

Soviet Russia and the World's Workers

By P. J. Prokop.

The most striking characteristic of Bolshevism is the panicky fear it produces among all the non-essential professionals and nonproductive classes of people. As a contrast to this effect upon the nonessential and idle class of people stands the friendly support it receives among the bulk of essential workers and wealth producers of all Nations who, either by study of communist doctrine or by close contact with its principles at work, see in it the only means of solving the present chaotic condition of anarchy in production, which is not calculated for the benefit of the whole Nation, but simply for the profit of a few individuals, and hence leads to the destitution of a great majority of workers.

That all those who thus get acquainted with the bolshevik principles of soviets-at-work clamor for it is demonstrated by the exemplary solidarity of Soviet Russia under bolshevik leadership, and its steadfast support by the workers of other countries.

Thus we have to accept that from the standpoint of the workers. The Soviet form is considered to be the best system of government ever devised and put into practical operation for, by, and through the masses. Therefore the attempt of the nonessential professionals and nonproductive, wealthy classes to oppress this bolshevist movement of hundreds of millions of wealth-producing workers, by force of militarism, looks to be a tremendous task.

What Successful Intervention Requires.

It would require a permanent standing army composed of black mercenaries, cossacks of old czarist quality, ignorant Japanese and Turks. Disregarding a few professional rowdies and hoodlums, the American, French and British workers would find it deep beneath their dignity to lend themselves as tools of the international capitalist clique for such a dirty job as enforcing wage-slavery upon the workers of Europe.

American troops are chiefly composed of wage-earners and small business men. Both of these classes, in times of peace, are exposed to the exploitation and oppression of the same big business which now so ardently recommends the

policing of Europe by the Allied troops; the same big business, that through its press, incites the ignorant people against the soviets. But the small American business men, whom only the dread of life-long wage-slavery drove to business careers, realize that the nucleus of common evil resides in the power that the few "nothing-doers" derive from the old and outlived conceptions of "right and order" which have now become intolerable and which we, like our brothers in Europe, must change.

Taken from this point of view, the result is that the American soldiers will favor and may support the emancipating movement of the European workers.

Would Mean Civil War At Home.

But even if we could examine the future in the most unfavorable light, we can see that a successful meddling into internal affairs of the Workers' Republics would require, first of all, the autocratic imposition of mass militarism of the blackest type, which is impossible without a serious opposition and constant clashes between the military and civilian elements at home.

This in turn would paralyze production and commerce so seriously that no sane man would find it profitable. Coupling this with the desperate opposition the working class of Europe would put up in concert with Soviet Russia, the consequences look too horrible for any picturization. Only a madman can recommend intervention. But the bourgeois rulers of the world are indeed madmen and when they set out on this impossible undertaking they only seal their own doom.

More than 52 per cent of all the workers in the steel industry labor 12 HOURS A DAY. More than 26 per cent are SLAVES SEVEN DAYS A WEEK! More than 66 per cent of all the employees of the steel and iron industry earn 5 to 25 per cent less than what the government stipulates as essential for life. These two industries afford the LARGEST RETURNS to AMERICAN CAPITALISTS!