

THE KARELIAN WORKERS' COMMUNE.

The Beginning of a Red Scandinavia.

By GEORGE HALONEN.

Soviet Karelia, or the Karelian Workers' Commune, is a red neighbour to White Finland and White Scandinavia. Diplomatically it may be called a Red "buffer state," a bulwark of Soviet Russia against the Northern White world.

The Karelian Workers' Commune was officially formed June 7, 1920, by a decree of the Soviet government of Russia. The Commune extends from the River Svir, in the south, across Lake Onega to the White Sea and around Kola peninsula to the Finnish frontier, and again southward for a thousand miles along white Finland. This equal to area about two-thirds of Finland, contains but a small population, about 800,000. The politically and economically important Murmansk railway runs entirely through this district.

This Commune was established because revolution and only revolution will realize the self-determination of small nationalities. When the imperialistic states speak about the self-determination of small nationalities, they "realize" it by submitting them to the imperialist yoke. Under the guise of self-determination, the natural riches and the peoples of the small nations are exploited and oppressed.

White Finland, in its imperialistic dream about "Great Finland," also spoke about the "self-determination" of Karelia. The Karelians happen to be kinsmen to the Finns. Their language is very much like Finnish. This was enough for the Finnish imperialism to speak about "self-determination" of Karelia.

Economic Base of Finn Regard.
In reality the hishup of the Finns and Karelians was not the cause of the Finnish "love" of Karelians. The Finnish bourgeoisie, now playing with imperialism, knew something about the great natural riches of Karelia. There are great areas of forests. The total forest area is about 100,000,000 hectares, or one and one-half times that of Norway! The timber is worth hundreds of millions of dollars! So, it pays to speak about the "self-determination" of Karelia in order to gain possession of this great wealth.

Karelia is also rich in minerals. Even coal veins have been discovered. Also zinc, copper etc. Iron ore is in abundance. These possibilities have been but little investigated. A single lake, Vikujarvi, showed by investigation to contain about 11,000,000 tons of bog iron ore!
The lakes and rivers are supplied with fish in great abundance. Water power can be obtained from many great water falls; all of which means, that once developed, Karelia will be one of the most important industrial countries of Northern Europe.

The Finnish capitalists wanted the "self-determination" of Karelia and of course, themselves as "guardians", in order to exploit and rob these natural riches.

After the Russian workers' revolution, the Finnish Whites concentrated a part of their mercenary troops in Karelia. The Allies also sent armies. The purpose was to form Karelia as a white basis against Red Russia. Karelians were oppressed and forced to join the anti-bolshevik armies, but many Karelians fled either to deep forests or when possible, joined the Red Army. The White Finns began their "self-determination" with plundering, robbing and murder.

The White rule, however, was put to an end by the heroic fighting of the Red army. And in the spring of 1920 the remnants of the Finnish Whites were driven from Karelia.

But in Finland as well as in other foreign countries the capitalists interested in the natural riches of Ka-

relia, continued to speak about the "self-determination" of Karelia.

Their propaganda, however, was cut short by revolutionary Russia, which did not speak loudly about self-determination for Karelia, but actually realized it.

Soviet Russia Decreases Self-government.

The Russian Soviet government published, June 7, 1920, a decree concerning Karelian self-government. And August 4, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and Soviet government officially designated the plan of frontiers of this new sister-republic of Soviet Russia. Wide self-governing powers were given to the Karelian toilers in their own national and economical questions.

This "Declaration of Independence" of the Karelian Workers' Commune by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and Soviet government, says in part as follows:

"Being in close touch with the workers of all nationalities residing in Soviet Russia, the working people of Karelia are now entering a new phase of their history. The future of the Karelian toilers rests in their own hands. On the basis of the self-determination of nations before them lies the unlimited possibilities of national development. The powerful union of the working peoples federated in Soviet Russia, will defend the rights of Karelian toilers, their national self-determination and their freedom from the yoke of all exploiters and oppressors. After fighting many hundreds of years against a barren nature for their existence, the Karelian toilers are now entering from oppression and exploitation onto the road of the family of different nationalities freed from all oppression and exploitation....

"Hand in hand with the toiling forces of the Soviet Republic, helping its heroic Red Army and allied with the splendid sons of kindred Finland, the Finnish red communist forces, the toiling people of Karelia are freed from the violence of the white armies and from the yoke of robbers and exploiters. The toilers of Karelia, as well as the other peoples of the Soviet Republic, have, in the form of the soviets of workers and peasants, at last received the means of the social freedom and peaceful cultural and national development. The supreme authority in Karelia will hereafter reside in the hands of the Congress of Karelian Soviets, but temporarily the affairs will be directed by the Karelian Revolutionary Committee. The Karelian Workers' Commune, in accordance with the decision of the first All-Karelian Conference, will be in close touch with the Russian toiling people and as a whole with the Soviet Republic of Russia. Although being a part of the Republic, differing from its other parts through the national and economical conditions, it will receive its own able self-governing bodies with a wide liberty of action....

The Soviet government of Russia greets with deep joy the newborn Karelian Workers' Commune, which joins the family of workers' Soviet Republics, and it has full confidence that the Karelian Commune will grow and bloom as the advance guard of the working class in the far away North-western part of the Federative Soviet Republic. The Russian Soviet government gives to the Karelian Commune its promise, that it will give all help and defend it in its work, seeing in this an important step in the great construction work of the World Soviet system."

And so side by side the new Karelia, the Karelian Workers' Commune, is arising from the runs of the capitalist system, erecting the workers own structure of society, Communism.

The Future.
With the powerful help of the workers of Soviet Russia, the Karelian toilers will be able to build a new, beautiful Karelia. This, however, cannot be realized immediately. The reconstruction requires both time and sacrifice on the part of the Karelian workers. In spite of great natural riches, the Karelian Workers' Commune at the present is yet poor. There is a scarcity of everything. Industries, transportation, etc. must be rebuilt.

It is a great task. But the Karelian toilers are not afraid. They work and again work, because they deeply understand that they are working not only for themselves, but at the same time for the benefit of the workers of the world. The stronger they are able to build Karelia, the stronger will its influence become in Finland and in Scandinavia. And the nucleus of a Red Finland, of a Red Scandinavia, will grow, sweeping Northern Europe with revolutionary experience, enthusiasm and energy, helping, on its part to make an entire red Scandinavia.

THIRD CONGRESS OF COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL WILL CONVENE JUNE 1

Third Congress of Communist etc. The Executive Committee of the Communist International has decided to convene the 3rd Congress of the Communist International on the 1st of June 1921.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International adopted the following provisional agenda:

1. Report of the Executive of the Communist International.
2. The economic world-crisis and the new tasks of the Communist International.
3. Transition-period (special requirements, special actions and final struggle of the Revolution).
4. Fight against the Amsterdam yellow Trade Union Federation.
5. The Red Trade Union International and the Communist International.
6. Construction of the Communist Parties, the methods of their work.
7. Construction of the Communist International and its relation to the affiliated parties.
8. The Eastern question.
9. The Italian Socialist Party and the Communist International. (Appeal of the Italian Socialist Party against the resolution of the Executive Committee).
10. The Communist Labour Party of Germany and the Communist International. (Appeal of the United Communist Party of Germany against the resolution of the Executive Committee of the Communist International).
11. The Women's Movement.
12. The Young Communist Movement.
13. Election of the Executive Committee of the Communist International. Headquarters of the E. C.
14. Other business.

G. Zinoviev.

1) The Executive affirms its resolution in the Italian question and continues to support the Communist Party of Italy.

2) The Executive protests most determinedly against the support given by one of the presidents of the United Communist Party, Com. Levi, to the centrist fraction of Serrati in Livorno and after Livorno. The Executive is firmly convinced that the overwhelming majority of the German sister party on the Italian question is on the side of the Italian Communists and of the Executive and not on the side of Com. Levi.

3) The Executive declares its agreement with the resolution of the Central Committee of the United Communist Party of February 1st and begs the Central Committee not to recognise any explanations of this resolution which could mean support to the Centrist Serrati fraction and create difficulties for the Italian Communists.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by the Executive Committee of the Karelian National Economy.

The economical questions in Karelia are solved the same way as in Soviet Russia. The Karelian Council of National Economy was established by a decree of the Karelian Revolutionary Committee on September 30, 1920. All economical questions and local economical councils as well, are under control of the Karelian Council of National Economy.

The work of this council is organized on the same principles as the council of national economy in Soviet Russia. All economical plans, finances, etc., must be submitted by the Karelian Council of National Economy to the Supreme Council of National Economy of Soviet Russia for approval. The foreign trade will be arranged in co-operation with Soviet Russia. The economical development of Karelia is therefore only a part of the general development of Soviet Russia.

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of the Communist International after an exact examination of the situation. The representatives of the United Communist Party of Germany voted for the points 1 and 3 and against point 2.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International.

The Executive Committee declares once more that it considers the Italian Communist Party to be its Italian section and supports the same in its revolutionary struggle by all the means and authority at its disposal. The leaders of the Serrati fraction for the sake of 14,000 pure opportunists have rejected from the party 60,000 communists. The Executive Committee places the appeal of the Italian Socialist Party on the agenda of the Third Congress. Till the decision of the Congress the Executive Committee instructs the small bureau with publishing an open letter to the Italian Socialist Party.

THE INTERNATIONAL AND THE WOMEN OF THE EAST.

The First Congress of the women workers of the Azerbaijan Republic has sent the following greetings to the Communist International: "We the working women of Azerbaijan, who have for the first time raised our voices at this First Congress in Baku, send fraternal greetings to the Communist International. The women of the East are waking up, they are now casting away the heavy chains of long oppression and are taking a firm stand in the ranks of the workers under the Red Banner of the world revolution. We swear, comrades, that from this moment the cause of the revolution has found a loyal ally in the women of Azerbaijan. It is our hope that our awakening will be followed by that of the millions of the women of the East. Long live the union of the working women of the West and of the East! Long live the Third International!"

President of the Congress of the East
Victoria Zeitlin.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE "BUND" AT MINSK.

"The Executive Committee of the Communist International sends its fraternal greetings to the Jewish Communists. Comrades, you are aware that the Executive of the Communist International, after having discussed the question in a special commission, decided to invite you to enter the ranks of the Russian Communist Party. This decision was dictated by the endeavor to attain closer unity of all communist forces. The Executive appreciates the adherence of many members of the "Bund" to the organization, which stood in the front ranks during the dawn of the revolutionary movement in Russia. The Executive, however, reminds the comrades that even the bolsheviks changed the name of their party when the interests of the cause demanded it. The Executive Committee indicates further that the German Lefts have done the same, and a number of other countries in the West are doing so now. There can be no victory for us in the difficult but glorious struggle that we are waging unless we have full unity of communist forces. Everything should be subordinated to the aim of unity.

With comradely greetings,
Chairman of the Executive of the Communist International.
G. Zinoviev.
"Russian Press Review."

ROBERT MINOR

Will Speak on the Open Shop and What it Means.

ROBERT MINOR, whose cartoons in great American daily newspapers and in the more radical magazines, and whose stories written on various European battle-fronts, and in Moscow and Berlin during the Revolution, have made him famous as a writer, is coming to this city. He is announced to lecture on "THE OPEN SHOP A MODERN RETURN TO SLAVERY."

MINOR is a hearty advocate of the resumption of trade with Russia as a means of reopening factories and bringing employment to the unemployed. He maintains that the Russian market is the greatest field for the sale of American manufactured products that can be found in the world for many years to come, and that it would be a suicidal policy for Americans to permit that trade to be monopolized by European governments to the exclusion of the United States. The past policy of refusing the enormous potential trade of Russia Minor declares to be the policy of fear and ignorance that has brought unnecessary business stagnation and consequent suffering to the laboring masses of the United States.

MINOR himself lived through the greater portion of the Russian Revolution in Moscow and later was an eye-witness of the Berlin uprising of Communists. He made the personal acquaintance of the leaders of the Russian Soviet Republic and watched that peculiar form of state grow into its present strength. He calls it a "new form of civilization" and believes that it cannot be destroyed but must be dealt with.

MINOR declares that the International financial interests responsible for the prevention of trade with Russia, are at the same time using the business depression for the purpose of destroying labor unionism in the United States. Minor is a firm believer in labor unionism, which he has seen grow to enormous strength in European countries. He tells of what he calls a "spy system" that he says has grown to immense proportions in the United States, permeating every union and every important industrial plant. Spies, he says, are used to demoralize employees, and provoke trouble at moments inopportune to the workers. He claims to demonstrate that the old "provocateur system" of Czarist Russia has been adopted in many American plants, to the demoralization of industry, the degradation of employees and to the promotion of a very dangerous hysteria in the minds of many employers out of whom the spies extract a luxurious living.

MINOR contends that the Open Shop Drive has an aim impossible of attainment, but that if attainable it would reduce American industry to a condition of slavery.

At a mass meeting to be held at Remmey's Hall, E. 55 and Woodland on April 26th evening, at 8 P. M., Minor will deliver his lecture under the auspices of the National Defense Committee of Chicago. Admission is free. Minor will also lecture on the same subject at Akron on the 27th and at Canton on the 28th.

LA CONQUISTA
Italian Labor Paper
Comrades wanted as Agents
Passyunk Station
Box 2521
Philadelphia, Pa.

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These low prices enable you to help in their distribution. Order a dollar's worth or more and circulate them among the workers.

THE TOILER
3207 CLARK AVE. CLEVELAND, OHIO

Problems Before The Railroaders.

By E. K. HENRY.

On Monday, May 9 of this year, at Savannah, Ga., will begin the regular bi-ennial convention of the Order Of Railroad Telegraphers, one of the so-called "Sixteen Associated Recognized Standard Railroad Labor Organizations." This organization has a membership of approximately 80,000. While the telegraphers enjoy a "key" position in the railroad industry, they have been in the past somewhat backward in taking advantage of their tactical position, due to the fact that the majority of the membership are rather conservative and uninformed as to the significance of the labor movement in its wider aspects. There are many reasons for this, one of which is that most of the telegraphers live widely separated from each other in way stations and block offices, over the country, and are unable to meet with their fellow workers to discuss and consider the burning labor questions of the day. Although they have access to the telegraph, this medium is but a poor makeshift for direct contact with their fellow workers in meetings.

But while the majority membership is very conservative and in some few cases reactionary, there is a wide-awake minority of fellow workers in this organization who at all times keep themselves informed on the more important labor questions, both national and international, and who are ever ready to bring enlightenment to their comrades in the railroad industry. These fellow workers can not be too much commended for the great work they are doing. Self-sacrificing, they at all times should merit the support of increasing numbers of the rank and file.

At the Savannah convention, so we are informed, there will be taken up on the floor many questions which are now agitating the labor movement of the world. According to their importance, I classify them as follows:

1. Affiliation with the new International Council of Trade and Industrial Unions the counter organization to the "yellow" Amsterdam International Federation of Trade Unions, which was organized in Moscow, Russia, July 15, 1920, with a membership of approximately 10,000,000 workers. This new international is the only organization of labor unions sufficiently class-conscious and able to combat the rapidly reactionary policy of the infamous Labor Bureau of the League of Nations, of which the Amsterdam International is but an offshoot.
2. Trade with the Russian Soviet Government that production in industry may be resumed and the widespread unemployment now existing be alleviated.
3. Active support, both moral and financial, in the frame-up cases of Mooney and Billings, Sacco-Vanzetti, which are now being exposed in all their rottenness. The recent confessions of the perjured witness McDonald, and the disclosures made by many who took part in the frame-up of Mooney and Billings, are now stirring the labor movement to action as never before. The Sacco-Vanzetti case, which from all appearances will be a second Mooney case, is but another indication of the depth to which the master class descend in their dastardly desires to imprison or take the lives of active class-conscious workers.
4. The One Big Union of the railroad industry. This was considered at last convention but failed for lack of support.
5. And last but by no means least, better support of the radical labor press. This means the papers that are not "yellow"—THE TOILER, TRUTH, etc.

That the introduction of these questions will create great interest and be the cause of much heated debate in the convention is not to be doubted. That they will be taken up for consideration in other railroad union conventions we may feel assured. Even though they may fail of passage, their being brought to the attention of the rail workers will do much to enlighten the workers employed in the industry and clear the way for a much better understanding of the significance of events in the future. We would suggest to all readers of THE TOILER that they bring this to the attention of telegraphers and other railroad workers with whom they may be acquainted, pointing out to them where they may procure full information on the above questions, or still better, that they hand them pamphlets and other printed matter covering the subjects which we have enumerated.

UNEMPLOYED MEETING
Sunday, April 17
ACME HALL, 2.30 P. M.
Tom Clifford, Speaker.

WHY SHOULDN'T FARMERS STRIKE

By Mac MacDowell.

Every morning before daylight, thousands of farmhouses begin to stir. Lanterns flicker from house to barn; cows are fed, and then bucket by bucket, can by can, and carload by carload, a great river of milk begins flowing towards the city.

This great milk flow supplies 21 per cent of the Protein, 27 per cent of the Fat, 5 per cent of the Carbohydrates consumed by the people of the United States every day. But these figures only show the importance of milk as a carrier of the food elements. Modern research in the physiology of nutrition has shown that, besides the food elements, other substances known as vitamins are absolutely necessary to sustain life. Many eminent professors bring evidence to prove this and further to show that milk is without doubt our most important food. WHY? Because it contains BOTH forms of these vitamins and because both forms are essential. Look at the ads in any street car by a yeast firm. Yeast contains but one form.

Milk then is a mighty weapon in the hands of working farmer. He holds in his hands the health and happiness of the nation. WHY SHOULDN'T HE USE THIS WEAPON TO STRIKE THE MIDDLEMEN FOR A LIVING WAGE FOR HIS LABOR?

Every morning before daylight thousands of city homes begin to stir. Gas jets flicker from room to room. Men are fed. Then, one by one, they go out into the street and become part of the great river of men pouring into the hungry factories.

This great army of men supplies 100 per cent of the necessities of life manufactured from the raw products of the Earth, which are consumed by the people of the United States every day. Without the labor of these men, all industry would stop. Babies would die of cold. The city would be dark. Transportation cease. Starvation stalk abroad.

Labor power then is a mighty weapon in the hands of the city worker. He holds the health and happiness of the nation. WHY SHOULDN'T HE USE THIS WEAPON TO STRIKE THE BOSSES FOR A LIVING WAGE FOR HIS LABOR?

What's the difference? There none. The farmer who "owns" his farm EXCEPT for the mortgage on it; who "owns" his machinery EXCEPT for the notes against it, is not as well off as the city worker who uses the boss's machinery. The organized action of the city worker limits his hours—the farmer's day is limited by sunlight.

It's up to you city workers to take off the boss's smoked glasses and see the farmer as he is. Forget that infantile stuff about his being "petty bourgeois". He is about a hundred years behind you in organization. So when he strikes, as he did through his milk organization of New York in 1916, DON'T join the scab army of the N. Y. "Times" by yelling about babies not getting their milk. Pull your belts tight around your guts and refuse to take any milk until the farmer wins.

It is about time that you learned the importance of the agrarian workers to your own success in the struggle against "Middlemen"—or Capitalists as you know them. When the final struggle comes. When the STRIKE is not for a living wage but for the ownership of all industry, success will be possible only if the workers of the farms understand the struggle. That understanding will be possible if they are made to feel the support of the city workers in their preliminary struggles against their "Middlemen". You must support them even if they seem unorthodox to your more revolutionary viewpoint.

"Which is more sacred—private profits or human life?" That is the question to-day. It is the question that is answered in

'Open the Factories'

Mary Marcy's latest pamphlet. Shall we starve because there are no profits for Capitalists? Shall we use soldiers to shoot down starved and desperate workers? Or shall we disregard the howls of the profiteers and open the factories and feed the workers? YOU are going to help answer that question. Whatever you decide it must be answered. Better read "Open the Factories" and learn how to answer it rightly, scientifically. 10c per copy—12 copies \$1. Order of The Toiler.