

## The Red Glow of Bolshevism

By David Goldstein

So lurid is the red glow in the sky of Russia that the eyes of the whole world are centered on the land of the Czar. There is fear in every country that Bolshevism will over-run the world as the "Scourge of God" with his hordes over-ran the center of civilization some fifteen centuries ago.

The nickname, Bolshevism, given to the modern "Scourge of God," has somewhat obscured its identity. Yet to those who know, Bolshevism is only another name for Socialism—Socialism applied. It is carrying out the doctrine of Marx and Engels as set forth in their "Communist Manifesto," "Das Kapital," "Anti-Dühring" and the other authoritative writings of these fathers of modern Socialism. It is the self-same Socialism that Pope Leo XIII condemned so long ago as 1878, when from his watchtower at the center of the moral world he warned civilized peoples, Catholic and non-Catholic, alike, of the movement that was gathering its force for a vital assault upon religion, the family, private property, and the commonwealth. Leo XIII made it plain that the wicked aims of Socialism were the logical outcome of the false doctrines of the rebellion four hundred years ago against the authority of the Vicar of Christ, that had gone on to Liberalism, Atheism and Indifferentism. Together with this there was an increasing arrogance of the rich and their disregard for the rights of the poor.

### A Revolt Against a Revolt

It took a Leo to drive back the fifth century "Scourge of God" and it will take the teachings and the practices set forth by the thirteenth Leo to overcome the Scourge of Bolshevism. When they shall have recognized that the Church of Christ is possessed of power to save off the nest of Socialism, too mighty to be found in human enactments or in the strong hand of the civil power or in military force, let them re-establish that Church in the condition and liberty needed in order to be able to exercise her most salutary influence for the good of society in general. (Leo XIII "Concerning Modern Errors" December 28, 1878.)

What then is this mighty power of which the nations may well be afraid? Surely it is a revolt against the earlier revolt that tore whole nations away from the moral influence of the Holy Mother, the Church. It is a well nigh universal reaction against political tyranny, economic extortion, social iniquity. It is a blind attempt to remedy these evils by a proletarian dominion of society. It seeks by its programme the confiscation of private capital, the abolition of civil and religious authority in marriage; the absolute, compulsory, secularization of education; and by a promise of more of this world's goods and greater leisure it seeks to unite the power of the working class under a dictatorship of its own.

In Russia Bolshevism found a most fertile field for manifesting itself up on a national scale. It was in Russia, where despotic rule had not been their shorn of any of its power by a parliament, that the proletariat did not die. But democracy, even within these narrow limits is again limited: "The Capitalism to Socialism. The advantage was this, the Bolshevik had right to vote or to be voted for"—not been named down, as were their comrades across the border in the Reichstag by their long fight within a parliamentary body, where discussion, personal contact with representatives of all other parties, passing upon specific measures, appointments, appropriations and the other realities of legislative life lead to reform rather than to revolution. No, the red glow of Bolshevism had not lost what the Russian Premier calls its "almost exclusively Soviet habits" as had their comrades in other lands. Ah! but the Russians knew their Marx.

It is interesting to reflect that during the World's Fair in Chicago (1893) there was exhibited the first translation made of the book "Das Kapital," the Socialists delight to call the "Bible of the Working Class" from the German into the Russian, 1872. As the Russian dreads millions of peasants, he has no rival. Louis C. Fraina, a Bolshevik leader who was given a term in our Federal prison for conspiring to defeat the operation of the selective draft law, is good authority: "Marx is the theoretical instrument of the proletarian revolution; it is the world."

Some interesting experiences in freedom have been made by the Bolsheviks. And the restoration of Marx that led to the discovery "that behind its real character is an instrument of the screen of liberty lurks, in fact, revolutionary action." Ludwig Love, editor of the "New Yorker Volkszeitung," a Socialist daily, adds his testimony: "While in New York every one press became necessary to the liberty of Leon Trotsky's speeches became a discussion of scientific Socialism, a profession of faith in the theories of Marx."

Just a glance at the speed with which the "dictatorship of the proletariat" sprung into power will show how well the Bolsheviks know their Marx. When the Czar was overthrown and the Constituent Assembly was organized the Marxians found themselves in the minority. They know that to meet on equal terms with representatives of other classes of their country would inevitably lead to compromise on specific legislative statutes. Surely the attack upon every promise of political participation of organic society is being carried out by the majority of vastated Russia but the lurid glow of the German Socialists, but the Russians would carry it to its logical end—a course to chaos. To Catholics the call real Socialist revolution. So with bayonets to promote the principles and onsets and machine-guns the determined to broke up the Pope Leo XIII. Only so shall our democratic Constituent Assembly, of well beloved America be safe from the which they were a part, declaring parliamentary government to be a "deep" tion upon the working class. Then was his upon. They set up Soviets, councils made up of delegates representing shop workers, peasants, and soldiers. What To do?

### Seek Class-less Society

To a proper understanding of the Bolsheviks, it is necessary to know, first diplomats who hope for an early agreement of all, that the Socialist aim is a "classless" and big trade relations with the

restwhile condemned... It is to classes that Socialists attribute all the evils of society, the very "evil" existence of the State itself, the subjugation and exploitation of the workers, the domination of the workers by capitalism. Socialists hold that but one class can justly claim the right to exist at all, namely, the working class, whose historic mission is to wrest control of government from the hands of the property owning class and thus to "expropriate the expropriators". To this end, says Nikolai Lenin, Premier of the Russian Soviet Republic, "we must adhere to the brief, sharp, exact and vivid formula of Marx, the dictatorship of the proletariat."

So it was that Russia reacted immediately from the tyranny of one despotism to the tyranny of another. However, let us permit an authority to defend this new regime: "The dictatorship of the proletariat is a revolutionary recognition of the fact that the proletariat alone counts, and no other class has any rights. The dictatorship of the proletariat places all power in the control of the proletariat, and weakens the bourgeoisie, makes them incapable of any concerted action against the Revolution. Organized in a dictatorship of the proletariat, the Revolution unhesitatingly and relentlessly pursues a task of reconstructing society on the basis of communist Socialism." ("Revolutionary Socialism," p. 214.)

Since "no other class has any right" upon gaining control of the government at Petrograd Lenin and his followers established, forthwith, a "Council of the People's Commissaries." One of its divisions "The Supreme Council of National Economy," was given authority to execute the will of the proletariat—to "confiscate, requisition, sequester, and syndicate different branches of industry and commerce. Complete expropriation has not yet been carried out, in some cases, it was found, by experience, that the "class struggle" had not up-to-date sufficiently developed in the workers the talents for directing industry and commerce on a major scale. The Bolsheviks give their reasons for some little delay in the completion of their programme: "Not all capitalists have been expropriated," says "The Class Struggle" (New York, Sept.-Oct., 1918), "the employer or owner in many cases being retained as a director, but his rights as owner have been abrogated and his 'profits' rigidly limited."

The expropriation of the expropriators proceeded as follows: All State debts annulled. All foreign debts repudiated. All owners of repudiated State notes up to 10,000 rubles shall be given an annual interest. All savings banks accounts "not obtained through actual labor" subject to the Commissaries' right of annulment. All gold in money or ingots, confiscated. All mines, shaftworks, living and immovable property about the works, are confiscated. All "private property" in land is abolished forever, "without compensation. All agricultural machinery and implements and live stock are confiscated and declared a State monopoly. All factories declared to be the property of the Soviets. Then comes the master stroke, the abolition of the State itself. True to the Marxian form the political government is dissolved, for "the government of persons is replaced by an administration of things." Henceforth there are to be no political divisions such as wards, counties, states. The Bolsheviks elect their representatives to the Soviets, from the workmen, peasants, and soldiers, and the government is to be a parliament of workers, peasants, and soldiers.

But democracy, even within these narrow limits is again limited: "The following persons have neither the right to vote or to be voted for"—namely, those who employ hired labor, those who are receiving an income without working, those who are employees of religious worship, and those who are employees of all other parties, passing upon specific measures, appointments, appropriations and the other realities of legislative life lead to reform rather than to revolution. No, the red glow of Bolshevism had not lost what the Russian Premier calls its "almost exclusively Soviet habits" as had their comrades in other lands. Ah! but the Russians knew their Marx.

A stroke of genius was revealed in the make-up of the delegate body of Soviets. One delegate is elected to represent each thousand workmen, and one delegate to represent each one hundred and twenty-five Red Guards; thus the vote of a Red Guard equals the vote of eight workmen. The provincial representation is so arranged that the vote of less than half a million the Red Guards equals that of a hundred millions of peasants, and the vote of a million "voluntary" groups of the proletariat is amply safeguarded in the selective what Eugene V. Debs is pleased to call "the first real attempt at actual democracy in the history of the world."

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