

# - INTERNATIONAL -

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## POLITICS

### The German Crisis

By *Karl Radek*.

In spite of its many threats against the Right elements, the German Government has not the courage to act against them. But the situation in Germany demands action, and this action will come from below.

Once again, as in the fall of last year, when Erzberger was assassinated, the working masses arose to demonstrate against the monarchists and for the Republic. The Communist workers go hand in hand with the Social Democratic workers, but they demonstrate not for the Social Democratic and bourgeois Government, but against the Ludendorff and Helfferich cliques. And the Government once more speaks five words, promising that at the decisive moment it will be on the side of the working masses; once again it makes a threatening gesture similar to the one it made last year. But the actual situation is not changed a bit by these words and gestures.

Chancellor Wirth makes the impression of a sincere and honest man with plebeian inclinations. But of what avail are his sentiments, if the same Wirth Government takes measures against the railway strike, if it takes no action in the way of financial reforms directed against the bourgeoisie, but instead shifts the whole financial burden upon the masses. It is just this policy of the German Social Democratic Government and the two bourgeois parties calling themselves democratic that served as a fertile soil for German nationalism.

The German democratic Government cannot strike at the Right, not only because it always holds itself in readiness to strike at the working class, but also for the simple reason that the economic policy of the German Government forces the masses of the intelligentsia and petty bourgeoisie towards the extreme right. It is clear that under conditions in which the families of university professors, not to speak of the army of officials, do not see meat or sugar for weeks, and at the same time have to bear an enormous tax burden, under conditions in which the German capitalists pile up fortunes in foreign trade, and the speculators live in plenty and extravagance that enrage the populace,—it is very easy for the Junkers to draw comparison

between their present conditions and those at the time of the Kaiser.

The Junker-Nationalist clique makes use of the weapon of anti-Semitism in the fight against the Government although there are very few Jews in the Government. But as our old friend Bebel said, "Anti-Semitism is the Socialism of fools." And as a matter of fact, one of the best means that the nationalists employ to attract the petty-bourgeois masses is to point out how prosperous the speculating Jewish bourgeoisie is. It is clear that were the monarchy restored the same conditions would prevail, with the minor difference that in the latter case the feasting bourgeoisie would be supplemented by the old Kaiserites. But what is important is not what would be, but what is.

A democratic Republic without democrats and without republicans, which is incapable of leading the masses out of this unbearable situation, is dead and sterile. It gives the impression of an empty house waiting for its master. Such is the situation created by the German bourgeoisie. In one of his pamphlets Rathenau writes that in Germany neither democracy nor the Republic were fought for. The democratic Republic came into the world as a result of the downfall of German imperialism. The Kaiser and the Crown Prince ran away and Germany became a Republic. The German bourgeoisie which agreed to these conditions in the hope that the Entente would grant them better peace terms if there were no Kaiser, took up the opposition against the working class, which had begun the struggle for Socialism, from the very start. The Republic gathered strength from the civil war against the working class; it was fortified by the monarchists who until this very day hold the Government machine in their hands. The only way to change this situation is to have the working class break with the bourgeoisie and seize the Government.

Here the intentions of individual personalities are of no importance. It is quite possible that the school teacher Wirth who was drawn into politics only through the war and the revolution, is a greater friend of the masses than the old politicians of Scheidemann's, Noske's or Ebert's cut, who rose out of the masses. But the question is not one of personality. The question is whether the German working class will gather its forces without regard to party, from the Christian miners in the Ruhr district to the Communist metal workers of Berlin. Only when this takes place, when the Government will be reorganized on a new social basis, will the fatal blow be delivered

to the monarchists. And this blow should be delivered in such a manner as to divide German nationalism from which the democratic petty bourgeois masses should be torn away, for it is laughable to think of these masses only as a tool of the reaction. It is true that they do not represent any revolutionary elements. But they are in a revolutionary mood against capitalism that seeks to bloom on the corpse of the nation. A Workers' Government that would take the monarchists and *révanchistes* by the throat would strengthen Germany's international position to such a degree, and would win the confidence of the foreign masses to such an extent that the Versailles Treaty would be liquidated without much ado. In this manner it would attract to it those elements that are now in the camp of Ludendorff's powerful nationalist movement.

Will the German Social Democracy have the courage to do this? If it were left to its leaders all that they would do would be to increase Ebert's bodyguard and to render all the measures taken in this crisis as ineffective and futile as those that preceded them. But the followers of Scheidemann would receive a new lesson which would not be lost on them.

There are two ways out of the situation in which the German Government now finds itself. The first one is the energetic struggle against the Right, a struggle which if developed would inevitably result in a Workers' Government. The second way out is that the German heavy industrials, scared by this fight, retreat towards the Left, thus isolating the Right and forcing it to challenge the power of the State. Such a step would mean the extension of the coalition to include the Stinnes Party. Socially such a step would be of a reactionary character, and the Social Democratic masses would be thrown to the left. The heads of the present Government will hesitate, fearing this and that, and after all the fruitless noise that they themselves have raised, they will march tamely along.

But the hangmen is on the threshold, both in the growing pressure of the nationalist Right, and in the demands of the Allies. For this reason everything seems to point to the fact that the period of stagnation in Germany is nearing its end and that the period of action is setting in. For this decisive period the Communist Party has raised its banner, and on this banner there is written: "*The United Front of the Working Class and the Workers' Government*".

## American Imperialism and the Negro.

By D. Ivon Jones.

In March of last year, *The Philippines Review* reported the farewell address of Governor General Francis Burton Harrison, after eight years of office in the Philippine Islands, "carrying out the policy of the best President of the present generation", as he himself described it. It had evidently been President Wilson's objective to grant complete independence to the Philippines, relying solely on the silvery threads of finance. But the sorrowful Harrison had to confess his great disappointment that he was not the last Governor General. He had on a previous occasion gallantly offered to resign in favor of a Filipino Governor General. "I am convinced that you are ready to take your place among the independent nations of the world", he said. But he hoped to return again to pay his first official visit to the First President of the Philippine Republic at Malacnab Palace.

However, that was not to be. The "best President" made way for Harding. And instead of the Jeffersonian Harrison came Major General Wood, and a large contingent of American Jesuits to take the place of the Spanish Catholic Missionaries hitherto established in the Islands. And so the Filipinos were taught the elementary lesson that financial bonds are not the last, but only the first stage of Imperialist occupation.

And Wilson himself knew that; for even while he was drawing up the notorious Fourteen Points, were not his troops and marines in actual occupation of the Negro Republic of Haiti? Six times did the Wilson Government make overtures to this Island Republic for the control of its customs during the imperialist war.

The need was urgent. The Island of Haiti with its 2,000,000 Negroes was in a strategic position in the Caribbean Sea commanding the Panama Canal. Finally, the disturbances of July 27, of 1915, afforded the pretext for securing control. We know very well that the United States is never at a loss for "disturbances", whenever it finds it necessary to intervene in any country covered by the Monroe Doctrine.

Since then, the American occupation of Haiti (sketched in the May number of the "Labour Monthly") makes a long and gruesome story, in which the browbeating of the Negro islanders, putting them to forced labour, torturings and persecution by negro-hating Southerner officials (see "Negro World", May 6th), in the approved style of King Lynch, are the dominant features.

The description given in "The Negro World" of the "free" elections to the legislature is a typical example of the extent to which Imperialist violation is prepared to go in keeping up the outward farce of democratic forms for purposes of home consumption. The anti-American votes were indicated by pink papers, and the pro-American by yellow papers. American marines, fully armed, stood on guard to see that fair play was observed, and to do some observing of their own. There were piles of pink papers nicely tied up in bundles for any one who might have the temerity to trouble the registration officer to untie them, while the yellow papers lay ready to hand for all who came to vote. The result of course was an overwhelming majority in favor of the nominees of the glorious Democracy of the West.

It is now announced that the United States Government is trying to force a loan of 14,000,000 dollars on the Island, in order to liquidate certain European creditors. The loan is issued under such ruinous terms that even the puppet President himself is kicking against it. It will involve the Haitian budget in an annual deficit of 1,000,000 dollars. The scandal of the occupation is arousing the liberal elements of the States into vigorous protests. But the Government sits unmoved.

Dr. Burghardt Du Bois, the leader of the Negro intellectuals, announces in his paper, "The Crisis", that the Republican and Democratic Parties have come to a pact not to compete for the Negro vote. And Du Bois exclaims: "May God write us down as asses if we ever support these parties again". The reason for this conspiratorial silence is obvious. Harding in his election addresses, denounced the employment of American marines to subjugate a free and independent people, and proclaimed that he would never, no, never, be a party to such an outrage. Since his coming to office the American Government is digging itself in upon the island with a vengeance. The Senate Commission on Haiti has reported that things are very much better there now, thank you! And there the matter of America's little Ireland now rests.

Meanwhile, the distressed Negroes have been buoyed up with hope by the passage of the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill through the Lower House of Legislature. But great difficulties are being experienced in its further progress through the Senate, in spite of the fact that the lynching horrors and burning of Negroes have again broken out at the rate of eight in two weeks in the Southern States.

But the American Senators are not altogether blind to the positive advantages to be derived from the Negro Movement, especially from the "Back to Africa" cry of these poor, hunted and harrassed people who are looking for any way of escape. Senator McCullum of Mississippi, and Senator France of Maryland have both expressed their sympathy with the "Back to Africa" movement of the Negroes. The former has introduced a resolution in the State Legislature to petition the President to use his good influence in securing from the Allies sufficient territory in Africa in liquidation of the war debt, "which territory should be used for the establishing of an independent nation for American Negroes".

Senator France on his part put the matter in the following noble terms:

"We owe a big duty to Africa and one which we have too long ignored. I need not enlarge upon our peculiar interest in the obligation to the people of Africa. Thousands of Americans have for years been contributing to the missionary work which has been carried on by the noble men and women who have been sent out to that field by the churches of America".

This was spoken in the Senate. Translated into plain English, Senator France wished to say it was about time that American business followed up the labours of its own missionary agents-in-advance in Africa.

This proposal was immediately followed by a timely interview with Dr. Heinrich Schnee, a former governor of German East Africa, in which it was suggested that America should take over the mandates of Great Britain and France in Africa for the colonization of American Negroes. Marcus Garvey's paper, "The Garvey's paper 'The Negro World'", was jubilant, and headed the announcement with big block letters, "Africa's Redemption Draws Near".

Secretary Hughes, no doubt, will keep that pot simmering for a suitable occasion. Meanwhile, he is taking practical steps. The United States Government has in one stride stepped across the Atlantic and planted its foot in the Little African Republic of Liberia. Liberia was founded about a century ago as a refuge for American slaves in West Africa. Within the last few years its narrow confines have been very much encroached upon by French and English expansion in the neighbouring colonies.

Liberia has a foreign debt of 1,650,000 dollars owing to J. Pierpont Morgan and Co. and his financial confreres in New York, acting for themselves and for European banks. The United States has drawn up an elaborate agreement with the Negro President for the granting of a loan of 5,000,000 dollars to the Negro Republic. Detailed stipulations are made regarding the spending of the money. One clause provides for the immediate repayment of the money owing to Pierpont Morgan and Co., with the result that the market price of that loan has already jumped up from 75 to 98, putting over 300,000 dollars in the pockets of Morgan and Co. at one stroke of the pen.

But that is only a little side-pocket money. The most significant clauses in the loan agreement refer to the appointment of a Financial Commissioner, with 21 other American officials under him. This official will control the finances and customs of Liberia. Certain provisions are also made for the control of the Legislature. The financial commissioner will determine the size of the Liberian police and the military frontier force, which will be commanded by American army officers. He will have the power of veto over the Liberian budget, and the right to order the passing of any financial legislation which he may desire. He is empowered to limit the annual expenditure of Liberia to a total of 650,000 dollars, of which 109,700 dollars will go to pay the salaries of the American officials. In short, he will be the well-paid dictator of Liberia, with an armed force of American paid police to do his bidding.

This control is to last for the lifetime of the new loan; and a special clause prohibits the contracting of other loans without the sanction of the financial commissioner, so that there is no chance of Liberia trying to buy itself out of Uncle Sam's clutches. The loan therefore promises to have a long life, long enough, in fact, to enable American Imperialism to get a foothold on the African continent, and to follow its religious agents further afield into the interior as opportunities arise.

In 1909, says the New York "Nation", (which gives the text of agreement in its issue of May 31st), we sent a commission to Liberia, which was much impressed by the high handed methods of the British in assuming control of the Liberian customs and frontier force. This commission reported that "It is difficult to find among the Liberians anyone who has entire confidence in the disinterestedness of Great Britain"; that "French interest in Liberia is apparently that of an heir expectant", that "Germany has lent her at least a sympathetic understanding", but that since Germany had "ambitious designs in Africa", Liberia naturally turned to the United States for disinterested help.

Nevertheless, it took thirteen long years for that wave of disinterested emotion to flow eastward in the shape of a financial dictator and an American police force...

The American bourgeoisie finds itself obliged more and more to renounce the angelic role of "pure democracy", and to take up the openly Mephistophelian one of Imperial expansion. The Negro question bids fair to become the moral lever for it. And soon we may have the whole history of England's criminality in starting the slave trade and the plantation system raked up as a preliminary to the reconsideration of the African mandates.

The Negroes themselves are being encouraged to look forward to a change of slave drivers for Africa. Marcus Garvey, the religio-racial charlatan who claims to voice the needs of the Negro masses, carries on a persistent campaign in his paper, which has a large circulation among the Negroes, for the liberation of Africa from the European Imperialists, and welcomes with joy the new loan to Liberia as a start in this direction. He is assiduous in the sale of excursion tickets for Liberia to his Negro dupes, on "The Black Star Line", the steamships of which are not yet built! A short while ago he was arrested for obtaining money on false pretences in this manner. But nothing further has been heard of the matter, and he now seems to be as busy as ever denouncing the Bolshevik members of his race. But even the "Negro World" is compelled to expose the crimes of American Imperialism in Haiti. So that Garvey and his organization, "The Universal Negro Improvement Association", typify the immature consciousness of the Negroes in the first stage of awakening.

But the growing band of young Negro radicals, who look to Soviet Russia for guidance and inspiration in the struggle,—they are not deceived. Under the banner of the African Blood Brotherhood, and in close touch with the class conscious white workers of America, they are pointing the way to proletarian emancipation as the only hope for their oppressed Negro brothers in Africa and America.

## ECONOMICS

### The Capitalist Wage Offensive in Belgium

By J. Jacquemotte (Brussels).

The Belgian proletariat is being drawn in turn into the battle front, into the fight which capitalism is forcing upon the workers in all countries. Here too, it is the industrial owner who is taking the offensive.

The Belgian capitalist has always been a patron of struggle. Karl Marx already pointed out that Belgium was the paradise of capitalists and it is a well known fact that before the war, Belgium was the country of low wages and long working hours.

Now, after the period of great prosperity that immediately followed the war, a period during which the conquests of the workers did not meet with such bitter opposition on the part of the capitalists (as they were too busy with their work), we see the period of the seven lean cows setting in.

The industrial crisis has taken strong root there, and the year 1921 was marked by a very intense wave of unemployment. At one time, the army of unemployed numbered nearly 200,000 men and women! We must not forget that in round figures the Belgian population numbers about 7,000,000 people, and that the industrial proletariat is estimated at about 1,000,000 including men, women and children of both sexes.

Taking advantage of this crisis, the Belgian capitalist decided to launch a rapid campaign for the reduction of wages.

#### The Ultimatum of the Central Industrial Committee.

The General Commission of the Industrial Corporations (Central Industrial Committee), which includes all industrial associations and Chambers of Commerce, unanimously adopted a resolution in favor of a 10% wage reduction in the mining industry, and a 20% wage reduction in the metal industries and zincworks in the Liège basin.

The Central Industrial Committee based its ultimatum upon the claim that the competition of other European industrial countries endangered Belgian export. It therefore intends on the one hand to force a considerable wage reduction, and on the other hand to encroach anew upon the eight-hour law, passed in 1921, and to introduce new modifications which would in practice mean its disappearance.

First of all we must point out that in spite of the open violence which characterizes the capitalist offensive to-day, this offensive was already in full swing last year. In February 1921, Wauters, the Social Democratic Minister of Industry and Labor, issued a statement in the name of the Government; this statement dealt with the then existing crisis, and the following excerpt betrays the spirit of the whole:

"It is generally necessary to *accelerate* the reduction of the costs of production: raw materials, coal, wages."

The self-evident falsity of the capitalist claims are crystallized in an article published by the bourgeois sheet, *Le Soir*, on the 18th of March:

"We desired to get an exact idea of the Belgian industrial situation, compared against that of its competitors, particularly the situation in German industry. We wished to get an almost mathematical estimate, not of its chances of success, but of its actual success. We have made a study of all estimates which we were able to procure from official and authentic sources.

"For the beginning of 1922, we hereby reproduce the following estimate made by the Belgian metal industry. Taking the Belgian prices as unity, the figures on the right are here given as the German *per cent prices*.

		German Prices
Holland	21,000 tons of rails	101%
Brazil	1,250 tons of rails	101%
Brazil	Railroad Material	105%
Bulgaria	5,800 tons of rails	114%
Bulgaria	1,600 bundles of wheels	131%
Bulgaria	101 tons of ore	110%
Bulgaria	Galvanized pipes	125%
Bulgaria	50,000 metal ties	116%
Bulgaria	5,000 kg. of zinc	134%

For the year 1921, the same official study of 49 estimates from various countries, (Argentina, Morocco, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Roumania, Finland, Spain, Bulgaria, South Africa), shows that 37 contracts or 75.5% fell to the Belgian industry. German industry participated in 30 of these contracts, and was assigned only 8 of them, the other 22, or 73%, falling to Belgian industry.

### The Differences in Salaries.

Immediately after the armistice, the reformist trade-union leaders, supporting the action of the "Socialist" ministers, entered the working class into agreements with the employers, in which the wages of the workers varied with the index number. The Communists did not cease to condemn these agreements that forced the workers to accept as their maximum wage amounts based upon pre-war wages, increased only by a percentage varying with the cost of living.

The index number, which according to the reformists, was to serve as a good guarantee against capitalist exploitation, was really nothing more than a system that enabled the employers to resist the increase of wages demanded by the workers in their fight for a better existence.

Today the employers reject even this variable determinant of wages, which according to them, should depend exclusively upon the labor market, and upon the relation of forces between the capitalists and the workers.

At one stroke, the entire policy of the reformists leaders is at stake. The employers are launching their offensive with open violence, setting aside all the conventions that they found useful in the past, for the limitation of the proletarian reconquests, and they are ready to take the strongest measures.

The capitalists are answering the reformist policy of cooperation and of the "new democracy" with a slap in the face of the proletariat.

We shall see, in another article, in what manner and by what means the Belgian capitalists are carrying on their offensive and how the reformist trade-union leaders abandon the interests of the proletariat, leaving the workers without any means of defense, an easy prey to bourgeois exploitation.

## THE LABOR MOVEMENT

### The Leipzig Congress of the German General Trade Union Federation

By X. Y. Z.

After following for three years a policy of cooperation with the employers, of collaboration with the bourgeoisie, the German General Trade Union Federation (A.D.G.B.) now finds itself in a *cul de sac*. As the resolution of the Communist fraction upon the report of the Federation Executive stated, the condition of the German working class during this period has economically, as well as politically, continually deteriorated, whilst the membership of the A.D.G.B. during the same period has almost doubled. This contradiction is due, if not entirely, at least in part to the general attitude of the Federation leaders, who again to quote the words of our fraction) "stand fundamentally upon the platform of the capitalist order, of the restoration of capitalism and of the capitalist democratic fatherland". But this contradiction on the other hand, brings about the "dangerous" (for the bourgeoisie) results, so correctly pointed out by the Federal Minister for Labor, Braun, in his greetings to the Congress:—"The loss of authority on the part of the leaders", distrust of the leaders, or at least doubt whether they are in a position to show the organized working masses the right road to the betterment of their conditions in the capitalist order, to say nothing of their ultimate emancipation from the yoke of capitalism. Hence the confusion and helplessness which characterized the 11th Congress of the German trade unions, the first act in the formation of the German General Federation of Trade Unions. Hence its contradictory resolutions: one for the liberation of the political prisoners, which is a cry of revolt against capitalism and a blow in the face of the treacherous labor policy of Ebert, Scheidemann, Bauer and Leipart, then immediately after this the resolution in favor of the Russian Social Revolutionaries which means a deluded partisanship for the bourgeois counter-revolution against the proletarian revolution; after this the decision to withdraw from further cooperation with the employers, and then on the following day the acceptance of the resolution which approved of the principle of cooperation with the employers; on the one hand defeat of the motion which demanded that the trade unions should use every means at their disposal to combat the Bill for Compulsory Arbitration, on the other hand the acceptance of an almost negative resolution on the question of the 10 demands. And whilst the two-thirds majority of the Congress consisting of Social Democrats (SPD.), passed a vote of confidence in their old Federation leaders, the decision of the Congress to withdraw from the Central Working Union adopted by a majority of 18 votes, means according to the perfectly apt inter-

pretation of Leipart and his colleagues, an outspoken vote of censure against the leaders who had made the policy of cooperation with the employers the Alpha and Omega of their policy.

The Constitution of the Congress itself showed that the much extolled trade union "unity"—which claims to take no account of parties—is a thing of the past. This "block of granite" which is in reality composed of the mists of reformist vagueness or direct thoughtlessness, was not able to withstand the storm and stress of the revolution. At the Nuremberg Congress (1919), two-fifths of the delegates belonged to the "opposition". But this opposition was neither flesh, fish, nor fowl; with the exception of four individuals, they were sound "Independent Socialist", i. e. vacillating creatures who never rightly knew on which side of the fence to jump. In Leipzig the opposition only formed one-third (192 out of 692); towards this the Communist fraction—in spite of all the fraud and outrages—contributed ninety delegates, whilst the Independents gathered round Dissmann and Simon numbered about 132 comrades. Under the pressure of the clear, revolutionary, class-conscious Communist fraction, which held fast to principle, the Independents maintained a fairly consistent oppositional attitude. And what was more important, the "granite block" of the SPD. people was no longer able to withstand the storm of criticism of the opposition. In spite of the urgent entreaties of Leipart and Paeplow, "do not leave us in the lurch", a part of their own party comrades forsook them on important divisions. It was only thus possible that the resolution already referred to was adopted, which as we have said, in part signified a blow in the face of their Federation leaders.

We know that there are many comrades having the interests of the movement at heart who are inclined to regard this development described by us as regrettable "decomposition" of the movement. They forget that the revolutionizing of the trade unions which is our most immediate aim and which is a necessary preliminary to the Social Revolution, is not a straightforward and painless process. The exact contrary is the case. Without the "decomposition" of the united and uniform trade union movement into political party currents and tendencies, this protracted and painful process is scarcely thinkable. At the conclusion of this process there will again be set up the ideological and political unity of the trade union movement which is in fact an augury of the Social Revolution and of the Socialist system! Hence it for a Paeplow it is still questionable whether the Leipzig Trade Union Congress will be a landmark in the history of the trade union movement, there is for us no doubt upon matter.

Now we come to the most important decisions of the Congress. With regard to resolutions relating to the ten demands and the liberation of the political prisoners, the first was carried unanimously and the second had a majority against it in whose name Leipart declared that it was only on account of the wording of the resolution that they were obliged to vote against it — In these two decisions the Congress has proclaimed its intentions to use the power of the trade unions, not always merely in the service of the bourgeois fulfilment policy, but from time to time also in the service of the proletarian cause. Upon the question of industrial organization the majority of the Congress, by accepting the resolution of Dissmann and rejecting the first part of the motion of Tarnow and the Federation leaders, has again quite unmistakably proclaimed that it has had quite enough of the policy of exploitation of craft prejudices and of business interests. It is true that it did not venture to turn from merely Platonic (according to Tarnow's characterization) or academic declarations for industrial organization to actual deeds as the Communist fraction proposed to the Congress. Still more important were the decision of the Congress on the question of the *Technische Nothilfe* (Government Strikebreaking Corps) and the strike regulations proposed by the Federation leaders that were calculated to eliminate the class struggle by means of the Compulsory Arbitration Bill. By referring back to the Federation Committee the strike regulations and defeating an amendment to the resolution on the *Technische Nothilfe* which had reference to the strike regulations, the Congress made it clear beyond doubt that it is not minded to sacrifice again and again the class interests of the proletariat to the coalition and cooperation policy of Leipart and his colleagues.

These are the more important positive items of the work of the Congress in connection with which we must still make mention of those 152 blank slips handed in at the election of the Federation Executive. On the other hand, however, as we have already said, there stands the vote of confidence in the Federation Committee, passed by a two-thirds majority, the decision on the cooperation policy and the Economic Councils which run directly contrary to the vote upon the withdrawal from the Central Working Union, the decision upon the World Peace Congress, calculated to confuse the working masses with regard

to the nationalist policy of the Federation leaders, the resolution upon the Russian Social Revolutionaries, the direct anti-revolutionary decision on the question of the Factory Councils, the refusal of an effective opposition to the Compulsory Arbitration Bill, the soothing resolution on the murder of Rathenau which was moved by the Executive in opposition to Walcher's resolution which breathed a fresh revolutionary spirit. The record of sins is sufficiently long even if it is not complete.

If we are asked to draw any general conclusion, we must say: If the Leipzig Trade Union Congress was a Congress of confusion and helplessness, yet the years that have elapsed since Nuremberg have not been wasted! A step towards the revolutionizing of the Trade Unions — yes, perhaps a great step! — has been made. The Leipzig Congress will remain a landmark in the history of the German labor movement! And if Paepflow in his closing speech, after a perfectly fatuous contrasting of the revolutionary and the trade union movements, expressed the hope and the wish that the hour might soon arrive when the Russians should come to their German class comrades with outstretched arms, we can only assure him and his friends.

They will come as soon as the German trade union movement finally abandons reformism and stands for the Social Revolution!

## IN THE INTERNATIONAL

### The Communists and the Labour Party in England

By Thomas Bell (Moscow).

The annual conference of the British Labour Party this year will begin on June 27th at the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, and as usual will last for five days.

This year the struggle of the C.P. for affiliation to the Labour Party will again come to the front. The question will receive added attention however from the proposals of the Labour Party Executive to amend the constitution, amendments which are obviously designed to act as a barbed wire defense against the Communists. And of this I wish to speak.

It will be useful to digress for a moment and explain the make-up of Labour Party conferences. We shall then have a better idea of the perfidy of the gentlemen who presently manage the Labour Party machine.

The organization of the British Labour Party is principally made up of gigantic but loose federations of trade unions. Trades Councils and Divisional Local Labour Parties which include individuals as well as local political groups. The preponderating influence however is with the trade unions. Thus last year out of 842 delegates the trade unions sent 611 with a vote of 4,158,000 out of a total of 4,417,000. On the financial side, out of the total delegation fees of £48,775-10-6 the trade Unions paid £47,281-13-10. It will be seen at a glance where the material strength of the Party comes from.

The bourgeoisie has always understood this and only recently a bill received its second reading in the House of Commons that was designed to weaken the Labour Party, by making it impossible for a snatch majority vote of a union to commit the individual member to financial support of the Labour Party.

The practice of a simple majority vote deciding the principle of a Union's affiliation to the Labour Party has led to many anomalies. Thus we may have a union like the National Union of General Workers, the union of W. Thorne, jingo Hyndmanite, and J. R. Clyne the amateur statesman, represented as having 444,312 members affiliated to the Labour Party, while it is doubtful if 10% of these ever go to the polls for a labor candidate. The same applies to nearly every union affiliated. In many cases trade union delegates find themselves at party conferences with political views which could scarcely be distinguished from the most orthodox liberal and tory. The only demand made upon them is the recognition of the Labour Party's complete independence from either of the capitalist parties. At the same time this looseness has had certain advantages. Members of an energetic political group by means of trade union membership could obtain a wider platform than that afforded by a formal political federation. For years the I.L.P. especially, has realized the value of these means. Since its inception the policy of the I.L.P. has been to work along the lines of obtaining control of official positions in the unions, and in this policy they have been very successful, thanks to the sectarian attitude of the groups of revolutionary Socialists, who were more concerned with the theoretical abstractions of Marxism than with the political daily struggles of the workers. The I.L.P. has had a clear field for years in this direction.

When, however, the Labour Party opened its ranks to individual membership, the I.L.P. received a severe blow. Formerly, its organizers or propagandists could use the platform of the Labour Party, to recruit members for its own ranks. Today, the individual members are recruited directly into the Labour Party, and so the I.L.P. is being weakened.

The antagonism of the Independent Labour Party to the Communist Party as revealed during its Easter Conference at Nottingham is therefore easily understood. It sees in the C.P. a competitor on hitherto monopolistic territory. The modern Communist Party unlike the so-called Marxist groups of the pre-war days, does not carry its head in the clouds. It demands the realistic application of the tenets of Socialist theory to the daily class struggle. It does not look upon the labor unions as does the I.L.P., as financial feeders for political job-hunters. For the Communists the labor unions are the organs of daily struggle against the industrial and political power of the bourgeoisie, and it is in this spirit that the Communists approach the leading positions in the trade unions.

When therefore the Labour Party Executive on which are prominent I.L.P. members, turned down the application of the C.P. for affiliation, we had still the reserve of the trade unions for reaching the floor of the party conference. And in a number of cases all over the country our comrades succeeded in winning over trade union branches and Local Labour Parties to their side.

Out of the sympathetic resolutions, particularly from the London and Glasgow local councils, direct negotiations were opened up again at the end of December, 1921, between the two Executives, with a view to finding some common ground. A questionnaire was drafted with a list of questions to be answered by a Communist Party Conference, and replies to be submitted to the Labour Party Conference in June.

These replies have been duly submitted, but as anticipated, have been declared unsatisfactory, and the Labour Leaders will move the rejection of the Communist application for affiliation when the debate comes up.

The Communist Party has no illusions as to the nature of the present struggle. Our fight for affiliation is a challenge to the caucus clique that is thwarting the will of the struggling masses who are looking for a way out of the capitalist wilderness. It is a challenge to the dictatorship of a group of opportunist leaders, Henderson, MacDonald, Clynes, Thomas, etc., who merely use the grievances of the working class to carve out for themselves inglorious political careers.

Understanding the nature of the opposition they are up against, and anxious to thrust the Communist Party into the category of a sect in the eyes of the working class, they are not content to leave the question to the result of a free conference decision. Against the demand of the Communists for a united front, the labor leaders are once again revealing their real character as the defenders of the bourgeois policy of a divided labor camp, by making it impossible for Communists to appear at the Party Conferences. They propose to move the following resolutions:—

“Conditions of eligibility of delegates from constituent bodies to either Local Labour Parties or any national or local conference of the Labour Party:—

- (a) Every person nominated to serve as a delegate shall individually accept the constitution and principles of the Labour Party.
- (b) No person shall be eligible as a delegate who is a member of any organization having for one of its objects the return to Parliament or to any local governing authority of a candidate or candidates other than such as have been endorsed by the Labour Party, or have been approved as running in association with the Labour Party.”

Coming as this amendment does upon the controversy of the United Front tactics of the Third International, there can only be one inference. *The labor leaders are throwing up a barbed wire defense to keep the Communists out of the political labor movement.* This attempt to arrogate to themselves the power to manipulate the political movement of the working class, reveals more clearly than a thousand verbal arguments, the correctness of the the United Front tactics. What worker will not now be able to see that the opposition of Henderson and MacDonald of the Second International, supported by the broadminded, all-inclusive-internationalists of the I.L.P., to the Communist Party is based upon deeper motives than superficial political differences?

But that brings the Communist Party to new tasks.

We shall not be slow in demonstrating to the masses of unemployed workers who see in the Communist Party a loyal ally and champion of their interests, the hypocrisy and cant of the Second International leaders, who only talk about the solidarity of labor while opposing it in reality. We shall prove

to the Labor Unions, by this attitude of the labor leaders, that the real splitters of the working class movement, are not the Communists who everywhere partake of the daily life of the masses, but the self-seeking group of politicians and talkers of Eccleston Square and St. Stephens.

Henderson and company are showing, as Macdonald and Wels revealed at Berlin, the impossibility of a United Front from above. They are furthermore showing that from the breakup of the Commission of Nine at Berlin there has emerged a world conspiracy of the yellow leaders against the Communist International.

Our answer must be a more energetic campaign from below.

## IN SOVIET RUSSIA

### The Fall of Prices in Russia

By L. Sokolnikov (Moscow).

The fall of prices in Russia which until recently appeared to be an unrealizable dream of some theorists is now an actual fact. The increase in the prices of the most important articles of food ceased in May; more than this, prices fell. It is true, the prices of industrial products are increasing, but this is only a temporary phenomenon. This increase will only go on until the proper relations between the prices of city and rural products are established. The price of gold on the market, a very important "commercial index" of prices, showed in the course of May only a very trifling instability and fell a little. At the end of April, on the Moscow unofficial exchange, one paid 2300 rubles (in 1922 currency), for a ten ruble gold piece, and at the end of May only 2150. The paper ruble exchange in terms of gold, on the market, therefore shows at the end of April and in the month of May complete stability, a thing we have not seen for a long time.

What was the cause of this falling of prices? The reason was quite simple; it was not difficult to anticipate. It was, however, more difficult to prepare for it and to accelerate its appearance. The falling of prices is due to two factors: first, to the reduced famine danger, secondly, to the failure of speculation on the fall of the Soviet rouble.

The increase of the price of corn, (which determines the value of the rouble), was inevitable in April and May because of the increasing severity of the food crisis in the important centres, in the months of January to March, as a result of the belated arrival of considerable food supplies purchased abroad. Instead of being distributed in January and February, this food was distributed in the period beginning with April. Those months which are usually characterized by scarcity of food, will this year be the months of a relative abundance of food supplies. In other words, during this Summer the norm of the state food supply will be higher than in Winter; in all previous years the contrary was the case.

This circumstance alone must have had considerable influence upon the price of corn. Its importance, however, was increased by the fact, that very large circles of consumers, (including a part of the workers and clerks), had, on account of previous experiences calculated on a lack of food in Summer, and had therefore accumulated great supplies of corn and provided for their needs in advance. This hoarding of corn caused an increase of corn prices in Winter and in the beginning of spring. This fact now has a contrary effect: the demand for corn has fallen off as a result of this accumulation.

The supply of corn on the other hand, has increased in view of the approaching harvest. The country has thrown its stocks of reserve corn upon the market. With the cessation of the transport of seed corn, this quantity of corn increased. After it had obtained its seed corn, the country could sell its stock of corn which had been reserved for seed; the famine districts have reduced their purchases of corn. The coinciding of the arrival of foreign food supplies with the termination of the seed-corn distribution, and the opening of river and sea communications, was bound to produce a change in the condition of the market. This change has already taken place. Most of the speculators who had been driving the price of bread up, have been hard hit. They are very eager to sell their reserve supplies. The situation on the money market was another factor. Here we can distinguish three different periods: the first period being, the last three months of the year 1921, the period of unlimited issue of paper money and the consequent increase of prices; the second period embraced the first three months of the present year. It was the period of restricted paper-money issue, when prices were increasing more rapidly than the issue of money; and finally the third period, in which the increase of prices proceeds at a pace with the increase of the paper-money issue. During the second period the market absorbed the enormous quantity of money issued in the

first period, under the conditions of reduced exchange of goods corresponding with the season of the year. The process of the depreciation of money took place with enormous rapidity. Financial collapse seemed inevitable. The advocates of unlimited issue of paper money are demanding that further hundreds of trillions be immediately thrown on the market. This expedient, however, has been declined. The financial policy is directed towards the stabilization of prices and the rouble. The issue of money is restricted, the taxes and other government revenues are beginning to absorb the money from the market. The situation has changed. The "money shortage" is already making itself felt in the country. The country which previously boycotted the paper money, now endeavours to obtain more of it. It hastens to sell its products at the first opportunity in order to obtain money. Money has become a thing that is sought after. The exchange of the rouble expressed in terms of grain is increasing. The towns also have no "superfluous" money. The demand of the cities is limited. The price of corn cannot rise. The first signs of the cessation of the increase of corn prices were to be seen towards the end of March. In the course of a month the increase has completely ended. The real wage of the worker has ceased to fall; on the contrary, it is beginning to rise. The policy of restricting the issue of money and effecting the greatest possible reduction of the issue of new paper money has considerably accelerated the change in prices. This change enables the towns to develop their production and their markets. (The difficulties of selling under a rapidly falling valuta came to light recently; the stoppage of sales, however, means the stoppage of production.) To the working-class this change in prices means the stabilization of the real wage which can never be obtained by a fictitious rise in the wage-scale, but only through a real drop in prices.

Is this change and the stabilization of the rouble permanent? Nothing in this world is permanent, much less the value of paper money. Stated accurately, the question must be: under what conditions will the present situation which is favorable for the valuta of the Soviet Republic continue? With regard to the immediate future, this depends upon three factors, two of which will be determined by ourselves; the third factor is independent of our will. The third factor is the harvest. The other two factors are the development of commercial apparatus in the next few months, the organization of exchange of goods between town and country in the Autumn and the continuation of the policy of restricting the issue of fresh paper money.

The Proletarian Republic has overcome the famine catastrophe thanks to enormous work and the greatest sacrifices. The change of prices on the market is a symptom of a change in the whole economic situation. The worst times are behind us; better times are beginning.

### The Russian Metal Workers' Union and the New Economic Policy

By W. Demar (Moscow).

#### I.

#### The New Tasks of the Russian Trade Unions.

The new economic policy of the Soviet Government has been for a long time the subject of discussion and interest to the Western European proletariat. The new course is a temporary retreat. But not every retreat is a rout. The new economic policy of the Soviet Government is an organized withdrawal, a temporary concession to the capitalistic world which though not strong enough to overthrow the Soviet Government, has apparently still sufficient strength left to enable capitalism to continue its existence to the detriment of the working class and Soviet Russia.

In carrying out the new course, the Soviet Power led by the Communist Party, is in position to take all necessary measures with a view of reducing to a minimum the evil effects of the new economic life on the working class. As soon as the first effects of the new economic course were making themselves felt, the trade unions, decided upon very concrete changes in both their theoretical and practical programs, without limiting their activities solely to the existing Soviet legislation—(labor code, etc.). The Communists differ from the Social Democratic bureaucrats in the European trade-union movement in that they never propose rigid organizational forms to the proletariat, but are always endeavouring to adapt the labor organizations to the concrete economic conditions of the particular period.

But it is not only the trade-unions that must shoulder this task; besides, it cannot be denied that the economic Soviet organs neither are nor can be quite perfect. The negative qualities of our practical organs often come to light in "the free play of forces" and in the competitive struggle. For this reason our trade unions must not only combat private capital but they must

under all circumstances bring their influence to bear upon the State organs. There can be no doubt but that the Russian trade-unions, standing as they do on the basis of the Soviet system, will be more successful in eliminating the evil effects of capitalism than the Amsterdammers who favor capitalist reconstruction, in staying the tide of the capitalist offensive.

## II.

### Organizational Measures.

To enable them better to execute the new tasks, our trade-unions carried out two basic organizational measures: voluntary membership and reorganization of the trade-union apparatus. Hitherto membership has been compulsory for all workers and employees in the process of production. We reverted to voluntary membership because under the present circumstances this method tends to enliven the activities of the working-masses within the trade-union organizations. The trade-union apparatus was reorganized by the All-Russian Metal Workers' Union whose newly elected executive committee put into practice the projects elaborated by the old executive and approved by the Russian Metal Workers' Congress (March 1st to 5th, 1922). In the new simplified apparatus of the Executive Committee, particular attention was paid to the selection of a qualified teaching staff, while the whole personnel of the union was reduced by 50 per cent.

## III.

### Relations with Private Enterprises and the Wage Policy.

If an employer offends against protective regulations or does not pay the minimum wage decreed by the State, he is brought before the court by the union. If a private capitalist does not adhere to the collective agreement between him and the union, the latter may resort to the strike weapon, in case the board of arbitration fails to reach a settlement.

Apart from wage regulations corresponding to the continuous depreciation of the rouble, it falls to the task of the union to conclude collective contracts not only with private capitalists but with the economic organs of the State as well. While the industry of the Republic was yet sufficiently centralized the State wage funds, (both in cash and in kind), were distributed along a well defined plan and with the active participation of the trade-union centers. At present, however, when many government-owned factories have been excluded from the scheme of State maintenance, and in view of the well-known decentralization of the industrial administration, the problem of how to fix wages again and how to pay them out became more difficult to solve.

Under the new conditions, the organ for distributing the wage funds is becoming an institution that decrees the official minimum wage. The union is, however, attempting to regulate the wage policy by means of awards and collective agreements and in accordance with the financial resources of the respective State employers or groups of employers (State trusts), and the situation prevailing on the market of the respective district.

## IV.

### General Remarks.

One of the most important tasks of the union under present conditions is that of protecting labor, a task that is being energetically executed by the Locals which are especially guarding over the strict enforcement of the existing regulations on the part of private employers.

As the new registration of the members under the principle of voluntary membership is only beginning, there is no possibility of confirming the statements here made, by figures. The first returns of the new registration, however, sanction the conclusion that the membership will not suffer from the transition from the compulsory to the voluntary system, and that the union will very probably continue to embrace half a million organized metal workers.

## RELIEF FOR RUSSIA

### Two Important International Congresses in Berlin

By W. Munzenberg (Berlin).

In a short time two international congresses are to be held in Berlin, which deserve the attention of the labor organizations and the working class far beyond the circle of those immediately interested therein. On the 5th of July, the "Inter-

national Workers Relief Committee for the Famine-Stricken in Russia" will hold its third International Conference in Berlin. This Conference will differ from the previous ones (the first took place in September 1921 and the second at the beginning of December 1921), not only with regard to the delegates assembled there, but also in the questions to be considered. These questions extend far beyond the limits of a small, restricted conference. With regard to the delegates:— at the first two conferences only a few European countries were represented by individual delegates. For the coming conference on the 5th of July, every European country has already sent its delegation consisting of several persons. For the first time moreover, the oversea countries will take part in the conference. The delegates from Argentina have already set out and the five delegates from North America have already arrived in Berlin. The conference thus assumes the proportions of a little international congress. After the All-Russian Famine Relief Committee had decided at its conference, in the beginning of June, to continue with its famine relief activities, it approached the International Workers Relief Committee with the question as to how they should carry on their work. In the negotiations between the representatives of the latter Committee and the President of the All-Russian Famine Relief Commission in Moscow, the former declared that at the conference on the 5th of July they would move on their part, like the A.R.A., the Nansen Organization and the International Trade Union Federation that they should not interrupt their relief work but continue with it. In view of the great sacrifices which individual groups of workers in various countries have made and in view of the possible relations that may set in, the delegates of the Workers Relief Committee at the same time declared that an alteration should take place in the relief activity; that in the first place they should restrict themselves to the organization and upkeep of a number of children's homes which would maintain 1,000 children. The chief interest of the future work must be concentrated upon supporting the industrial working class in Russia who are suffering so severely, and providing them with food, clothing and boots. The Delegates of the Foreign Committee as well as the President of the All-Russian Famine Relief Committee considered as of special importance, the problem of supporting the economic restoration of Soviet Russia by the international working class. The results obtained by the Foreign Committee in Russia up to now, in the way of economic relief have already been mentioned in the press on several occasions. It will be the most important task of the International Conference on the 5th of July to extend these modest attempts undertaken at present with such scanty means, to a great systematic and an effective activity. No one entertained the absurd idea that by means of a loan through the international working class or by similar means, it will be possible to rescue Soviet Russia and to reconstruct her. But no one doubts that the international working class can furnish positive help to Soviet Russia in her economic defensive struggle against the colonization policy of the imperialist powers. There can be no doubt as to this, after what has already been accomplished in Russia by the Workers Relief Committee. The great problem which the International Conference has to solve on the 5th of July is how to meet the perils of a policy of illusion, and how to mobilize all the economic forces of the workers in favor of Soviet Russia, in closer and stronger connection with the political and revolutionary struggle in every country and turn it to immediate practical benefit for Russia.

Of still greater importance will be the general congress convened by the foreign representatives of the All-Russian Central Famine Relief Committee for the 9th July, in Berlin. At the session of the 13th of June, the President of the All-Russian Central Famine Relief Committee, Kalinin, decided to invite the following organizations and institutions to this Conference:—

- 1) The Governments and Parliaments which have voted or granted supplies for the Famine Relief.
- 2) The A.R.A. (American Relief Administration).
- 3) The Nansen Organization.
- 4) The International Red Cross.
- 5) All the Red Cross organizations which have in any way taken part in the famine relief work.
- 6) The American and English Quaker Societies.
- 7) The International League for Children's Relief.
- 8) The Amsterdam Trade Union International.
- 9) The Artists' Relief Committee.
- 10) The International Workers Relief Committee and its National Relief Committees.
- 11) a number of individuals such as Professor Einstein, Käthe Kollwitz, Anatole France, etc.

The All-Russian Central Relief Committee will in a short thesis formulated by a special representative, furnish the Congress with information as to the present situation in the famine districts as well as the feeding, the supplying of seed corn for the Winter months of 1922-23, and the agricultural and industrial reconstruction in the famine areas, the care of

the children, the struggle against disease etc. The Congress will then consider the ways and means by which the foreign countries can help Russia in overcoming all these difficulties. Three special delegates will be sent by the All-Russian Central Famine Relief Committee to both congresses, one of these delegates being Comrade Smidovitch, Commissioner for Food Supplies in Russia. It is a mere coincidence that the two congresses should take place at the same time with the assembling of the experts at the Hague. Although the attention of the political world and the general public, will be devoted to the proceedings at the Hague, there is little doubt that for the support and practical assistance to Russia, the two congresses at Berlin are of greater importance than the farcical proceedings at the Hague.

## THE RED TRADE UNION INTERNATIONAL

### To the Australian Trade Union Congress.

Moscow, June 20th, 1922.

Dear Comrades,

News reaches us of the coming Australian Trade Union Congress to take place in Melbourne this July. We greet the organized workers of Australia on behalf of the Red Trade Union International and consider it necessary to draw your attention to the great importance of your Congress for the international labor movement.

Until the war Europe had been the "Workshop of the World", its industrial centre, and the European proletariat had accordingly directed the labor movement of all countries. The political and trade union internationals had in reality been merely federations of European labor organizations.

We in Europe were aware of the growth of your labor movement; we knew about your steadfast struggle for the eight-hour working day, about your successes in the field of social legislation and in the daily struggle with the capitalists.

But there was no organic bond between the working class of Europe and that of Australia based upon the unity of interests of the two. European Capital by means of exploitation of the working class in the colonies and the oversea countries utilized the profits so gained for the purpose of bribing the leaders of the working class in the metropolis, thus handicapping the labor movement and plunging it into the morass of reformism and adaptation to the capitalist system.

The war changed this situation. Capitalism itself helped to develop the industries in the oversea countries and entirely freed them from the economic dependence of Europe. It thus called forth forces which it cannot command now.

The field for capitalist expansion is becoming narrower year by year and an unprecedented crisis has spread all over the world.

In vain Capital seeks a way out of this crisis through a violent offensive against the working class.

This offensive is spreading from Europe to all parts of the world and as a result of this we witness the tremendous class struggle in South Africa as well as the growth of the labor movement in India, China, etc. According to fragmentary news reaching us, unemployment is also growing in Australia and the capitalists in your country are also striving to reduce wages, to prolong the working day and to oppress the labor movement.

In the meantime they are being supported by the so-called Labor Government which has long since become a tool of the British imperialists.

The fate of the proletariat depends now mainly upon the labor movement of the oversea countries. It has fallen to its lot to deal the last blow to the capitalist system. It depends upon whether the capitalist system will succeed in postponing for a time its final breakdown and in prolonging its death agony which is costing humanity so much suffering and blood.

The working class of Australia is to play a particularly important role in the coming great collision of the imperialistic forces in their struggle which threatens the Pacific Ocean with the repetition of the horrors of the Great War of 1914-1918.

But the Australian labor movement has one great advantage, namely it has not yet managed to set up the paralyzing forms of adaptation to the capitalist system and it has not set up yet a trade union bureaucracy which would arrest its activities and betray the cause of the workers in Europe and America.

While the reformist leaders, united in the Amsterdam International, in the past looked upon the proletariat of the oversea countries as labor cattle on whose account some crumbs from the master's table fell to the labor bureaucracy of Europe, they are now striving to put the growing labor movement under their destructive influence.

These attempts must be opposed by the revolutionary will of the masses, and first of all by the conscious workers who have passed the school of class struggle and who have had experience in the policy of harmony with Capital. The decisions of your first National Congress in Melbourne in June 1921 showed that you have taken the right path, adopting the forms of your organization structure which correspond with the specific conditions of your country and placing on the order of the day your immediate tasks. Now the following step is to be made in the same direction. It is necessary that you elaborate consistent revolutionary tactics and establish close connections with the revolutionary labor organizations of other parts of the world.

We send you our heartfelt greetings from far-off Moscow, the new centre of the revolutionary will of millions of oppressed workers, and urge you to come out in joint action in the attack against the stronghold of capitalism. We propose that you send your delegates to the coming Second Congress of the Revolutionary Unions to take place in Moscow on November 20th, 1922 in order jointly to deal with the present task of the labor movement of the whole world.

Fraternally yours,

The Executive Bureau of the Red Trade Union International.

## IN THE CAMP OF OUR ENEMIES

### The Second International and Georgía.

by L. Sosnovsky.

We read in the Berlin organ of the Right SR. *Golos Rossii*, ("Voice of Russia"), the following report:

#### Epidemics in Georgia.

"Julius Brantel, who brought medicaments into Georgia, in the name of the Austrian Trade Union Federation, notifies us that Georgia is swept by a wave of Malaria that is assuming unheard-of proportions. 500,000 cases are reported for last year alone."

We don't know how many patients were relieved by Mr. Brantel, who apparently came here not so much for the purpose of carrying on relief-work, as in the capacity of agent to the world bourgeoisie in Georgia. Neither can we say how great Mr. Brantel's exaggeration of the actual number of malaria victims is, an exaggeration intended to emphasize the terrors of Bolshevism.

But here is what we do know. In 1921, a little book on Georgia was published in Moscow. This book was an answer by Comrade N. Mestcheriakov to Kautsky's lies. On page 52, Comrade Mestcheriakov writes about the Georgian Mensheviks fleeing to Europe:—

"They (the Mensheviks), pillaged Georgia very thoroughly; they carried away with them large quantities of gold and valuables. They will experience no need in exile; on the contrary, they will have sufficient means at their disposal to forge new chains for the Georgian masses who liberated themselves from these masters."

But what is particularly revolting is the fact that the Georgian Mensheviks, who are professedly "great friends" of the Georgian people, carried away with them stores of quinine. Georgia is the land of malaria. The Georgian population is suffering frightfully from this devastating disease. Quinine is the only real weapon against it. To rob Georgia of its quinine at the present time, when medicaments are so scarce, means to leave a nation a prey to disease, destruction and death. And this was done by none other than the Georgian Mensheviks.

That is what should have been told Mr. Julius Brantel, if his fellow-agent of the bourgeoisie could only get themselves to be fair and honest towards the Soviet Republic.

To deprive one's people of its medicines because it refused the chains of the Menshevik regime is an act worthy only of Menshevik "democracy".