

# Lesson for Millionaire

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## "ANGELS"



THE LATTER part of 1919 found me a young, budding, foreign-trade official in the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce office in New York. One day my telephone rang and a subdued feminine voice asked me to come to tea at her home. She was the widow of a wealthy American philanthropist.

Dr. Frederick C. Howe, then U. S. Immigration Commissioner of New York, was already there when I arrived. The hostess emphasized that what we were about to discuss was strictly confidential.

As leaders of the Single Tax movement, the rapid-talking, bespectacled little lady informed me, they had decided to send a mission to Moscow to persuade Lenin to adopt the Single Tax plan as a solution for the Russian land problem. Would I accompany the mission?

The offer was very

tempting, to say the least. I had come to the United States from Russia nine years earlier as an immigrant boy; I was tremendously interested in the latest developments in the country of my birth and it would be interesting to see with my own eyes what was happening there. But I had to be truthful. "I must counsel against entertaining any hope of succeeding in such a mission," I told my startled hostess and Dr. Howe. "It is doomed to failure. Lenin and his friends will receive you cordially, listen attentively, and laugh inwardly at your naïveté." I added that the Lenin gang had its own plan, from which they would never deviate: confiscation of all the

land by the government and the ultimate enslavement of the agrarian population.

I cheated myself out of a trip to Russia — a Russia dominated by



men determined to revolutionize the world at the expense of its own people.

By 1936, I had completely forgotten the incident. Then something happened to bring it to life under most unexpected circumstances.

In April, 1936, the president of a large machine-building firm sent me to Russia on a business mission.

One Sunday morning I looked out of my hotel window and noticed a line forming in front of the red brick building near the entrance to Red Square which bore the Lenin dictum: "Revolution is a hurricane which sweeps away everything in its path." Glaring headlines in the local press announced the opening that morning of the Lenin Museum. I dressed and walked over to join the queue, shuffling along with the good-natured Muscovites. The queue was growing longer by the second. My American attire attracted many envious glances from the ragged crowd, even though that was the year when Stalin compelled his slaves to mutter: "Life has become better; living has become easier."

WHEN I finally entered one of the rooms, I found a tightly packed crowd listening attentively to a bespectacled guide explain the objects in the room. With his eyes pinned upon a glass-topped case at his left, he was uttering the concluding remarks of what must have been an interesting story:

"And so in 1919, Comrade

Krassin, at the request of Lenin, repaid to the widow of the English capitalist the entire sum in gold, saying: 'The Tsar's debts we don't repay; the debts incurred by us we do repay.'"

As soon as the guide and audience left the room, I made a beeline for the glass-topped case. In it was a double sheet of paper, a bit yellowed with age, dated 1907, written in ink and bearing a large number of signatures, some in pencil, others in red ink. Stalin's signature was one of the very last. The list was headed by Lenin, Trotsky and Kamenev. They pledged on behalf of the Russian Socialist Democratic Labor Party, as the Bolsheviks were then known, to repay to the "English capitalist, Mr. Joseph Fels, without interest," a year from date, the sum of about 1,400 English pounds sterling (approximately \$7,000).

How was this debt incurred? The various letters in the glass-topped case supplied the answer. Unable to hold their 1907 Party convention in Russia, the delegates traveled to London. Many of them, including Lenin and Trotsky, were then living in exile in Switzerland, Austria, England, and France. Stalin was still in Russia. In the Tsarist days, it was comparatively easy to steal across the border. There was no Iron Curtain then.

This was Stalin's first trip to London, made possible by what the guide had called an "English capitalist." The document had it so re-

corded. However, neither the document nor the guide could convince me that they were right. I had met the widow of the so-called "English capitalist," Mrs. Mary Fels of Philadelphia and New York. It was Mrs. Fels who had consulted me about sending a Single Tax mission to Moscow.

Joseph Fels was an American from the City of Brotherly Love. To be sure, he was in no way connected with the Russian revolutionary movement; he was, merely, a friend of the great Russian novelist, Maxim Gorky. The Russian revolutionists were forever in need of money, and needing cash for the London Congress, turned to Gorky for help. The latter asked Mr. Fels, then residing in London, to advance the money. While the sum of seven thousand dollars may not loom large today, it was quite a fortune in those remote days. Without the loan, the Congress could not have been held. Even with the loan, the delegates stopped at cheap lodging houses; some were housed by friends or sympathizers in London.

**T**HE DELEGATES must have been very optimistic when they promised to repay Mr. Fels by the middle of 1908. When the year expired, the "English capitalist" asked Gorky for the money. Gorky wrote to Lenin in Switzerland, where the coming Russian leader was living on alms, browsing in the libraries, sharpening his wits for the coming revolution and

writing fiery pamphlets and articles denouncing all those who dared to disagree with him. In his reply to Gorky, Lenin was very apologetic. He and his colleagues, he assured Gorky, would have been happy to repay, but they did not have the money. "Please tell Mr. Fels to be patient a while longer," Lenin pleaded. The great novelist Gorky, who had charmed untold millions with his gifted pen, had no difficulty in bewitching his "capitalist" friend Fels. The note was extended for another year.

At the expiration of the second year, like a good "capitalist," Mr. Fels fished out the note and notified Maxim Gorky accordingly. Again Gorky wrote to Lenin. Once more Lenin argued: "What good would it do Mr. Fels to sue us? We have nothing. He could collect nothing from us. But please assure him that if he will hold on to the note signed by our delegates, he will be repaid some day in full. Once we become masters of Russia's destinies, we shall surely repay with gratitude. Let him be patient a while longer."

Mr. Fels died. His widow kept the note. In 1919, the full amount was repaid to her in gold by Mr. Krassin, then the commercial representative of the Soviet Government in Europe. No doubt the repayment of the money inspired Mrs. Fels in 1919 to plan her Single Tax mission.

When I emerged from the museum later, the five-cornered stars of the Kremlin towers were glit-

tering brightly in the sunshine. The queues in front of the museum had lengthened. As I observed the crowd, I knew they would be told the same story about the "English capitalist"; they would chuckle, as did the earlier audience, listening to the bespectacled guide ridiculing Mrs. Fels for having surrendered a note of great historic significance.

WE MUST forgive the late Joseph Fels for having financed the Bolshevik Congress in London in 1907. The ultra-violent party of Lenin and Stalin was only four years old. The outside world had hardly heard of its existence. Its true nature was not to become apparent until ten years later. But what excuse can present-day educators and intellectuals here or abroad offer for their failure to appreciate the true character of Soviet Red fascism after thirty-six years of tyrannical rule at home and imperialistic mischief abroad? Even a casual perusal of the Constitution of the Third International should open the minds of the naïve, gullible or moronic. Members of the Universal Communist Party, it tells us in unmistakable terms, are pledged to indulge in national treason in case of war with the Soviet Union, regardless of who is the aggressor. It assures us that Communists enter parliamentary governments in order to blow them up from within. The Soviet behavior in the United Nations since its birth should convince even the most ob-

stinate fellow travelers of the earnestness and fanaticism with which Communists carry out the letter and the spirit of the teachings of the Third International.

Before it is too late to avert an atomic-hydrogen war, all of us would do well to remember that the world can never know normalcy or peace as long as the Soviet Government exists. Not because of our antagonism. It is they — the rulers in the Kremlin and their stooges in the satellite nations — and not we, who have made the decision that one or the other of us must die. The pages of the collected and selected works of Lenin are replete with such proof, if people here and in other free countries would only read them. And if there still be people so ignorant or gullible who need further proof, let them turn to the Soviet teachers' handbook and the official teachers' magazine to read:

The pupils of the Soviet school must realize that the feeling of Soviet patriotism is saturated with irreconcilable *hatred* toward the enemies of socialist society. Hatred gives birth to class revolutionary vigilance and creates a feeling of irreconcilability toward the class enemy. . . . It is necessary to learn not only to hate the enemy but also to struggle with him, in time to unmask him, and, finally, *if he does not surrender*, to destroy him.

But just how many Americans in commanding government and civilian positions have mastered this

bitter lesson? When the Communist physiognomy of the Institute of Pacific Relations was expertly unmasked by a Congressional committee, many corporation executives and bankers rose to the defense of this indisputably pro-Soviet organization. Despite our bitter experience since recognizing the U.S.S.R. in 1933, influential voices are now urging that we do business with the Kremlin and its satellites.

Even Harold Stassen, Director of the Foreign Operations Administration, had to admit the other day that a growing number of policy-makers in the new Administration in Washington favor revived trade with the Iron Curtain countries. And what is their motive? The same breed of ignorance-inspired, cowardly officials, left over from the Truman-Acheson know-nothings, argue that if the people behind the Iron Curtain had more American merchandise, they would feel more friendly to the United States. They fail to realize that there is as much need for such action on our part as there is for a fifth wheel to the wagon. *The peoples there want freedom* and not our gadgets or consumer goods. Anything that helps their governments to continue their tyrannical rule is turning the people behind the Iron Curtain against us.

Many a time, Russians made me very uncomfortable in Moscow and other cities for coming to their country, for associating or trading with their government, and, most

of all, for failing to cry out against the tyranny. "You Americans," a Russian engineer remarked to me bitterly, "when you come here, fill your mouths with water. You see our misery and persist in doing business with those who have robbed us of our freedom and our very lives."

THE OMISSIONS and commissions of the modern version of the millionaire "angels" must never be forgiven by our people, certainly not unless and until they atone for their sins by becoming crusaders in the struggle with the Communist menace. Only by undoing their harm to this country and the cause of peace and freedom everywhere by active participation in a movement to overthrow the Soviet gangster government can they wash away the stain on their conscience which will haunt their posterity for generations to come.

The Frasier W. McCanns, the Dr. Dorothy W. Douglasses, the Raymond C. Ingersolls, the Frederick V. Fields, the Hellers, the Corliss Lamonts and the numerous others who in one way or another have aided and abetted our mortal enemy still have an opportunity to mend their ways just as the once faithful Communists, Whittaker Chambers, Louis Budenz and others, have turned to serve this nation. And just as the former Communists have earned the respect of our people, so will they, if they act vigorously in the present emergency.

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» I want to take this opportunity to express again my admiration for this very excellent magazine, and can hardly wait for it to arrive each month. The article by Russell Maguire in the February issue is so right!

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Keep up your fine work.

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