

The Rise of Reaction in Wuhan

(Continued From Last Issue)

IV.

The Voice of the Left Kuomintang.

AMIDST this incessant cry of Bolshevism, Nihilism, Infantile Sickness, Mass Usurpation, Undesirable Labor and Peasant Leaders, and the idiotic "revelation" by the same Ho Chen of a "Communist plot to kill all Chinese above 25 years of age who have joined the Communist Party" (see "Hankow Herald" July 27)—a few fearless and clear voices may be distinguished, which give the lie to all these bugaboo cries and slogans and revelations.

They are the voices of such personalities as Mme. Sun Yat Sen (member of the CEC of the Kuomintang) and Tang Yen Tah (until recently Chief of the Political Department of the Nationalist-Revolutionary Armies).

NO one has as yet "accused" Mme. Sun of being Communist or bolshevik; nor Tang Yen Tah. Both Mme. and Tang Yen Tah have resigned their posts and quit the Nationalist Government for reasons which are clearly set forth in declarations issued by them.

It is characteristic of the state of mind of the "Saviours of the Revolution" of the new Hankow regime that the declaration of Mme. Sun was suppressed and the "People's Tribune" of July 17 was confiscated by the military authorities because it carried the said statement.

What is it that the new masters of Wuhan fear so much in the statement of Mme. Sun?

"... Some members of the party Executive are so defining the principles and policies of Dr. Sun Yat Sen that they seem to me to do violence to Dr. Sun's ideas and ideals. ... In the last analysis all revolution must be social revolution based upon fundamental changes in society; otherwise it is not a revolution, but merely a change of government. ... As to the workers' and peasants—these classes become the basis of our strength in our struggle to overthrow Imperialism ... and effectively unify the country. They are the new pillars for the building of a free new China. ... Without their support the Kuomintang as a revolutionary party becomes weak, chaotic and illogical in its social platform. ... If we adopt any policy which weakens these supports, we shake the very foundations of our party, betray the masses, and are falsely loyal to our leader. ... At the moment I feel that we are turning away from the policies of Sun Yat Sen. Therefore I must withdraw until wiser policies prevail. ..."

MME. Sun says in so many plain words that the present policy of the Wuhan regime is a direct betrayal of the masses of workers and peasants. She speaks of the "social revolution" which necessarily involves the class struggle and deep-going changes in the social structure and the social relations of the country. This is unpleasant and jarring music to the ears of the reactionaries now in control of Wuhan.

TANG YEN TAH, in an article published in "People's Tribune" of July 7, calls for a consistent struggle against reaction. He denounces the false cry of "excesses" and points to the necessity of basing the revolution on the masses.

In his letter of resignation to the Kuomintang, Tang Yen Tah accuses: "... many have deserted the three principles. ..." He reminds that when Chiang Kai Shek started massacring the workers and peasants, he demanded a punitive expedition against the traitor Chiang.

BUT now "... those who formerly favored the expedition—now prepare for surrender and compromise; those who formerly advocated the full protection of the interests of the workers—have started to massacre them."

He then proceeds to warn that if the anti-labor and anti-peasant policy is continued "the revolutionary significance of the Kuomintang will be lost and its power reduced to naught. The natural result will be that the Kuomintang will itself become counter-revolutionary. ..." ". . . If in the expedition against Chiang Kai Shek we do not attack him from the standpoint of his feudalistic and counter-revolutionary actions, but as an individual, it will become a private struggle between militarists. ... The consequence will be a failure as in 1911."

It should be noted that Mme. Sun and Tang Yen Tah do not stand alone in their attitude.

THE Wuhan Government today, though it still shouts a few hazy slogans against Chiang Kai Shek, does not and cannot seriously mean it, for what on earth distinguishes the bestialities and executions of Tang Shen Chi & Co. in Wuhan and Hanyang from those in Shanghai and Canton?

What difference does it make to the Chinese worker whether he is murdered by the militarists in Shanghai or in Hankow; by Sun Chuan Fang, Chiang Kai Shek or by the order of Wong Ching Wei or Tang Shen Chi? What differences does it make to the Chinese peasant whether he is massacred by the reactionaries under Chiang Kai Shek in Kiangsi, Li Chi Hsin in Kwangtung or Tang Shen Chi in Hunan. ... (we shall therefore not be at all surprised if we hear very soon of a happy reunion

of Wuhan and Nanking, of Wong Ching Wei and Chiang Kai Shek.) --(This has now taken place. Chiang "resigned" to save Wong Ching Wei's face.—W. F. D.)

FOLLOWING upon the resignation of Mme. Sun and Tang Yeh Tah, came that of the Labor Minister who pointed out that the new masters of the Wuhan Government have hindered every move of his in favor of the working class. Sou Chao Ging is Chairman of the All-China Labor Federation. He is a true proletarian and famous for his splendid leadership of the seamen in the Canton-Hongkong strike. He is a member of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat, and he delivered the report on the situation of the Chinese Labor Movement at the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Conference.

The Wuhan Government has already issued a warrant for his arrest and the arrest of Li-Li-San, Secretary of the ACLF.

WE have before us the draft of various labor laws worked out by Sou Chao Ging, which were stranded and pigeonholed by the Kuomintang Executive. A new Labor Ministry has been set up, and what do we hear from it when it is inaugurated?

In his inaugural address, the brand new "Labor" minister, a certain Wang Fa Chin, declared that the difficulty in improving the condition of the workers was entirely to blame on the "so-called leaders of the trade union movement."

He also spoke of an "unbridled" labor movement in recent times.

THE first act of the new Labor Ministry was directed against the workers and their trade unions. In a proclamation issued by this ministry in the beginning of August (see "People's Tribune" of Aug. 4), we find the following shameless words: "... It has been learned from various sources that there are many reactionary (!) elements who have recently coined all sorts of rumors and have tried to instigate a general strike. ... Any laborer whose conduct is detrimental to public peace and order will be severely dealt with."

Such is the new "labor" policy of this new "labor" ministry.

Conclusion.

THE Chinese Revolution is not "over" as so many who wish it were, believe. The Chinese Revolution is on. It is not a passing wave; it is a deluge which, once started, will sweep away the last semblance of the old order of things.

The main forces of the Chinese Revolution remain the proletariat and the peasantry. Against the united front of these two classes every reactionary and militarist will shatter his skull and the petty bourgeois intellectual worms who now theorise on "National Revolution without class struggle," will die of starvation or

consume their own vitals.

THE temporary bloody glory of the reaction, whether under the turban-ship of Chiang Kai Shek or Tang Shen Chi, are but passing episodes in the drama of revolution. No political power can last long without the support of the two mainstays of the revolution, the workers and peasants.

The Chinese Revolution cannot be reduced to naught by ever so many decrees of the old or new militarists. The cry of Communism and Bolshevism and Nihilism cannot blind the workers and peasants to the fact that they are being oppressed, their organizations destroyed and their leaders executed.

THE bourgeoisie and all its auxiliary forces are scared to death by the prospect of the Revolution being accomplished under the leadership of the working class. It therefore suppresses the labor movement and "reorganizes" the trades and peasants' unions.

But Chiang Kai Shek and Li Chi Hsin were ahead of them in this respect. ... And Wu Pei Fu and Sun Chuan Fang, though they are not so well versed in the three principles of Sun Yat Sen, were even ahead of these. Their logic is common; their words are almost identical; their deeds are as drops of water alike

unto each other; their methods are the same, their fate is the same—oblivion.

THE Chinese working class has advanced too far forward on the path of revolution to be driven back or crushed so easily for any length of time. The Chinese Revolution lives in the millions and tens of millions of exploited workers and peasants. Temporary reverses may take place. The final victory though, is assured, for once arisen, the giant proletarian and peasant classes will not be downed.

The Chinese working class is gathering its revolutionary forces, and together with the peasantry will liberate China from all oppression, reaction and counter-revolution.

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