What has the lawyer and cabinet minister Vandervelde, leader of the "Labor Party" in Belgium, done in the cause of the workers, his so-called "workers' rights". He has always claimed to be the champion of the workers. What has he done for them? He has always been in the course of his visits to the coal mines where the workers daily spill out their lives, and he has been seen to break every law in the world. He has been in his care not to kill his colleagues? What can the Russian "Socialist" do to the workers, when they are facing the trials of the Russian revolution? How can they fight for a workers' revolution, possible in common with Russia?

But let us come back to Citizen Vandervelde.

In the old days he used to speak freely of Marxism and the emancipation of the workers, but today his writings and speeches are of capitalist wars. He waded indignantly against colonization, a particular form of the "Socialist" doctrine, and as an answer to the colonies, the situation of the workers in Russia and their conditions, in short, to all those who want to great the workers' movement, would be entirely incorrect.
The March Battles in Central Germany and the Social Democracy.

What the official Prussian Investigation Commission discovered when it tried to prove the "Crimes of the Communists in Central Germany".

by O. Killian (Halle).

After the March 1921 uprising in Central Germany the Prussian Diet elected a Special Investigation Commission to investigate the facts of the uprising. The Commission delivered before the Parliamentary Investigation Commission the fact that a consultation was held at first by the Prussian Police, the "Putsch of the Social Democratic Party" was dispelled even before it was submitted to critical examination by the Investigation Commission. Hörning himself, who had made use of this method in order to mask his attack, had not been aware of it after the Prussian Police had been in possession of the material given in the paper Eckehard at the beginning of May that the police measures against Central Germany were premature to let the Communist revolt already in preparation, to crush it by force of arms and banish thereby the danger of Communism.

This confession by a responsible Minister of the Prussian Government is confirmed by numerous witnesses before the investigation Commission. Minister Director Abegg, a subordinate of Seering, testified: "The political secretaries of the Ministry of the Interior were exclusively responsible for the preparation and carrying out of police measures against Central Germany. The Commissioner for Public Safety, Weismann, repeated a discussion he had with Seering in which the latter admitted that he had let loose the revolvers with the intention of obtaining an occasion for crushing it." This same witness took part in a conference at Merseburg, at which Hörning said at the conclusion: "The police action will now begin with the occupation of the dangerous districts and factories. This proclamation was not so much a theatrical gesture but also a purpose of placing the proletariat at work under police control and to enslave it economically. Police Major Folke, Generalissimo of the forces of Seering and Hörning, bitterly complained before the Investigation Commission that he had received orders to act on the basis of economic and political considerations for the District and had not been sufficiently informed on the attitude of the population. The only material information with which he was supplied was a list of the names of the Communist leaders. From these orders it can be concluded beyond doubt that the police attack upon the proletariat of Central Germany was a criminal preventive measure, but a political provocative offensive attack by the German bourgeoise for the purpose of bleeding the revolutionary vanguard of the proletarian revolution.

The fighting in Central Germany was not a Communist Putsch. This is clearly perfect from the result of the investigation. The undertaking had been in long preparation. Not by the Communists but by their opponents! As early as the 12th of February the Government was delivering on it. In the course of the 11th of March the action was discussed in all details in Magdeburg and settled with the approval even of the representatives of the Independent Socialists. On March 14th, Provincial Governor Höring in accordance with the decision of the previous day political motives asked the Prussian Government: "To send armored police into the industrial region of the Merseburg district," as admitted in the official Green Book "The March 1921 Disturbances and the Prussian Schutzpolizei." Not only was the police attack against the workers in the state of Kappeln prosecuted but also that against the Leunawerk, and in addition to this (according to the statements in the Green Book) police troops were held in reserve in order "to nip any kind of revolt in the bud." The assertion of Hörning that "the state has reoccupied the police action is thereby officially characterized as a lie, and in whatever way the matter is looked upon, there remains no other explanation for the police measures than political provocation.

Many other "criminal deeds" of the Communists had been previously refuted by official investigations. The absurd story of the "economic assistance of the Imperial Germany by the Social Democrats" that Höring attempted to hold up to the Parliamentary Commission received its death blow by the judicial verdict against the actual perpetrators of whom it was stated that they neither belonged to the Communist Party nor had any connection with it, nor had they had months before the revolt in Central Germany among them had already had the plan of his crime prepared. No value can be attached to the statement that the Communists are responsible for all the dynamiting and burning of factories and the resistance of the general director of the Manfesfeld mines was, according to the verdict of the Eisleben Court, instigated by communists. The first Lieutenant of the police and others were both by the First Lieutenants of the Manfesfeld Mining Corporation and were charged with the organization of the so-called "factory riots." The report of the destruction of the Eisleben Town Hall was a falsehood as was also the military report of the blowing up of the Beerenbäder Castle. These two buildings remain absolutely untouched! The brazen accusation of the brutal murder of a pregnant woman has been proved to be a pure invention according to the woman's own statement. Orders for the shooting of horses had been given to the police by the municipal police commander, who then ordered the kill of the horses by the municipal police. The report was not even confirmed by the local police commander. The harrowing story related by a reactionary speaker in the Prussian Diet, according to which an officer had hand-grenades bound round his body by the Communists which were then thrown at the officer, the officer was killed, and the bombs were not in reality thrown at the officer, the bomb of unreality unrolled itself from the beginning. The member of the Diet who pressed by the Communists to furnish particulars of his statement could not produce the least evidence. Then the Government chose to quote a telephone conversation of Gröbers as a result of which canard the whole world was poisoned and the police engaged in the fighting were stirred up to bloody reprisals against imprisoned Communists was also an invention which was passed on from mouth to mouth. In the examination of the corpses brought to Halle it was clear that there were absolutely no "noses and ears cut off, eyes gouged out of their sockets and gold teeth wrenched out." Only some of the fallen had suffered severe wounds. The police action in the fighting was also stated, a signed declaration of the physicians attached to the armed police, which declaration was laid before the Investigation Commission. It says that in no case did any of the dead bear signs of extraordinary injury. The Prussian Government up to now has not had the courage to lay this phony document as official evidence before the Investigation Commission. This in itself shows them to be but faked up forgers.

No doubt during the March action deeds were committed whose unnecessary was afterwards recognized and which even a Communist would not sanction beforehand. But generally the heroic fighters must be allowed to be courageous but also to be possessed of a human spirit. Where armed police were made prisoners by the workers they were on the whole well treated. This was stated even by a police non-commissioned officer before the Investigation Commission. "The Red Cross in the service of the workers in many cases rendered its services to wounded opponents and many of them had their lives saved by Communist first aid. This is a matter of course. We Communists, even when we are forced to fight with weapons in hand, make war upon women and children nor upon prisoners and the dead. Our enemy is the capitalist system and political reactionary forces. We are fighting against these powers and all who support them.

On the other side, however, in the name and in the interest of those who are still unknown to us and who are not regarded as Communists as criminals, the terrible cruelties have been committed. In certain police detachments which were sent to Central Germany, ostensibly to restore law and order, there were a great number of murder deeds proved them to be criminal lunatics. Amongst them were the N.C.O.'s. The greater part of the 88 workers who were killed received death at murderous hands. Abominable treatment was meted out to unarmed people in thousands of cases. The phrase "Hell in the factory of Leuna" was not the exception but the rule. Workers were arrested for weeks against imprisoned workers. Not only the dead were secure against the sadist fury of their jailers.

There is not sufficient space in an article for the precise description of the shameful deeds which have been committed against revolutionary workers by the manuals of armed police forces of the Ebert Republic upon the orders of the Social Democrats Seering and Höring. We quote

No. 41.
The Right of Political Asylum in Austria.

by K. J. F.

Democratic, police-ridden Austria, with the imperial commissioner of police Schobersberger and his Premier von Trebitsch, which Social Democratic opponents of the right of political asylum in the republic to the counter-revolutionary refugees of the Austrian Hasluck. This right was automatically and as a matter of course granted to the refugees of the Hungarian Whites, not, however, without Social Democratic modifications for revolutionaries.

We cannot record any recent number of refugees interned in Austria; some allege that the people's republic only deprived revolutionary fugitives of their freedom of movement. Nor can we remember an instance of an imperial and royal wholesale murder of being refused admittance to the territory of the social democratic republic. Or can Masses. Adler and Bauer cite the name of a fugitive count who had to shoot himself outside of the closed gates of the Free State because he refused the right of asylum, as Tabor Samuely was compelled to do?

The right of asylum for counter-revolutionists and Social Democrats patented by the “workers' and peasants' republic” as an essential form of an internment camp for Communists. While Count Schobersberger and his side and the material lives consists exclusively in: villas in Vienna's suburbs, revolutionaries were starving in Karlstein and women and children in Drosendorf were enduring pangs of hunger and the brutality (after the best examples of imperial Austria) of the Social Democratic camp police. And when the former guests of the Austrian republic's had gone home to Hungary to wallow in proletarian blood, the naïve revolutionaries who had sought asylum in the Free State, were thrown into the insane asylum, accompanied by the deriding sneers of the whole Social Democratic machinery was directed by “Comrade” Eidersch with the spectre of the imperial state of police hovering close by.

Now what has once been written survives all practice: the right of political asylum is not only being interpreted in a choleristic Social Democratic fashion. The profiteers of all countries walk about un molested while Hungarian, Yugoslavian, Bavarian and Roumanian revolutionaries are registered by the police, controlled, and an attempt to drag them into the hangmen. Axelrod was "by mistake" extradited to Bavaria, Lincoln who attempted Auer's life, was extradited as a “common criminal.” The Social Democratic Burgomaster, Reumann, expelled a number of Hungarian proletarians and the Bulgarian revolutionary Sydarov.

When two Hungarian revolutionists were robbed and murdered by Hungarian White Guards, the imperial and royal Public Prosecutor of the People's Republic said when arraigning these human wolves: “I quite understand the justified indignation of the accused against the Reds. Never before did I feel so difficult to arraign somebody before the court.” Hungarian fugitives are given passports according to which they can never again tread the sacred soil of that democratic paradise, Austria.

The committee for the defence of the refugees of the Austro-Hungarian Social Democrats who give their hatred full play. All the persecuted revolutionaries, were put under police control. They are undesirable aliens, “dangerous elements,” outlawed large demagogic resolute the “rebels” imperial police works hand in hand with the Horloth Government and its Vienna organs.

The “world-redeeming Social Democracy” has no jailers of its own, and is faced with terrible moralities; it merely employs the old, but well tried and esteemed method of oppression of the monarchy which is considered suitable for propping up its republican throne. The Social Democracy is a newborn babe: the old jails and the old jailers exist; it would be hard on the comrades' chiefs of police and gaolers to abolish them. The Social Democracy does not soil its hands; Pils-An is innocent of the blood which its jailers spilled.

But sometimes, when the masses are nearly suffocating in this “air,” the alteration tones of human love are heard...
Declaration of the Delegation of the Executive Committee of the Communist International in the May 23rd Session of the Commission of Nine

The Berlin Conference of the representatives of the three Internationals stated that the world labor movement which had once again been activated under the influence of the widespread European and American Socialists' strikes every few days for the protection of the Fatherland. (The P.I.S., after having withdrawn from the Second International)...

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