

PROBLEMS FACING STRICKEN WORLD

Shall Chaos or Reconstruction in Europe Follow the Great World War?

ANALYSIS OF SOVIET RULE

Cold Reasoning Easily Proves Fallacy on Which the Idea is Based—Demagoguism Its Foundation Stone.

Article XXI.

By FRANK COMERFORD.

Lenine has frequently observed that representative government is a failure. He has insisted that the democratic form of government is debauched and destroyed by the political machine; that political corruption vetoes the will of the people. If Lenine is right in this conclusion, then the bolshevik government in Russia offers just from three to five times as much chance for political corruption as our own form of government. If it is dangerous for the American people to entrust their business to an agent whom they directly elect and who is directly responsible to them, how much more dangerous must it be to turn over the public business to 17 men appointed by a central executive committee, the members of which have been appointed by an All-Russian congress, which All-Russian congress is elected by soviets for whom the people did not vote? Applying this plan to our own government, our congress would be elected by the state legislatures and the aldermen of the cities, then this congress so elected would pick an executive committee of 200, and this committee would elect 17 commissioners to whom would be given the supreme power of the state, both legislative and executive power, the right to make laws, and the authority to enforce the laws.

Democracy or Autocracy?

All down through history two theories of government have been at war. One is that the majority shall rule, the other, that the minority shall rule. The people struggling for freedom have battled for the former; the few seeking special privileges have fought for the latter. The first is democracy, the second autocracy. No compromise is possible; there is no middle ground. These two antagonistic ideas have nothing in common; like parallel lines, they can never meet; in their nature they are separate and apart. The government of the late kaiser of Germany, the government of Nicholas, the autocrat of Russia, were founded on the idea that the minority shall rule. History shows that minority rule has always enslaved the majority. The rule of a minority over a majority means slavery for the many. It is human nature. The principle always works the same result. If it is a political meeting and the minority runs it, the result is a machine and a boss. When it is a nation, you have a bureaucracy and a dictator, deriving his power not from the consent of the governed, but from the bayonets of the army. There may be room for honest differences of opinion between honest men on many questions, but there is not any room for difference of opinion among honest free men on the proposition that minority rule is a menace.

In Article III of the bolshevik constitution we find incontrovertible evidence that the government of soviet Russia is built on the tyrant's stone, minority rule. Section 25 reads: "The All-Russian congress is composed of representatives of city soviets in the ratio of one delegate for every 25,000 voters, and of representatives of the soviets of the provinces in the ratio of one delegate for every 125,000 inhabitants."

Discrimination Against Peasants. No explanation is given for basing the representation in congress from the cities on the number of voters, while the representation in congress from the provinces is based on the number of inhabitants. The words are not synonymous, a voter is an inhabitant of certain age and possessing certain qualifications. An inhabitant is anyone who lives in the province, regardless of age or qualifications. If the word inhabitant is given the same meaning that the word voter is given, then it is apparent that the constitution unjustly discriminates against the "poor peasant." As they have had no general elections in Russia, it is impossible to give the official construction of these two words. If the word inhabitant means any man, woman or child living in the province, the discrimination against the "poor peasant" is just as obvious, although it does not go to the same length. As an illustration, if we read this important provision of the constitution giving to the word inhabitant the same meaning as we give to the word voter, then we see that the voters of the city have one congressman for every 25,000, while the "poor peasants" have one congressman for every 125,000. If we construe the word voter to mean the qualified legal voter, and the word inhabitant to mean any man being living in the province, we learn that the people of the city have one congressman for every 25,000, while the people of the provinces have one congressman for every 125,000 voters. I reach this estimate in the following manner: In the United

States we estimate that there is one voter in every five of the population. This calculation is based upon male suffrage alone, with the voting age fixed at twenty-one years. In Russia both men and women have the suffrage, and the age qualifying one to vote is eighteen years. I, therefore, figure that there would be one voter for every two in population. There is no question about the discrimination against the "poor peasant" and the favoring of the city voter. It is only a question of how much.

Machine Politics.

Lenine may be the idealist some people say he is, but this section of the constitution proves him to be a practical machine politician in his methods. The provision was written to meet a situation. It has a purpose. Lenine has frequently written and spoken about the "poor peasants." He can be forgiven for overworking the phrase. The "poor peasants" make up the great bulk of the population of Russia. It is not bad politics, although it smacks of demagoguery, to speak often and sympathetically of the "suffering poor," particularly when the "poor peasants" make up the majority of one's constituency. Many successful politicians owe their offices to this appeal. In Russia over 80 per cent of the people live on the land—over four-fifths of all the Russians are peasants. Less than one-fifth of the population live in the towns and cities. Measured by his words, Lenine is the friend of the "poor peasant;" by the constitution, their enemy.

As we have seen, the constitution specifically declares that the supreme power of the government is vested in the All-Russian congress. Of course this is true only in theory, for we have read how the All-Russian congress turns the supreme power over to the central executive committee, which in turn surrenders the power to the 17 people's commissars.

The discrimination against the "poor peasant" runs all through the constitution; the bolsheviks are at least consistent. Paragraph "B" of section 53 of the constitution furnishes additional evidence of the conspiracy against the peasants. It reads:

"The provincial soviets are composed of representatives of the city soviets and the rural soviets, one representative for 10,000 inhabitants of the rural districts, and one representative for 2,000 voters in the city."

In the life of the congress it is the same, one representative for 25,000 inhabitants of the country, and one representative for 5,000 voters of the city.

Aim at Disfranchising Peasants.

The governments of the nation, of the regions, of the provinces, are based on the disfranchisement of the "poor peasants." I am wondering if there is any significance in the fact that the people of the city have one representative for a certain number of votes, and the people of the country have one representative for just five times the number. You will note the ratio is always the same: For congressmen it is 25,000 in the city, as against 125,000 in the country; in the regional congress it is 5,000 voters of the city as against 25,000 inhabitants of the country; in the provincial congresses it is one representative for 2,000 voters in the city, one representative for 10,000 inhabitants from the rural districts. Why this five to one? I am wondering how Lenine hit upon the ratio of five to one; is there any connection between this five-to-one discrimination against the "poor peasants" and the ratio of population in Russia between city dwellers and "poor peasants," which is about five to one? It is not difficult to guess the reason for this action. Any American ward politician could furnish the explanation in a minute. All political experience proves that a political machine is best controlled, easiest organized in the cities. Political machines have never been popular in the country districts. The method of the government is a political machine. The control of the machine is insured by disfranchising the "poor peasants." The men who designed the bolshevik constitution knew one thing about practical politics, and that is that cities are accessible to political control, amenable to political influence, ideal for the political machine.

The soldiers and sailors are generally stationed in cities. This gives them the power of city voters. They are not discriminating against, they are favored. Soldiers and sailors are not free agents in the sense the civilians usually are. Civilians have a freedom of thought and action that the military do not enjoy. The soldier's occupation prevents it. First, he is an employee of the government; second, he is under discipline; third, the people's commissars fix his pay, determine the quantity and quality of his food, arrange for the comforts of the barracks; the votes and the bayonets of the military sustain and support Lenine as truly as the military force hold the czar on his throne.

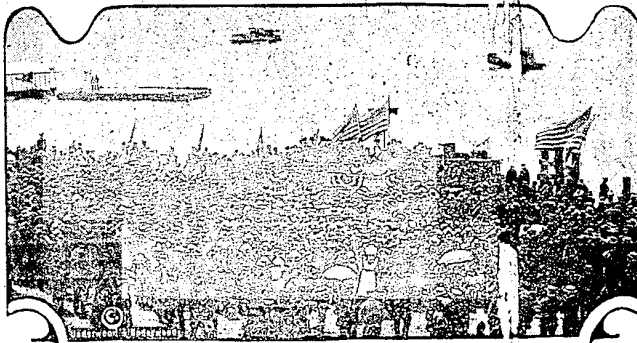
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Philippines Want Independence.

The second Philippine mission seeking independence of the islands at the hands of the United States is now in this country. The delegation includes members of both houses of the Philippine legislature, affiliated with both political parties and representatives of labor and of the financial interests of the islands. The mission, besides appealing to congress, will present the claims of the island people to independence before the national conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties. Pledges of Philippine independence it their platform will be sought.

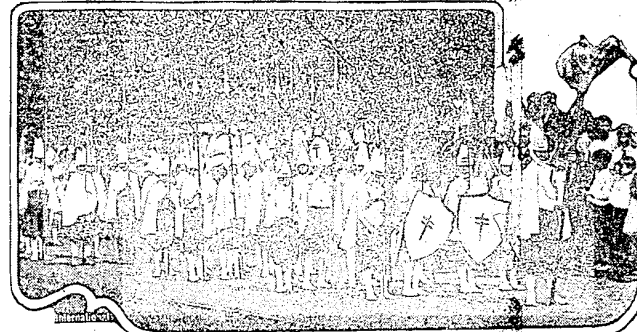
Although more a land of tears than cheers, these happy natives may be easily won over a meeting to the camera man in the newly formed republic. This new nation is fighting actively against the bolshevik. The natives are being cared for by the American committee.

First Seaplane Landing Station



General view during the ceremony which featured the turning over, by Murray Hulbert, commissioner of docks and ferries to Mayor Hyman, a pier at the foot of West 125th street, New York city. It is the first such landing place the city has opened.

Little Health Crusaders Hold Pageant



School children "Health Crusaders" of Washington, D. C., in costume taking part in the health crusade pageant held in central stadium. Major General Ireland, surgeon general of the United States army, presided over the prize-winning squads.

Italian Airmen in Daring Feat



In the estimation of many the recent feat performed by the Italian avirmen, Major Turilli and Lieutenant Ferrarin, in their flight from Rome, Italy, across the uncharted wastes of Turkey, India and East Asia, was a more frightfully dangerous undertaking than the spanning of the Atlantic ocean. Photograph shows the aviators and their machine shortly after arrival at Shanghai. Left to right: Major Turilli, his wife, and Lieutenant Ferrarin.

Typical Natives of Livonia

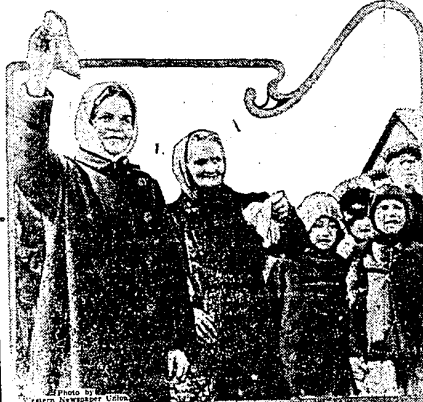


Photo by Mr. Green.

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DEMOCRATS MAKE DECLARATION OF PARTY POLICIES

Platform Adopted by the National Convention at San Francisco

Document as Presented by the Resolutions Committee to the Full Gathering Is Indorsed—No "Wet" or "Dry" Planks Incorporated in the Declaration of the Party's Policies.

San Francisco, July 2.—The following is the text of the platform as finally adopted by the Democratic national convention today:

The preamble sends greeting to President Wilson commending his achievements to the interest of the country and of the whole world. (Loud cheering.)

Protect the administration's conduct of the war, commending the patriotic efforts of American citizens to aid government, and praises the military and naval service with mention of several fighting by name.

Incorporates the language of the platform of the Democratic party of 1912, and calls for the restoration of the Republican system of government.

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