"Democracy" and Dictatorship in Germany

By N. Lenin

(January 5, 1919)

Greetings to the Soviet Republic of Bavaria!

A proletarian dictatorship has been proclaimed in Bavaria, and this is a demand that the workers, soldiers and peasant council representatives of the Bavarian Constituent Assembly and its local councils...
The Revolutionary Age

April 12, 1919

A Chronicle and Interpretation of International Events

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LUDWIG LORRE

The Soviets in Paris

IN Paris are assembled the distinguished diplomats of the world, theNEGATIVE of another who are not only mighty, the dirty men of things. These

peoples, this time, symbolize Capitalism as Moscow symbolized it in revolution. These people, despised and oppressed; and where there is a proletariat,

in the midst of which these people are violently

are China.

their term subversive

fought against the acquisitiveness of Jean Jaures' anarchists. This
terms subversive

was forced to surrender because of the pre­

The red flag, which represents food, clothing and

cipalities, are China.

the British Indian Labor Party, the other day
calls to the League of Nations as a rival to the Paris League. In this arti­

the political and economic in­

were seized by the Bolsheviks of Russia. What

soldiers, organizing

cide of the Czar's army have

The property represents food, clothing and

subversive demonstration of French miners in the depart­

the economic and political independence of China. These demands, according to

the property remained

and hold in the name of the

Japan and China

K

HE war was used by every belligerent nation as an opportunity to strengthen its Imperialism. Japan used the opportunity to impose a system of ultra­

the property of Russia. People's

The property represents food, clothing and

A Real Scandal

T

HE Soviet Representative to the United States, Mr. Bakhmetieff, was dismissed to secure

and its allies, moderate Socialism.

The Red League of Nations

T

HE revolutionary Socialist attitude toward the League of Nations is that, as against a bourgeois imperialistic league, there should be formed a League of Soviet Nations to direct the final struggle against Capitalism. This means an all-out drive through the alliance of Soviet Russia, Hungary and

N

Bavaria and – ?

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HE struggle, for power that has been raging in

tragedy

horrors

The action of the Bavarian Soviets in decreeing a proletarian dictatorship has, naturally, lost the

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prison. It has demanded for its members the same immunity from arrest enjoyed by members of the Conscription Party, but this request is not yet determined. While it convenes, however, the masses are declaring strike after strike, machine guns in front of the various factories and shops is over; and if the Congress hesitates, it will be swept ruthlessly away by the overwhelming momentum of economic and implacable mass action of the revolutionary proletariat.

It is reported the Ebert-Scheirlemann Government of December 1, 1917, has been prepared to appeal to the Allies for troops to crush the new revolution. Let them! If it comes to a test between the Allies and the Revolution, the revolution will conquer, is already conquering. While those who denounce the left wing of the Socialists as a "bourgeois-socialist" government continues its miserable squabbles, plays with events, being involved in a morass between of revolution and reaction. The Peace Conference is rapidly becoming a political farce. All the preparations made to create a "Socialist" government are a farce that represents power,—the power of revolutionary Socialism.

The Centre Again

The Socialist movement has always had its divi­sions: The moderate Centre, the democratic Socialists, and the, if you please, "radical" party. They are the three groups engaged in an open and relentless struggle. In Germany, however, the struggle having assumed the form ()

... Of the rate, the power of the masses despised socialist the struggle having assumed the form ()

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The Swing to Revolutionary Socialism

By Louis C. Fraina

(for government ownership, reforms, etc.) and was dominated by the petit bourgeois ideology, which im­plies that it can only be answered by a new new society by means of "class co-operation," social reforms and the like. When the war broke out, it rejected the revolution's favor of the petit bourgeois policy of peaceful reforms and parliament­ ary action. Which means that the war smothed revolution as an intellectual work, when the

Turn to the Left!

Resolutions adopted by the newly elected State Exec­ utive Committee of the Socialist Party of Massachu­ setts, at its first session, April 6, 1919.

The Left Wing

Whereas, the history and the experience of the Revolution in action have demonstrated the necessity for a clear-cut distinction between the Social­ istic position; and

Whereas, the tendency of the officialdom within the party has been in contradiction with the revolutionary policy of the American Socialist Party of America; whereupon, the policy of the party shall participate only in a political action the rank and file through­ out the party to work and co-operate with the Left Wing of the American Socialist Party of America; resolved, that the State Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of America may become the true revolutionary ex­ pression of the American Socialist Party, and a political action the rank and file through­ out the party to participate in the Third International with the Spartacist League and the Communist Labor Party of Germany (Spartacists).

International Congress

Whereas, the rank and file of the Socialist Party of America has clearly demonstrated on many occasions that it is the political party of Bolsheviki Russia and the revolutionary section of the working class everywhere, and is opposed to the notions of war and capitalism; and

Whereas, the policy of the American Socialist Party is inronics, in its rejection of revolutionary ideas, in its support of parliamentary measures, and in its opposition of this revolutionary policy among the working class; and

Whereas, the policy of the American Socialist Party has been condemned by the Executive Committee, and the party press-nowhere does it empha­ size the want of the new world, terrible in its revolution, and we are not yet prepared to make it a proper dictatorship. Still the old parliamentarianism! Still the old reformism! Still the old petit bourgeois policy!

The AMNESTY CONVENTION

Whereas, the Wisconsin County of the Socialist Party calling for the convening of a National Emergency Convention of the Socialist Party; and

Whereas, the calling of the proposed National Em­ ergency Convention to be participated in by bourgeois groups in contrast to the best Socialist practice and was intended to seal off the growing demand for a National Emergency Convention of the party; be it therefore

Resolved, that the State Executive Committee of the State of Massachusetts condemn the proposed Am­ nesty Convention; and it is further

Resolved, that we call upon the rank and file of the party to support the call of the party, and to participate in by the Spartacist and Bolshevik parties.

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The Russian Proletariat in Action

By Eadomnn MacAlpine

Ten Days That Shook the World, by John Reed, Boni and Liveright, New York, pp. 197. Price $2.00 net.

A soldier announced that the All-Russian 'Peasants' So­

ciety had refused to send delegates to the Congress; he proposed instead a joint action in a formal

"suggestion. "Some delegates are present," he said. "I move that the Congress accept this suggestion."

Kharkov, worshipping the caprices of a captain, passion­

ately and at high pitch, demurred. "But it is revolutionary to have control this Congress," he shouted, "told us we were to settle it now—and it is being settled behind our backs; before the Congress opens Blows in Kharkov..."

It is by such blows that the nails are being driven into the coffin of the bourgeoisie, one by one. Trotsky, delegate of the 13th Army and representative of the Trotskyite Left Opposition, is now returning to the front, where all the Congress delegates consider that the taking of power by the Soviets, the next three weeks before the Constituent Assembly, is a revolutionary blow against the bourgeoisie and against the Menshevik and Right Social Democratic policy. The Congress of Soviets is not an assembly, but a congress, and that is why the Army is not to be represented in the Congress of Soviets. The whole force and passion of the Congresses—shouts and stamping, always growing stronger. Soldiers begin to stand up on all the table.

"Are you aforesaid for? What do you represent?"

"The Central Executive Committee of the Soviet of the Fourth Russian Republic, the First


N- Regiment, the Third S— Rifles..."

"When we take the field, there are no officers, the


soldiers, not the soldiers.

"We, the Front group, disclaim all responsibility for

what has happened and it happens more and more at the War Front..."

"At intervals in the most continuous disturbance


comrades, for the Soviet Socialists, could be heard projecting against the background of the Win­


ner-Palace... We are opposed to this kind of any­


andarchy..."

"Surely, he has stopped down a young, lean­


faced soldier, loosed up to the par­


a
tos, and dramatically lifted his hand.

"Comrade and family! and there was a hush. "My


Let­


tellers had the attentions of two representatives of the


mal­


for the Second


regime..."

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A "Socialist" Prosecuting Attorney

By Nicholas I. Hournich

John Reed

(Letter to the New York Times, refused publication)

accepted as gospel truth the cheapest sort of ignorant denunciation poured out by all the opponents of the Socialist party for the past fifty years, and who now work for people on earth. We, who supported the Soviet Government. Province of the case, were allowed to do so because we insisted, and made a statement that the party court will expel this "Socialist" prosecutor for the party. "You must not make it appear that I approved these events, but merely in the explanation of the events. It is very easy to say after the event, "I feel that the party court will expel this "Socialist" prosecutor for the party. "You must not make it appear that I approved these events, but merely in the explanation of the events.

The Socialists of the United States have been moody but circumstance of the Soviet Government, and the noble consciousness of a duty performed, and they will never see the party in its new form.

But we shall answer these party moralists: "Is it not possible that the Socialist party will be purged itself of all who have been. It is not possible that the Socialist party will be purged itself of all who have been.

No! By merely expelling this or that member of the party you will not cleanse the party and save its honor. Paraphrasing the materialistic formula of Marx, it is not only that individual party members who determine the party consciousness, on the contrary, the consciousness of the individual member is determined by the party. In other words, the "Socialists of Socialism morals" in the party, treasurers to Socialist principles by individual members of the party, are the result and the symptoms of the general disease in the whole party organism. The party as a whole has not yet learned the lessons of proletarian experience in Russia and Germany. In spite of these lessons, the party as a whole continues to follow the old worn-out policy of opportunism and compromise. But that which did not comparatively affect the party in the past during the period of peaceful and prosperous conditions has affected the party in this period of revolutionary transition. To really cure the party of its diseases, the party must enter the "parlor" of European Socialism and become a healthy "revolutionary climate." This is the problem of the recently formed Left Wing of the Socialist Party. The cure for the diseases of the party is prescribed by the Manifesto and Program of the Left Wing. There is no other cure.

On Bolshevism, Russian and American

By John Reed

(Letter to the New York Times, refused publication)

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Imperialism—The Final Stage of Capitalism

By N. Lenin

1900, that the pound stock share was the foundation of British Imperialism. (42)

That merchant had a more through and Marxist understanding of Imperialism. (42)

It is certain that the Imperialist system is a characteristic of one European nation.

That system, of "participation," not only helps monopolies to build up their giant power, but enables them to put through with impunity dark and unholy deals and to pass out their "mother-concerns" are not legally responsible for the acts of the "daughter-concerns," which are supposed to be independent and through which many good things can be done.

Here is an illustration taken from the German magazine, "The Spring Steel Stock Company of Kassel was considered a few years ago as one of the most prosperous concerns in Germany. Bad management caused dividends to decline from 35% to 10% in ten years. Management was extended to one of its "sister-concerns," the Chassia, which with only a few thousand marks, a loan of six million marks, and this without consulting the stockholders. Of the loan which was made to almost doubling the stock-capital of the "mother-concern," the Chassia's books made no mention.

But the purely legal point of view that this arrangement was perfectly permissible, and could be allowed to "sister-concerns" to pass without counter, is even in any commercial statute. The chairman of the managing board, who, as the responsible person in charge, had approved the transaction, presented the amount of his share in the Kassel Chamber of Commerce. The stockholders learned of this arrangement only later when it proved to have been a "mistake" (I can't help placing the word between quotation marks). But the Chassia Steel Company, being dumbed by the well-informed, suffered a break of stock-market confidence.

This striking example of the book juggling which is a matter of frequent occurrence in the management of "sister-concerns" and stock companies, serves to show how easy it is to manage such stock companies with insufficient capital, and how stockbrokers and other "participating" companies are able to keep all knowledge of their risky deals from the average stockholder, but also to dodge all responsibility and escape losses in the case of mishaps, for they can unload their stock at the opportune moment, while a private businessman would have to meet the deficit out of his own capital.

The books of many stock companies are very similar to those of government debt, which were used twice by scribes. In modern conditions of bookkeeping, stocks of several "daughters" concern or to combine the latter anew. This method gives so many advantages from every point of view, legal and illegal, that a few concerns which have not resorted to it. (48)

Among the large and monopolistic concerns one may mention the Allgemeine Elektrizitätsgesellschaft, of which we shall speak in detail later. In 1912 it was estimated that this company "participated" in the affairs of 175 or 200 other companies, controlling them and, through them, a capital of about 1,000,000,000 marks (49).

The various methods of inspecting books or accounts, the view of a great many other details are offered to the public by benevolent professors or functionaries, whose benevolence exposes itself in defending Capitalism in the name of the public. (49)

We know from experience that the ownership of about 100 stocks is a practical control of the affairs of a company, as a large number of the small and scat tered stockholders never have a chance of reviewing any books, the "participation" system is a characteristic of the financial oligarchy. This is why, in progressive capitalist nations and in the more old-fashioned ones, bank stock becomes the "baby" of any new suggestion at the disposal of bank owners and under their control.

The extent to which the "participation" system has been adopted by banks is well known. It was first used by banks in several "daughters" owned by F. Apel, who was for fifteen years in the service of the Russo-Chinese Bank and in whom in 1914, among other things, was the director of the bank which in 1912, under the "participation" system, had the largest share in the foreign trade of the Chassia and the world market. (50)

The great banks and the world market. (50)

The great banks divide the foreign banks into two principal groups: those, which are being operated under the system of "participation," and those who are independent, whose capital is raised from foreign banks. The first group he divides up into three subgroups, according to whether German, English or French banks hold the largest shares in their operations.

He also draws a distinction between productive banking and commercial banking. (50)

Banks. In 1900, the pound stock share was the foundation of British Imperialism. (42)

That mercantile had a more thorough and Marxist understanding of Imperialism. (42)

It is certain that the Imperialist system is a characteristic of one European nation.

That arrangement, of "participation," not only helps monopolies to build up their giant power, but enables them to put through with impunity dark and unholy deals and to pass out their "mother-concerns" are not legally responsible for the acts of the "daughter-concerns," which are supposed to be independent and through which many good things can be done.

Here is an illustration taken from the German magazine, "The Spring Steel Stock Company of Kassel was considered a few years ago as one of the most prosperous concerns in Germany. Bad management caused dividends to decline from 35% to 10% in ten years. Management was extended to one of its "sister-concerns," the Chassia, which with only a few thousand marks, a loan of six million marks, and this without consulting the stockholders. Of the loan which was made to almost doubling the stock-capital of the "mother-concern," the Chassia's books made no mention.

But the purely legal point of view that this arrangement was perfectly permissible, and could be allowed to "sister-concerns" to pass without counter, is even in any commercial statute. The chairman of the managing board, who, as the responsible person in charge, had approved the transaction, presented the amount of his share in the Kassel Chamber of Commerce. The stockholders learned of this arrangement only later when it proved to have been a "mistake" (I can't help placing the word between quotation marks). But the Chassia Steel Company, being dumbed by the well-informed, suffered a break of stock-market confidence.

This striking example of the book juggling which is a matter of frequent occurrence in the management of "sister-concerns" and stock companies, serves to show how easy it is to manage such stock companies with insufficient capital, and how stockbrokers and other "participating" companies are able to keep all knowledge of their risky deals from the average stockholder, but also to dodge all responsibility and escape losses in the case of mishaps, for they can unload their stock at the opportune moment, while a private businessman would have to meet the deficit out of his own capital.

The books of many stock companies are very similar to those of government debt, which were used twice by scribes. In modern conditions of bookkeeping, stocks of several "daughters" concern or to combine the latter anew. This method gives so many advantages from every point of view, legal and illegal, that a few concerns which have not resorted to it. (48)

Among the large and monopolistic concerns one may mention the Allgemeine Elektrizitätsgesellschaft, of which we shall speak in detail later. In 1912 it was estimated that this company "participated" in the affairs of 175 or 200 other companies, controlling them and, through them, a capital of about 1,000,000,000 marks (49).

The various methods of inspecting books or accounts, the view of a great many other details are offered to the public by benevolent professors or functionaries, whose benevolence exposes itself in defending Capitalism in the name of the public. (49)

We know from experience that the ownership of about 100 stocks is a practical control of the affairs of a company, as a large number of the small and scat tered stockholders never have a chance of reviewing any books, the "participation" system is a characteristic of the financial oligarchy. This is why, in progressive capitalist nations and in the more old-fashioned ones, bank stock becomes the "baby" of any new suggestion at the disposal of bank owners and under their control.

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Unemployment and the Bolshevik Menace

The pages of the bourgeois papers publish many articles purporting to show the possibility of Bolsheviks penetrating and establishing itself in the United States. It is supposed that there is fertile ground here for Bolshevik ideas capturing the mind of the people. These articles sound a note of "warning." And the authors appeal to the prudence of the employers, pointing out the danger of adhering to "precautionary conditions" lest the entire business structure should collapse. And the broader bourgeois experts, the workers in the United States are exhibiting a great spirit of restlessness. The chief factor of their discontent is the increasing unemployment. And all its consequences. The reports of the Federal Labor Bureau also deal with the subject of unemployment. The mortality of the workers is very high; and the suffering arising from the Starvation wages and unemployment is even more acute. The It is the stigmatized in the reports of the Federal Labor Bureau. In 1918 the market situation has changed greatly in almost all the countries. The depression of the workers has not only to that time the demand for labor exceeded the supply. But since then the supply has increased. The result has been a decrease in the wages, and is not continued to one or two localities—it is extended to the whole country. The real cause of the sufferings of the workers is still the usurious loan system, which is common to all countries: in Bulgaria, in France, in Germany, in Belgium, in Austria, in Hungary...