

THE NEW MAGAZINE

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ALEX BITTELMAN, Editor

The Week in Cartoons

By M. P. (Hay) BALES



Editor's Notes

By ALEX BITTELMAN

NEWS comes from the Philippine Islands of a revolt in Occidental Negros Province, led by a man called Flor Intrencherado whom the capitalist newspapers choose to call "the self-styled Emperor of the Philippines." The reports declare the uprising squelched, its leader insane, several casualties in dead and wounded, and over 600 arrested by the constabulary.

What is this revolt about? Of this the capitalist press says nothing. Presumably, it is one of those "little affairs" that repeat themselves every now and then, being merely "incidental" to the process of establishing civilization among the Filipinos. But is it so, really?

Only in one newspaper story, coming at the tail end of it, do we find some inkling as to what was actually at the bottom of this latest revolt in the Philippines. We quote:

The revolt is hooked up with general discontent among laborers in the sugar plantations, who live on 40 cents a day.

Which reminds us that one phase of the situation in the Philippines, the most important one perhaps, has been sadly neglected even by the radical sections of American labor. We mean the labor angle of the movement for independence among the Filipinos.

How much attention is the labor press of this country paying to the conditions of the plantation slaves in the Philippines? No attention at all. How often does the labor movement in America discuss the labor movement in the Philippines? Very seldom, if ever. And yet, it is precisely the masses of Filipino workers and peasants that should be of most interest to the labor movement in the United States. Even from the point of view of Filipino independence the toiling masses of the islands represent the most basic and reliable force.

Perhaps this latest revolt of the plantation laborers, who are forced to live on 40 cents a day, will succeed in attracting the attention of American labor to the agrarian and labor phases of the Philippine situation. And when we say this, we do not mean the short attention that the reactionary officials of the American Federation of Labor are paying to Latin America. We do not propose that Matthew Woll and his kind step into the Philippine la-

the struggles of the Filipino workers. No, we mean something entirely different. We mean closer relations between the toiling masses of the United States and the Philippines for common struggle against American capitalism, and, in the first instance, for the complete independence of the Philippine Islands.

BRITISH imperialism is quite definitely and consciously driving towards war upon the Soviet Union. The recent raid of the Soviet commercial offices in London is merely one more link in a long chain of intrigues, maneuvers and provocations, in which the Baldwin government of forged documents are past masters, designed to sharpen the situation and to precipitate a military attack upon the first Workers' and Farmers' Republic.

The excuse given for the police invasion of the Arcos offices is so ridiculous, and obviously manufactured to suit a purpose, that no intelligent person can take it seriously. This alleged hunt for a "lost document" is a fraud on the face of it.

Here is a little news item by the Associated Press from London:

Questioned regarding the police raid on the Soviet house, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the home secretary, told a crowded and animated session of the house of commons today that information sent to him by the secretary of war last Wednesday had satisfied him that a certain official document was or had been in the possession of someone on the premises occupied by Arcos, the Soviet commercial organization.

Now, mark the language of the noble lord. He was satisfied "that a certain official document WAS OR HAD BEEN in the possession of SOMEONE on the premises OCCUPIED by Arcos." And on the basis of this the lord proceeds to raid the official commercial agency of a foreign government.

Has the "document" been found? No, it has not. The above press dispatch continues:

The document in question was not found, but the situation to help the American capitalists crush Sir William reiterated that he was satisfied that it is or was in the Soviet house.

It is this "is-or-was-diplomacy" of a government

that came to power with the help of forged documents that is now threatening the peace of the world. These are desperate maneuvers of bankrupt gamblers trying to embroil the world in a new carnage in the hope of thereby saving their own skins. The working masses of England, America and the world over must not permit this game of the British imperialists to continue. Coupled with the demand of "Hands Off China" must go the demand of "Hands Off the Soviet Union" in such large and powerful volume that the imperialist robbers of Great Britain do not dare to proceed any further with their game which must inevitably bring upon us a repetition of the bloody days of 1914-1918.

PRESIDENT Doumergue of France, accompanied by Briand, his foreign secretary, is now paying a visit to the British Crown. We are being assured that this is a friendly visit at which "incidentally" politics also will be discussed.

Many things are coming up in these incidental political discussions, in which China and the Soviet Union are undoubtedly playing a major part. England has not given up hope of creating a united imperialist front against the Chinese revolution and against the Soviet Union. Chamberlain is therefore working hard to secure the support of France. But the latter has several outstanding grievances against England, among them, British support of Italy against France in the Balkans, British support of German opposition to the French occupation of the Rhineland, etc. French imperialism seems to be quite willing to listen to British overtures provided the latter are accompanied with substantial concessions on these "disputed" points. Having the above in mind, we can understand better the reports that are now coming from London, and which say:

He (Briand) will try to win the British to the French Cabinet's point of view and, according to well informed sources, it is likely that he will succeed with Mr. Chamberlain, because (now read carefully—A. B.) the British in their present far-eastern and Russian entanglements regard the Franco-German disputes as of little consequence.

In other words, Chamberlain is now ready to pe-

(Continued on page 5)

SONG OF THE RED ARMY (Budenny's March)

Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul

I.

Chorus: Lively and cheerful

Red Cav - al - ry are

we, of us brave tales are told: Red Cav - al - ry are

we who sing this chor - us bold: Red ri - ders ea - ger

III.

shot and shell! A red path Com - rades all! Now
storm and stress! A red path too is yours! But

strike stout blows and win the wor - kers' fight! Bud -
Com - rades all, you have a world to win And

Soft
yen - ny's men are daunt - less of heart. (Chorus)
what have you to lose but your chains? "

Repeat

II.

for the fight, Tho' wild the day, tho' dark the night - The

thun - der, The thun - der of the charge.

End

1. Lead on Bud - yen - ny's where the fire is fierce, Thru
2. We fight for you who still must win your way, Thru

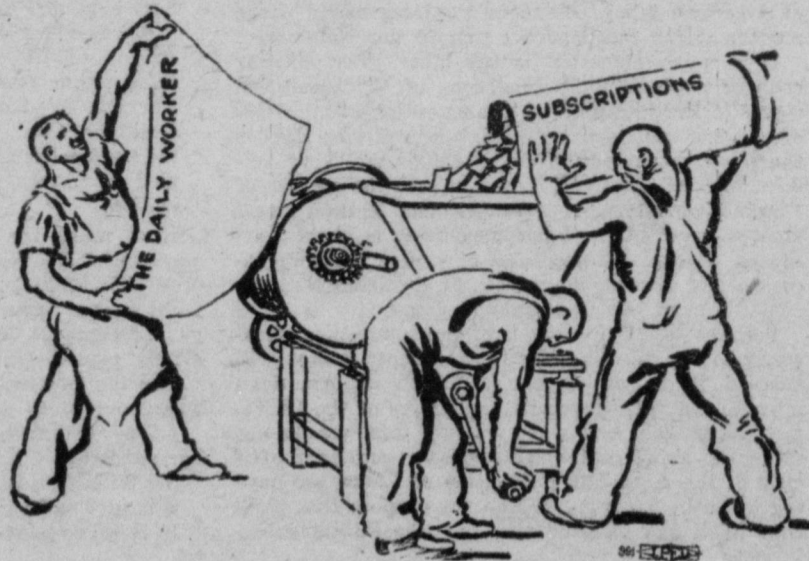


ANOTHER IF

IF every member only took
Our newest party press subscription book
And carried it around where'er he went
He'd make enough each month to pay his rent.
That is—IF every time he met a man he knew
He'd pull his book and make the man come through.
—S. T. HAMMERSMARK.

A GENTLE HINT

Be there a man with poke so slim
Who cannot show a little vim
In digging down for a wad of dough
When asked to help our Daily. Oh!
If such a man indeed be 'live
May he be tickled with one big hive
Until he's called to his final sleep
Where water sizzles and sinners weep.



Where the Red Flag Flies

By J. LOUIS ENGDAHL

HERE we are, about 80 miles from Moscow, to the South, as Philadelphia is from New York, or Milwaukee from Chicago.

Kolomna is one of the oldest towns in the Moscow Province. It is mentioned for the first time in 1177; this town being the last fortified place on the south of Moscow. It played an important part during the battles between Moscow's grand dukes and the Tartars.

"The Guide to the Soviet Union" tells us that the walls of the Kremlin crowned by pinnacles were erected by Italian architects in 1585; that the Pyatnitskiye Gate and the Marinkina Corner Tower are in a specially good condition. It is also declared that the ancient Voskressensky (Resurrection) Church, built about the 13-14th century, and the Uspensky (Assumption) Cathedral, dating with its belfry from 1672, are also worth noticing.

But what we are most interested in is the fact that the Red Flag of the Social Revolution flies over the City Hall (the House of the Soviets); that the Local Committee of the Communist Party is holding its meeting this Saturday afternoon, IN THE CITY HALL, and that the local Communist newspaper, a bi-weekly, The Kolomna Worker, with 4,000 circulation, also has its offices IN THE CITY HALL.

Kolomna will always be memorable to me as the place where I met for the first time a Communist mayor in a city of the Soviet Union. It is the place where I first saw a lower unit of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at work.

We had stopped off at Kolomna on our way to Ozery for a May Day meeting on this Saturday night, the eve of May Day.

In little more than three hours we had made the distance by auto from the Comintern Building in Mokhovaya Street, in Moscow, first stopping at the beautiful building housing the financial department of the Moscow Province to pick up its chief, Alexsei Vaseilevitch Nikolaev, also a member of the Provincial Executive Committee of the Soviets, who was coming along to make the main address in Russian. I was to speak in English for the Communist International and the Workers (Communist) Party of America, and Comrade Gerish, a deportee from America, came along as translator. The chauffeur completed the party.

It feels good to ride in an auto in the Soviet Union. It symbolizes to a great extent the successful struggle of the Russian masses to get off their knees where czarism tried to hold them, and stand erect. The plodding horse with his meager load to market is being supplanted on the road, just as the tractor is lifting the burden of toil on the land.

The district thru which we sped was the truck garden and the dairy country of Moscow. With the coming of May Day here spring is coming into its own and everything is turning green. In the meadows frequently as we passed were great herds of cows, with greater flocks of sheep. The hills rolled lazily toward the horizon, with the woods everywhere plentiful. The peasant still likes to build his home with logs, and there are many indications that the peasant's son likes to follow after him.

The buildings of the summer resorts of the Mos-

cow workers are more modern, setting an example for the peasantry. They are to be found in the hilly and woody country along the Valley of the Moscow River.

We discussed the agriculture of the Soviet Union, its forestry problems, the relations between the city workers and the peasantry, the development of animal husbandry, the housing problem in city and village; the recovery of industry and many other questions as the auto kept up a steady pace of from 40 to 50 miles an hour over a road that was an exceeding revelation to me, who had been told that the highways of the Soviet Union were "no good." It was thus that we came to Kolomna, passing a huge farm implement manufacturing plant on its outskirts as we entered the gates of the city. The plant was probably not as large as the McCormick or International Harvester Plants in Chicago, but its size was, nevertheless, impressive.

The population of Kolomna is set down as 25,000 for 1923. It is claimed that it now has at least 35,000. It boasts a huge machine works, founded in the 60's of the 19th century, where 11,000 workers are now employed.

We stepped out of the car into October Revolution Street before the City Hall that faces a large public park across the highway. We were first greeted by the Commandant of the city. Inside the City Hall we met the assistant mayor and then Comrade Gruschin, the Mayor. He escorted us to the meeting of the Party Committee in the Party's own headquarters on the second floor. On the walls are pictures of Karl Marx, and of the Second Congress of the Communist International and a banner given the party by the trade unions of the city on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, 1898-1923. An organizer was making a report on the condition of the party nucleus in a local factory that turns out military uniforms. There are 150 party members in the factory and the fact that 13 had failed to report in a re-registration was considered a calamity. Only 60 per cent was taking advantage of Marxian lecture courses, which was not considered sufficient. This, however, would be considered an exceedingly high percentage in the United States. We could only remain for a few moments because we had to catch our train for Ozery. But Our Mayor, Comrade Gruschin, got time to point out that the beautiful park across the way had come into existence since the revolution, that the electric and water system in the city were new, and that other important improvements were under consideration. The city owns a fleet of modern auto-buses to transport the workers from their homes to their workshops.

Across the street from the City Hall was the Soviet Hotel, where we got a bite to eat. On another corner was the local branch of the Moscow Bank. Then there was a branch of the Sewing Machine Government Trust, announcing that it was a part of the All-Union Council of National Economy. On the way to the station we saw the new housing program in action. It had been started in 1925. Some buildings, each housing eight families, had already been completed. Others were under course of construction. Thus Kolomna, more than 15 centuries old, was energetically contributing its share toward the building of the new social order on May Day, 1927.

GLIMPSES OF FREEDOM IN AMERICA



The Right to Strike



Free Assemblage



Free Speech



A Job for Every Soldier



Asylum for the Oppressed of Foreign Lands



Industrial Peace

A Heart Cry from Amsterdam

THE position of workers in Bulgaria under the present dominating military fascist clique is painted in the blackest of colors by a press notice published in the "Bulletin of the Amsterdam International," of March 15. Regulation of labor conditions does not exist; the enterprises are unsanitary throughout; the state gives no relief to the unemployed, who number more than one hundred thousand; trade union organizations are persecuted relentlessly. In a word, "the general economic and political reaction is becoming more intolerable."

All this and much more is true: During the past four years, when police repressions, arrests and murderous treatment in the police stations had been unable to smother the revolutionary labor movement, wholesale massacres were resorted to. Many of the foremost workers have been killed off; scores of the best trade union workers have been beaten up among whom was a secretary of the Revolutionary Trade Union Centre—Comrade Jeko Dimitrov.

The Amsterdamers write in their Bulletin that the reformist unions in Bulgaria (numerically weak) carried on a resolute struggle against the military-fascist reaction and were subjected to police persecutions. This is an insolent and shameless lie. The whole world knows that the Bulgarian reformists actively supported the fascists during the coup d'etat of 1923. The well-known reformist trade union leader and member of the Central Committee of the Social-Democratic Party, Kasasov, became a minister in the fascist government. Gregory Danov, another leader and secretary of the reformist trade union centre besides the other thirty socialist deputies entered parliament on a general fascist ticket.

Moreover reformist leaders did not even refrain from personal participation in torturing and killing revolutionary trade union leaders. In Plovdiv, Comrade St. Kiradjiev, the secretary of the Tobacco Workers' Union, who was very popular among the revolutionary workers, was killed by the reformists. In Tatar Pasardjik, Ivan Iliev, the well-known theoretician of the reformist trade union movement himself directed the torturing and killing of hundreds of revolutionary workers and peasants in the September days of 1923. All this the Amsterdam leaders know perfectly well.

Last year when the reformists organized the so-called Balkan Conference in Sofia, the Bulgarian workers through their independent trade unions demanded that the question of the White Terror in the Balkans be included in the agenda of the conference. Sassenbach and Martens who were directing the conference, bluntly rejected this demand, stating that it could not be expected to occupy itself with political questions, referring to the internal affairs of other countries. With the fascist reaction in Bulgaria and all over the Balkan countries, the refusal to discuss this question was paramount to a silent approval. And now we have the edifying spectacle of Amsterdam shedding crocodile tears over the sufferings of the Bulgarian workers.

The assertion of the "Bulletin" that Bulgarian workers are entering fascist organizations is also untrue. In the terrible conditions that have prevailed since the April 1925 massacres, when the Red Trade Unions were destroyed, the Bulgarian workers have begun to organize their own independent class trade unions, and, despite all obstacles, the laboring masses of Bulgaria are entering and supporting them today.

The Great Man Has Passed

By PAT DEVINE



—Sketched by Boardman Robinson.

THE leader of his majesty's opposition and erstwhile leader of the Independent Labor Party in Britain is gracing America with his austere presence. "Ramsay Mac" as he was lovingly called, has had a most adventurous career during which the traditional diplomacy, for which he is notorious, enabled him to bluff the rank and file of the I. L. P.

In the years preceding the formation of the Communist Party of Great Britain, many present members of that Party were members of the I. L. P. They constituted a Left Wing that bitterly fought the opportunism of MacDonald, Snowden and many others of that ilk.

The big fight at I. L. P. conferences after the Russian Revolution, was on the question of the Second or Third International. A Scottish Conference held in Paisley, adopted practically unanimously the following resolution:

"To disaffiliate with the Second International and affiliate with the Third International." This resolution automatically went on the agenda of the National Conference (representing the British Isles) as the opinion of Scotland.

"Ramsay Mac" and his colleagues knew the overwhelming feeling in the I. L. P. was against the Second International . . . and that the resolution as it stood, would be adopted. Accordingly, they put on their thinking caps in order to devise some scheme for surmounting the difficulty.

The National Conference saw the results of this thinking. When the Standing Orders Committee reported on the resolution they stated it was a double barreled one . . . dealing with two distinctly different questions. They therefore recommended that two resolutions be made of it, namely:

1. "To disaffiliate with the Second International."
2. "To affiliate with the Third International."

The first resolution was unanimously adopted. It is a matter of fact, however, that for years after that decision, Ramsay still remained an official of the Second International. Treachery and double dealing have always been his stock in trade.

On the Second resolution, the now historic 21 points evolved. After much wrangling and misinformation, the I. L. P. decided (some time after) to give allegiance to the 2½ or Vienna International.

The Left Wing left the Independent Labor Party at the Southampton Conference, and became part of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

The evil genius of all the right wing fights was the "saintly" Ramsay, who never stopped his bitter attack on the progressive elements inside and outside of his party.

Opposition to his policy was being built up by the Left Wing inside the I. L. P. once more. The Wheatleys, Maxtons, Buchanons, Lansburys, etc., etc., began to definitely oppose his blatant opportunism.

With the great influx of voters to the British Labor Party, Ramsay's prestige as a National figure increased. The extreme tendencies of his followers became a nuisance. How could he prove to the capitalists that he could run capitalism better than they, if his army of back benchers inside Parliament were so bitterly class war in their attitude.

At last he found a remedy! With the cooperation of Henderson, (the labor member of the capitalist war cabinet), Thomas (the treacherous leader of the Railwaymen,) and Snowden, (the Liberal statesman who always fought militant working class action), he devised the scheme of expelling Communists from the Labor Party. This was carried by the inner leadership of the Labor Party, and an attempt was made to have it enforced in the local labor parties.

Resolutions are easily passed but not so easily put into practice. The majority of the Labor Party

were against Communist exclusion, and refused to expel them from the Party.

Time passed with the Communists still in the Labor Party, and Ramsay fighting like the mischief to keep them out.

The Labor Party was returned to Parliament in 1924 as the second biggest single party in Britain. No party without the assistance of the Liberals could take over the government. The Liberals decided to support MacDonald and the Labor Party went into office. The Cabinet selected caused much fighting because of the obvious passing over of many of the best working class leaders for men like Lord Thomson, and Trevelyan, who were nothing more or less than glorified liberals. The hand of MacDonald was clearly seen in the composition of the Cabinet which in reality was a coalition between Liberals and Laborites.

During its brief term of office, the Labor Party passed the Dawes Plan—which enslaved Europe and placed the hegemony in the hands of Wall Street. The Transport Strike saw MacDonald threaten the leaders with the enforcement of the Emergency Powers Act, which would have totally crippled the unions and placed all power in the hands of the employers. No definite bill was submitted to Parliament that was an attempt to concretely better the working class conditions. With the passing of the Dawes Plan, the Liberal support of MacDonald departed, making a General Election necessary.

MacDonald, instead of going to the country on a question of labor principals, allowed the election to be fought on the question of the "Campbell prosecution" now famous as the "Don't shoot case."

It is proper to mention that during his period of office, MacDonald allowed the shooting down of the natives of Iraq. Militarism was nourished instead of starved. The Labor Party passed out without bettering its position.

During a bitter fight on the "Socialism in our time" I. L. P. resolution between the Maxtons, Wheatleys and the Campbells, Stevens and MacDonald, an article appeared in the Glasgow Forward—foremost Socialist Weekly—designating the Left Wing as "easie oosie asses." MacDonald was definitely fighting to discredit the militant section of his Party.

Much water has flown under the bridge since then. The General Strike saw MacDonald once more actively sabotaging the workers. Not one word of encouragement came from his lips during that most important period. Rather was he doing all he could to break down the morale of "his people" who by their actions were proving how incapable they were of following a milk and water reactionary leader. When Sir John Simon stated the General Strike was unconstitutional, MacDonald hastened to disassociate himself from it . . . he being a constitutionalist.

The raid on the Russian Trade Delegation in London is only a continuation of the anti-Soviet tactics of the British Die-hards . . . rationalised by MacDonald. As a result of the raid much forged material will be "discovered" that will be of use to the right wing reactionaries in their fight against the progressive workers of Britain.

It is significant that the raid should come just as the Communists were mobilizing the workers for action against the notorious trade union bill now before Parliament. MacDonald used the last Government Blue Book—on Communist activity—in his fight to expel the Communists from the Labor Party. The impending disclosures are most opportune for "Ramsay" who must once more fight those progressive elements who still believe in the working class fighting against all inroads into their hard won Trade Union Rights.

Was it chance that led MacDonald to America at this time, I WONDER?

REVISIONISM WINS A RECRUIT

By WILL DE KALB

MR. HILAIRE BELLOC, the English essayist who is kept as busy as a professional state's witness at a Communist trial defending the Roman Catholic Church with his suave pen, announced in his bi-weekly statement to the clerical press—syndicated at regular "big-name" rates—that he has gone over to the ranks of the revisionists of history. This will come as a shock to Rupert Hughes, W. E. Woodward, H. G. Wells, H. W. Van Loon, and other members of that scholastic group, familiar though they may be with the catholic publicist's opportunistic precocity.

"Let us rewrite history!" appeals Mr. Belloc, with boyish enthusiasm. If he did not qualify it by attempting to grind his ever dull axe, a liberal-minded person might throw in his support with a doubting eye. But Mr. Belloc makes no attempt to conceal the motive underlying his new move in affiliating with a school of historians much hated and attacked by his cassocked pagan contemporaries.

"It is high time we began to react," he says. "We must begin to rewrite and to reread the history of our own past (i.e., that of the Catholic Church—dismal reading for the catholic!) and of the past of Europe as a whole. Catholic history is simply true history (!) for it was the Catholic Church that made Europe. . . and if you read the story of Europe or England in the light of anti-catholicism, you get its whole form distorted." To this, I can only add "sic!" I need not ridicule the paragraph; its author has already done so.

With holy horror, Hilaire relates how he was brought up on a history book written by "old Frank Bright, a typical Oxford book, profoundly anti-catholic in its whole presentation of the past." If Belloc's parents had been good catholics, they would have sent him to the Jesuit University of Dublin, where all his schoolbooks would have been strictly kosher. However, with much sadness and regret in his wavering voice, the medieval apologist recounts the poisoning of his mind by what I consider an unimportant, thought fair, (to the bourgeoisie) history book.

That Belloc's mind is poisoned, I cannot, in view of his literary activity, gainsay; but I think it is more accurate philologically to classify it as narcotized.

An analytical study of the essays written by the British lay churchman leads one to suspect that he has never read any educational work that took its place in the bookstalls sans the imprimatur of one of the pope's business agents. Belloc is very naive in despairing his partial education, acquired by reading expurgated books. Education, I know, is a process looked upon with much fear and disdain by those who sell the gospel over the bargain counter; yet one hardly expects an apologist, clever essayist though he may be, to speak so frankly.

One can easily imagine the kind of history Mr. Belloc and his business friends would write. It would be quite an orderly thing, I assure you. The story would begin some 5,900 years ago, for a catholic "revisionist" would consider it an honor and a duty to plagiarize Genesis. A few clerical scholars are in doubt of this point; some are sponsoring the blasphemous belief that the world is more than six thousand years old. But I doubt if this would make much difference, for Mr. Belloc wants his history book to be strictly conformistic.

It would proceed onward to 33 B. C. almost like a popularization of the Old Testament—Dr. Will Durant, of "Story of Philosophy" fame, and Bruce Barton, the puritanic discover of The man, and The book, could be valuable assistants here—except that the forged predictions of the prophets concerning the coming of the Messiah might be touched up a bit, to appear more convincing.

The scores of minor contradictions, of strictly scientific and historical importance, would have to be ironed out, of course. But there are always Jesuit and Dominican lackeys handy, capable of the task. And no doubt Dr. James J. Walsh, who is always a stickler for accuracy when it doesn't mean much, will insist upon the Joshua fable being made to harmonize with current astronomical theories. For

(Continued on page 6)

THE MINER GOES ON STRIKE

By H. G. WEISS

Down in the bowels of the earth he digs for coal,
Wielding a pick above his sweating face;
There is no room within the narrow space
To stand upright; he burrows like a mole;
And like a mole is all but blind; the light
Stuck in his cap is burning red, not white;
The dust is stifling in the grimy place;
He coughs and spits . . . Thank God, they quit tonight!
Come five o'clock; he gathers up his tools
And trudges to the cage—two miles or more.
Tomorrow they'll be bringing up the mules
And sending in the gunmen by the score.
The wife and kids—aw hell—he didn't know—
Step on it lively, buddy, up we go!

The Conflict Between Italy and Yugo-Slavia

By B. BOSHKOVITCH

UNDER the auspices of French diplomacy and for the protection of the "peace" treaties against Bulgaria, Hungary, and Austria, the Little Entente was founded, that union of the three states, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Roumania with the help of which France desired to guarantee its hegemony in the Balkans. But France's rival in the Balkans is Great Britain, which likewise endeavors by all means at its disposal to strengthen its influence there. Besides the imperialism of France and Great Britain, however, an aggressive policy is also carried on in the Balkans by fascist Italy, which has the advantage over its greater competitors of being far nearer the scene of action. In collaboration with the British imperialists, those of Italy have established themselves in Bulgaria and are constantly augmenting their influence on Roumania, Greece, and Hungary. In its endeavors to convert the Adriatic into an Italian sea, Italy has already laid hands on Fiume and is on the way to convert Albanian on the Board of this society.

Italian capital has already found a firm footing in Albania, the foreign trade of which country presented the following aspect in 1925: 75 per cent, or three quarters of the turnover fell to the share of Italy, 21 per cent to that of Greece, and 3 per cent to that of Yugoslavia. In 1926, the First Albanian Bank was founded with a capital of 12½ million gold francs. Of this capital, 50 per cent is Italian, 23 per cent Albanian, 15 per cent Swiss, 8 per cent Yugoslavian, and 4 per cent Belgian. The chairman and two of the managers are Italians. One half of the reserves is deposited with Roman banks. Furthermore, 18 months back, a group of Italian capitalists, headed by the well-known financier Mario Alberti, concluded a loan agreement with the Albanian minister of finance for a sum of 50 million gold francs, to run for 40 years at a rate of 7½ per cent, the annual service including amortization amounting to about 8 millions.

Last year a Society for the Economic Promotion of Albania, created mainly with Italian capital, was granted concessions for forest exploitation in the Skutari region, besides concessions for the construction of railways and roads of strategic importance in a possible attack on Yugoslavia. There is only a single Albanian on the board of this society.

By means of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. and the Anglo-Dutch Royal Dutch Shell, Great Britain has succeeded in extending its influence to Albania. In connection with the exploitation of the naphtha sources there was once lively competition in Albania between British and Italian interests, but this ended with the acquisition of extensive naphtha concessions by Italy, too.

The interests of Italy and Yugoslavia are diametrically opposed in Albania. In June, 1924, there was a revolution in that country which destroyed the power of Achmed Bey Zogu, the adherent of the Serbs, representing the interests of the feudal landowners (Beys). This revolution, indeed, was directed against the power of the Beys and against the remnants of medieval feudalism and favored the confiscation of large landed property and the distribution of the land among the peasants.

At the head of the new government was Fan Noli, who was backed by Italy. The old government of



Achmed Bey Zogu fled to Yugoslavia, whence it managed with the full support of Belgrade to depose Fan Noli and to restore the old regime of the landowners. This connivance has been admitted by the Yugoslavian foreign minister, Dr. M. Nintchitch. In the Paris paper "Le Matin" of February 16th, 1927, Dr. Nintchitch openly declared that at the close of 1924 his government financed and organized the overthrow of Fan Noli. Finally, however, Italy succeeded in winning over the Yugoslav puppet Achmed Bey Zogu, by which means the Italian fascists paralysed the anti-Italian policy of the Albanian government.

For a time it seemed as though the Yugoslavian government of Pashitch and Nintchitch would succeed in coming to an understanding with the Italians under the influence of British diplomacy. According to the agreement of 1924, Italy and Yugoslavia had each its separate sphere of influence in Albania and in other disputed regions of the Adriatic. Yugoslavia renounced its claims on Fiume in favor of Italy and was in its turn allotted the entire coastal stretch of Dalmatia. The Serbian government agreed to this settlement so as to have a free hand in regard to some disputed points in Macedonia and on the Egean Sea in relation to Bulgaria and Greece, in which connection it was desirable that all available Yugoslavian forces be concentrated on the Eastern borders. In Yugoslavia's foreign politics, the "Egans" got the better of the "Adriatics."

Very soon, however, it became apparent that Italy had no intention of sharing its sphere of influence in Albania with Yugoslavia. The fascist government

of Italy made use of the rebellion of certain clans of the Roman-Catholic persuasion in the North of Albania in November 1926 for the purpose of forcing Achmed Bey Zogu to sign the agreement of Tirana between Italy and Albania. By means of this treaty Italy gained full control over the foreign policy of Albania.

This agreement between Italy and Albania is backed by Great Britain. Both in the "New York Tribune" and in the "Matin" it was reported that on the occasion of a meeting at Leghorn between Chamberlain and Mussolini, the former promised that Great Britain would not prevent Italy from laying its hands on Albania. British diplomacy works behind the scenes. It is influencing Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece in an anti-French sense. Under the lead of British diplomacy, fascist Italy is driving a wedge into the Little Entente, France's main prop in the Balkans, by ratifying the so-called Besarabian protocol. The yet unofficial union between Italy and Roumania will mean the secession of the latter state from the Little Entente and the complete isolation of Yugoslavia.

The agreement between Italy and Albania caused an acute government crisis in Yugoslavia. Indirectly this treaty was directed against France and also against Turkey, which particularly suited Great Britain, since the latter has long endeavored to alienate Yugoslavia from its allegiance to France and to draw it into the British net. As the protector of Yugoslavia, France cannot contemplate with equanimity this advance of Italian fascism, which already threatens the French interests in Syria and North Africa. Nor can Turkey remain inactive in view of the feverish zeal of the Italian fascists, which also menaces Asia Minor.

Isolated Yugoslavia now begins to think of an approach to the Soviet Union. True, the parliamentary speech of the Yugoslavian Foreign Minister, Dr. Peritch still bears the marks of indecision and half-heartedness as regards Soviet Russia, though under the pressure of public opinion he had finally to own that "the Yugoslavian people would gladly welcome the renewal of relations with the Soviet Union."

The conflict between Italy and Yugoslavia in regard to Albania is therefore of more than local interest; it has acquired great international significance. It augments the tension not only in the Balkans, where an explosion may ensue on the slightest provocation, but also in other parts of the world. True, the imperialist powers are at present endeavoring to prevent any premature outbreak of hostilities in the Balkans, since they are at present still occupied with China. It is a moot point, however, whether they will be able to quench the spark once kindled in the nick of time.

The working masses in Yugoslavia already scent the smell of gun-powder on the Albania frontier and are therefore redoubling their exertions against the outbreak of a new war. In this connection they reckon on the indispensable help of the international proletariat. Thus supported, the working masses of the Balkan countries will be able to take up a successful fight against war, against imperialism, and in favor of the Balkan Federation of Peasants and Workers' Republics.

EDITOR'S NOTES

(Continued from page 1)

mit Briand considerable freedom of action with Germany, since the Franco-German dispute has all of a sudden become "of little consequence," in order to secure for England greater freedom of action against China and against the Soviet Union. In fact, this is how the press dispatch concludes (Constantine Brown in the Chicago Daily News):

The British have already won the French to their side regarding China and expect that M. Briand will confirm their present policy. In the same way they expect him to promise full support in the coming dispute with the Soviet Republic, which last week's raid on the Soviet house in London made inevitable.

There is the whole story of the present "friendly" visit of the imperialist rulers of France to the imperialist rulers of England. It is to patch up comparatively "minor" differences, such as the fate of the Balkans and the well being of Germany, in order to concentrate with combined forces against the major enemy of the present moment. This major enemy in the eyes of world imperialism are the workers and peasants of China and the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union.

The danger of war is here. The conspirators against the peace of the world are carrying on their damnable intrigues without let-up or interruption. Hence, the efforts of the working class and all enemies of imperialism must be doubled and tripled to prevent this danger from becoming a reality.

FOLLOWING the report of Henry L. Stimson, personal representative of President Coolidge in Nicaragua, that "the way is now open for the development of Nicaragua along the lines of peace, order

and ultimate self-government," there comes the news of a bloody encounter between American marines and some sections of the liberal-troops. The casualties reported thus far are fourteen liberal soldiers and two American marines dead, and several wounded.

This is Mr. Stimson's conception of peace, order and ultimate self-government. This is the peaceful way in which President Coolidge is assisting the big American bankers in establishing their rule in Nicaragua. This is supposed to be not brutal imperialism but mere protection of American lives and property.

When incidents of this kind occur, the one to blame is not the American government but the broken up bands of liberal troops who refuse to be disarmed and crushed by American marines. When Nicaraguans, or Mexicans, or Porto Ricans or Filipinos refuse to be invaded by American military forces and governed by a dictatorship of American generals or admirals, the responsibility for whatever happens is always placed upon the people who refuse to submit to the merciful rule of American imperialism: And this is called democratic and enlightened justice.

Very little is now being said in our capitalist press of what has actually happened to Nicaragua as a result of the recent American intervention. If the truth were told, everybody would know that Nicaragua is no longer an independent and free country, that the actual rulers of the land are American bankers who are enforcing their domination with the help of the navy and the marines. Nicaragua has become a colony of American imperialism the same as India is a colony of British imperialism. And the manner of treatment that American imperialism deals out to its colonies is not a bit better than the treatment given to their colonies by British and French imperialism.



WHY, LADY! WHERE IS YOUR MODESTY?

Indeed, we may be proud of our ruling class. It is doing it as well as the older imperialist powers and, maybe better. Let us therefore continue to work towards the end that when the American working class begins to square accounts with its master it will do it as well, if not better, than the most advanced sections of the world proletariat of today.

