

BOLSHEVISM IN AMERICA

The Thing That Disrupted Russia and Has Been
Seized Upon by Disloyalists in America

By LEWIS ALLEN BROWNE

BOLSHEVISM in America is an excrescence of the political melting pot—the social refuse, or slag, that will not fuse—the impure or foreign substance in our population that would otherwise Americanize.

It came from over the seas with other of our National organic ills; it is making a supreme effort to fasten itself upon our body politic and is, when summed up, no more or less than a vicious enemy within, attacking our democracy by acts of violence and irrational propaganda.

The word “Bolsheviki” originated in Russia. It means, “They who want the most.” The followers really aimed to destroy the state and divide the spoils. As an American, long resident in Russia, expressed it, “The Bolsheviki are the ‘gun-men’ of Petrograd.”

Almost instantly, after the Russian Bolsheviki wrought chaos, the word was taken up over here, first by certain of the I. W. W., who believed that in it they had character behind which they could hide while seeking to achieve what seems to be an identical aim—the destruction of government and the division of the spoils.

So far as the most careful investigation can reveal there are no organizations, societies or groups included in what is known as the “American Bolsheviki” that stand for patriotism, as we define the word. American Bolshevism is the “ism” found in the tenets of the I. W. W., People’s Council, Anti-Conscription League, League of Labor and Political Prisoners, National Non-Partisan League, anarchists, radical Socialists, German-hired pacifists and others of the league of irrational objectors.

Among the members of the various organizations that

come under the general classification of American Bolsheviki are they who hiss the President's name, insult the Stars and Stripes, preach and practise sabotage, state publicly that any man who sends his son to fight in the American Army does it for a price, urge that our troops be withdrawn from France, urge evasion of the draft, plot to tie up our war labor, preach and attempt the destruction of ships, industrial plants, railroads, retard the agricultural interests, create strikes to secure "the most"—anything and everything to retard our progress in the war.

Germany bases her hopes, as clearly and boastfully outlined in her newspapers, on her "pincers,"—two arms, one of which consists of her army, and the other her propagandists in this country working as pacifists, I. W. W.'s, Socialists, spies, and the Bolsheviki.

BOLSHEVISM INTRODUCED IN NEW YORK

IN November last the I. W. W. cropped up in New York City under the guise of the "American Bolsheviki." A meeting was held in the Star Casino, at 107th Street, at which were present about five hundred I. W. W. members, various anarchist groups, representatives of a number of pro-German organizations, pacifists and all sorts of radical groups, scarcely a member of which could, under our present conditions, be described as a patriot.

"We are the American Bolsheviki," was frequently shouted. At this meeting it was explained that many of their "brothers," that is, fellow socialists, anarchists, pacifists, I. W. W. members and others, had been arrested. It was not explained that the charges against their arrested brothers and sisters included arson, destruction of crops, poisoning cattle, blowing up factories, possessing maps of military value to the enemy, and fomenting strikes. Nothing about this was said. These people declared that they had come to organize a "League of Labor and Political Prisoners," the purpose of which would be to provide bail and supply legal defense to their kind *arrested for the violation of American laws!*

In charge of this meeting of American Bolsheviki, as so

many present were pleased to call themselves, was Frank Tannenbaum, an I. W. W. agitator who served a year in the penitentiary for leading raids on churches. On the stage with him were Elizabeth Stuyvesant, Elizabeth Freeman, Maud Malone and others, while circulating through the crowd were men and women selling tickets for a dance to be held two nights later for a "Bolshevist celebration." Others circulated petitions begging aid for the Bolshevist agitators in Russia. Still others sold documents containing articles written by Scott Nearing and L. P. Lochner, two leaders in the so-called "People's Council of America," which was agitating for just such a peace as Germany was eager to consider.

A yellow handbill handed about contained information concerning this American Bolsheviki group under the name of the League of Labor and Political Prisoners. In its list of members of the Advisory Committee was the name of Arturo Giovanitti, then under indictment in Chicago as one of the I. W. W. conspirators plotting to interfere with our prosecution of war against Germany; also the name of Leonard Abbott, an official of the Anti-Conscription League and prominent in the anarchist group that centered about Emma Goldman.

There was considerable information on the handbill about the need of helping the Bolsheviki in Russia. The opening sentence was:

"The workers and radicals of Russia, through the Workman's and Soldiers' Council, have simultaneously called on their fellow-workmen throughout the world to help them stop the war *and proceed with the revolution.*"

This, very briefly, describes the nature of the first public Bolshevist meeting in New York, and probably the first in the country, after Trotzky and Lenine overthrew Kerensky and opened negotiations for a separate peace with Germany—at Germany's own terms!

And when they had their "Bolsheviki Celebration" two days later it was a weird affair, typical of the lack of order,

decorum or anything else that goes to make up a safe and sane and worthy assembly, according to a *New York Times* account. "City's Bolsheviki Disown All Order. Mad Carousal Marks Celebration" was the headline announcement.

The article was printed December 3, 1917, and in effect stated that anarchists, socialists, I. W. W.'s, extreme radicals and others hailing themselves as the Bolsheviki of the City of New York:

"——— jeered and hissed at the name of President Wilson; they denounced Governments, institutions and society. They hailed the approach of social revolution and the destruction of the existing order of things."

It was a demonstration of the American Bolsheviki in action. *The Times* reported that it wound up in a frenzy of dancing and music, with a long-haired Bolshevik "reeling through the ranks of whirling comrades with a bottle of whiskey in his hand. Holding the bottle aloft as he danced, he invited all to drink, and if none would drink with him he drank by himself, caressing the bottle as he did so, and wafting kisses."

Many orators were present and favored "death" to this and "death" to that. They wanted everything "Free, free, free!" Leonard Abbott of the anarchist group presided and was proud to acknowledge his kinship to the Bolsheviki of Russia. Hippolite Havel waved a copy of "The Revolt" and concentrated his efforts on President Wilson. When he spoke the President's name there were hisses. Said Havel:

"He (Wilson) pushed us right into the war. Why did he? Because we must fight for democracy. And so today he is fighting mit the King of Siam for democracy."

Mr. Havel said that he was born in America but acquired his pronunciation while being educated in Austria.

Thus was American Bolshevism ushered into New York!

IDENTICAL WITH THE I. W. W.'S IN THE WEST

THE movement is stronger in the West than in the East. The West is having more trouble with it. But Bolshevism in America, being so closely allied to the I. W. W. that if you prick one the other bleeds, and the I. W. W. being stronger and more destructive and more troublesome in the West, this is only natural.

American Bolshevism should not be mentioned in the same breath with our Organized Labor. Our recognized organized labor leaders will have nothing to do with it. From Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, down, they denounce it. Today the best element of Organized Labor is standing firmly on a patriotic platform, working to win the war.

Already in England and France have been heard rumors of a war against the United States Government from the rear—word has gone forth that an American Bolsheviki will defeat this country. All Germans here and pro-Germans (the patriotic of German birth are not included in this) are doing their utmost to help American Bolshevism. They seem to realize our danger from Bolshevism better in Europe than we do here at home.

The I. W. W., the Socialists, the anarchists, the pacifists and similar other unpatriotic societies are not fighting the war aims entirely upon their own and separate initiative. It is Potsdam that is making this drive, it is Prussian autocracy that is fostering American Bolshevism, as it fostered it in Russia, and as it inspires everything and anything that will deter us and help her, whether it be to make one simple-minded boy desert from the training camp or blow up a munition plant, whether it be a prayer-meeting preachment of pacifism in a church decorated with our national colors or an American Bolsheviki celebration where the name of the President is hissed.

THE HAND OF THE PRUSSIAN MILITARIST

“SINCE the 22nd of February,” says William English Walling in the Sunday (N. Y.) *Times*, “the danger has ceased to be general and has become definite and con-

crete. These revolutionists are becoming more aggressive and truculent, and the German intrigue which supports them is many times more intensive and many-sided than any German intrigue in the past."

Senator Poindexter of the state of Washington has already sounded a warning note in the United States Senate against American Bolshevism.

"The Bolsheviki of Russia and the I. W. W. are brothers of the militarism of Prussia," he declared. He strongly advocates trying the leaders for treason.

"Their very doctrine," he said, "leads to lawlessness, and when they are caught in the vengeance of the mob they cry out against it. The consequences of this lawlessness, if not suppressed, will be general disorder, cold, hunger and vice. In a word, it will mean a return to primeval bestiality. The greatest responsibility that rests on the government today as a vital and component part of the war we are waging against a doctrine of lawlessness and blood abroad is to put down with the strong hand of lawful authority the doctrine of unbridled force and lawlessness at home."

Words will not prevail against American Bolshevism. They who are of it will not listen to reason, for there is no reason in their aims. Appeals to patriotism will not affect them because there is no patriotism in their veins.

What Lenine was to Russia's downfall the American Bolsheviki would be to the United States. Lenine, it would seem, has been more German at heart than anything else. He was in Austria at the outbreak of the war. But he was not held. They knew his leanings, even then, to Bolshevism, especially did they know this in Germany, and they knew that Bolshevism and its spread through Russia would weaken its fighting force. So, through the direct intervention, it is said, of Count Berchtold, Lenine was released to go back to Russia and spread his Bolshevism, just as a rat with a flaming torch tied to him is sent scampering through a field of ripe grain to destroy it.

"We Russians are for the defeat of Russia," declared Lenine upon his release. Then he released, when in power,

that Austrian officer socialist, Otto Bauer, who was a war prisoner in Siberia, and brought him to Petrograd, feted him and sent him back to Austria. Naturally Germany knew just what moves to make when the Russian Bolsheviki threw down their guns at the front, their hoes on the farms, their tools at the bench, and proceeded to dance with a delirium of mistaken freedom that ended with the coldest gray dawn that ever fell over any nation.

PATTERNED AFTER THE RUSSIAN BOLSHEVISM

AMERICAN Bolshevism is patterned exactly after that sort. The Bolsheviki in Russia demand that the people should immediately take possession of banks, industries and other great aggregations of capital; that they divide the capital and work no more. Of course, the crops would grow and harvest themselves, the mines would pour forth refined metals, the industries would turn out finished products—all without human effort, while Lenine and his Bolsheviki sat back in ease and idleness doing nothing except spend the money they had looted and divided.

Not long ago I heard a socialist who carried an I. W. W. membership card, addressing a group, say: "We must strike for a six-hour laboring day, then a four-hour day, then a two-hour day, with increased wages all the time, and then we will be strong enough to take everything and work no more."

That's Bolshevism, whether it is located in Petrograd or New York, Moscow or Chicago.

One sign of our awakening to this danger came from Chicago, where R. Goodwin Rhett, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, warned the business men against this danger, saying:

"American Bolshevism is a menace to us equal to German militarism. The American Bolsheviki would turn us over to mob tyranny more cruel and destructive than ever before known."

The United States has not recognized the Russian Bolsheviki. There are many reasons why this cannot be done. Full recognition is impossible, because they have made fel-

lowship impossible for any country of law, liberty and civil order. Lenin did not found anything, he merely destroyed. Trotzky has been much under suspicion. It is very generally believed, in Russia and elsewhere, that he is under German pay. Proofs have not been produced. But here is an analogy: There is a general belief that will not down that the I. W. W. or some of its leaders or branches receive funds from Germany. Absolute proofs have not been produced. But they have funds, they never seem to be out of funds, and especially in the West has much of the sabotage attributed to them been of that same order that German agents have performed here and are still attempting to perform.

ITS IDENTITY WITH THE I. W. W.

THE majority of those in America who come within the classification of American Bolsheviki are I. W. W. members. At gatherings openly announced to be of the American Bolsheviki the I. W. W. members are in the majority. And what the I. W. W. represents is representative of the works and aims of American Bolshevism. The I. W. W. publications contain pictures of a black cat with his back up. He is called their "Sabcat" or sabotage. One especially popular slogan reads:

BEWARE!

Good Pay or Bum Work.

I. W. W.

One Big Union.

We Never Forget.

S A B O T A G E !

From Maine to Canada, and from the Michigan lumber camps to the orchards and fields of California, the work of our Bolsheviki has been going on. Nothing has been too mean or too small to do, nothing too great to undertake.

Whether it has been to drive a spike in a log that the circular saw at the mill would be wrecked, or to poison a herd of cattle, or burn a field of grain—it has been part of their methods to hamper the progress of the war.

To shatter a sawmill saw delayed by so many hours the fabrication of lumber necessary to build ships.

To poison cattle and lessen the already too small supply and so give comfort and aid to Germany.

By burning fields of grain, or orchards, just so much flour and so much fruit is destroyed.

Perhaps German money is not financing their atrocities, but the miscreants couldn't work any better or more successfully or more faithfully for Germany if they were in Prussian pay.

American Bolshevism, under whatever guise you find it, has become so militant in the West that farmers must go armed, that sheriffs double and treble their posses, and that Washington has sent reinforcements to help—military, secret service and legal.

American Bolshevism is made of Germans, Austrians, Mexicans, East Indians and paid hirelings—Americans not worthy the name—Russians, fanatics and anarchists from everywhere, people from little provinces, Lithuanians, Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Letts—all types, from thugs and the illiterate, to the erratic and erotic intellectuals.

German agents have reached, are still in touch with and continue to reach out to the American Bolsheviki. These agents of the Kaiser in America are intelligent and keen. They have funds and know what to do with them.

BOLSHEVIKI SABOTAGE

LAST August forty-eight organizations under the leadership of the I. W. W., all to be classed as American Bolsheviki, attempted a nation-wide revolution, to start on Oklahoma oil fields. The farmers were too quick on the trigger and scores were rounded up and held for trial. One of the things gathered in by Government prosecutors was a book on Sabotage by Walker C. Smith, distributed from I. W. W. publication headquarters in 1001 West Madison Street, Chicago. Here are extracts:

“A bar of soap in the boiler of a railroad engine would keep the soldiers at home or else force them to march to the strike.”

This has reference to I. W. W. men who could get access to the locomotive that was to haul troops of state militia to the scene of a strike:

"If this is not possible there are water tanks where the tender must be filled with soap powder."

To the women active in this movement, especially women out at domestic service, the author felt it worth while to devote space to their instruction. Here are some lessons in sabotage laid down for them:

"Choke the family on soup into which red pepper has been spilled."

"Toughen the expensive steaks."

"Let the finest china fall and break."

"Serve salty sherbet at the bridge party."

"Spill a pot of hot tea on the model frock of the honor guest."

"Put too much starch in father's favorite soft shirt."

Other instructions in this book were given for various followers of American Bolshevism:

"A farmhand can make a mistake with his scythe or hoe, or sow bad seeds in the fields."

"A salesman can put a stain on garments and cause them to be sold as damaged."

"A tailor can spoil a suit of clothes or a piece of cloth."

"Cabinetmakers can deteriorate a piece of furniture without the boss noticing it at first sight."

There was an epigram in "Solidarity," one of the I. W. W. publications, which read:

"When the cat sits on the pick handle brass buttons go to pot."

Translated, this means that the sabotage cat should hold back from work in the mines, thus reducing the output of necessary metals.

Jim Rowan, head of the lumberjack's branch of the I. W. W., has been beaten and driven out of many a lumber camp, but his followers among the American Bolsheviks listen carefully to his words. The *New York Sunday Tribune*

quotes the following as part of a letter Rowan sent from Seattle to Haywood, head of the I. W. W., last August:

"Fellow Worker: The old bugaboo of 'patriotism' is being preached on all sides.

"We have the good will of the German people here and we feel that they are in sympathy with our cause.

"We do not call them Germans, however, but refer to them the same as others, the FELLOW WORKERS.

"We are going to carry out our points if we have to stop every industry on the Pacific coast. We did not declare war and we have not consented to the working-man giving up his liberty and being drafted.

American Bolshevism runs pretty true to the form of the Russian brand in a great many ways, not omitting the handiwork of German agencies. Ernest Bohm, Secretary of the Central Federation Union, in New York, said:

"The Bolsheviki of America is a blow at the loyalty program of the American labor movement, and it must be stopped. If these Bolsheviki have their way they would have this country in the same condition as Russia, they would put the American Federation of Labor out of business. We must draw the line to find out who are loyal Americans and who are not, and then we can fight them better."

That there are some weak members of organized labor who are influenced by the Bolsheviki—who may be pro-German, or what is more likely, in sympathy with our enemies because of German blood—cannot be denied. Fred I. Kent, Director of the Division of Foreign Exchange, Federal Reserve Board, Washington, declared at a meeting of the Ohio Society of New York that "German influence and German money is trying to mislead our labor. The few who succumb to this influence are not at all representative of Organized Labor, but they are, unfortunately, fighting our country with all the effectiveness of a German army. To defeat our enemy at a minimum sacrifice we must first control the would-be little Kaisers who are today committing sabotage within our borders."

Samuel Gompers has branded American Bolshevism as

poisonous German propaganda, and of Socialism he said: "There is no such thing as an American Socialist party. The American Socialist organization is merely a branch of the one in Germany—it is part of German propaganda. I have been changed from the most active pacifist in America to a good fighter, and as President of the American Federation of Labor I can state that labor will not meet in a peace movement until the war is over and labor parties of all countries can be represented."

BOLSHEVISM IN THE NORTHWEST

THE National Non-Partisan League, which has a membership of more than 100,000 in the Northwest, with the notorious A. C. Townley at its head, smacks strongly of Bolshevism. J. D. Bacon of Grand Forks, N. D., has written a most interesting and revealing booklet on "The Farmer and Townleyism." He says Townley is a radical socialist, so radical that, quoting from the organ of the Socialist party in North Dakota, the *Iconoclast*, of May, 1916; "... there is no adjective in the English language strong enough to apply to myself and my comrades for letting men of the Townley stripe denude us of our senses to the extent of allowing our organization to be used as a stepping stone to deceive and defraud our fellow men."

It costs \$16 a year to belong to the National Non-Partisan League and at the end of 1917 the farmers were paying \$1,600,000 yearly! Mr. Bacon, in his book, declares that the aims of this National Non-Partisan League, as laid down by what he dubs "Townleyism," is a "Vision of an American Bolsheviki!" He calls attention to an address made in Chicago by William C. Sheppard, a capable writer of the United Press Association, who has been at the front since the outbreak of the war, in which Mr. Sheppard said:

"Bolshevism is trying to poison and weaken the military strength of the United States just as it did in Russia. To an American conversant with the situation in Russia, and familiar with the methods and tactics of the Bolsheviki and their German conspirators, the situation developing in America, especially in the Mid-

dle West, under the very noses of the most patriotic elements among our citizens, is a most appalling one."

If Townley is a patriotic American, then he will have to explain his address at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, on Registration Day, June 15, 1917, as quoted by Mr. Bacon in his exposé of "Townleyism." To an audience that filled the Opera House to suffocation, according to Mr. Bacon, Townley said:

"The nation demands that you give yourselves and your sons and your brothers and your husbands and your sweethearts to be taken across the seas and spill their life's blood on the fields of Europe and then comes to you and asks you to subscribe for the Liberty Bonds to pay for the expenses of the war. This is the injustice of the war and the manner in which the officials of the administration are carrying it into effect."

And from Mr. Bacon's book, "The Farmer and Townleyism," is this:

"At Grand Forks he (Townley) made the assertion that a prominent citizen of that city was the representative of 'Big Business' and of war profiteers and declared his loyalty to be questionable. A prominent attorney in the audience arose and asked Townley if he did not know the man referred to had given his son to the service of the country. Townley, with a sneer, replied, '*Yes, I know many men will sell their sons for a price.*'"

The author says this caused a stir in the audience and that the attorney walked down the aisle shaking his fist at Townley and demanding that he take it back. Townley retracted in so far as it applied to the man in question, but his statement still stands as applying to other men who have sons in the army.

Study Russian Bolshevism—not only what it has done, or undone, but its members' demands. It is so close to the demands of the socialists over here, the anarchists, I. W. W.'s, pacifists, and those other similar societies and organizations that no further description of American Bolshevism is needed.

BOLSHEVISM IN MILWAUKEE

AT the hearing on the Chamberlain bill before the Military Committee of the Senate at Washington, W. P. Bloodgood of Milwaukee, Acting Chairman of the Council of Defence of Milwaukee County, testified that Daniel Hoan, Socialist Mayor of Milwaukee, told him that if he persisted in his work against Victor Berger his own life (Bloodgood's) and the lives of the members of his family would not be safe in Milwaukee.

In a letter to Senator Chamberlain, Chairman of the Military Committee of the Senate, Mr. Bloodgood enclosed a printed statement of the proceedings before the executive committee of the County Council of Defence, Milwaukee County, March 14, 1918, containing a statement of the charges filed against Mayor Hoan because he took part in drafting the Socialist platform in the Milwaukee Municipal election, which, in so far as it relates to the war, declares:

"The American people did not want war and do not want this war. They were plunged into this abyss by the treachery of the ruling class of this country—its demagogic agitators, its bought press, its sensational photoplays, its lying advertisements, and other purchasable instruments of public expression. . . . Our Government should immediately negotiate . . . for peace."

Many, like J. G. Phelps Stokes, once openly for Socialism, refused to stand for it when we entered the war. Among these is John Spargo. He wrote as follows to one of the members of the People's Council Organization Committee:

"Your advocacy of Democratic causes is camouflage which hides your real purpose. You are doing in America what Lenine and Trotzky and their followers have done in Russia, with such disastrous results—betraying the cause of democracy while chanting its watchwords."

About this time the Russian Bolsheviks sent word of support and sympathy for the I. W. W. leaders under indict-

ment in Chicago and at the same time demanded *the immediate withdrawal of our American forces in France!*

Out in Wisconsin, which is a mighty loyal state despite its misfortune of Bob La Follettism, Mr. Otto H. Kahn addressed a gathering at the University of Wisconsin. This is what he had to say about American Bolshevism:

“One element only is there in our population which does deliberately challenge our national unity. *I mean the militant Bolsheviks in our midst!*”

“If it were not for the disablement of Russia the battle against autocracy would have been won by now. As so often before, Liberty has been wounded in the house of its friends. Liberty is not fool-proof.

“Liberty in the wild and freakish hands of fanatics has once more, as frequently in the past, proved the effective helpmate of autocracy and the twin brother of tyranny.”

BOLSHEVISM A STATE OF MIND

A MERICAN Bolshevism has no legally formed organization, it has no charter, headquarters, officers, by-laws or constitution. Bolshevism is a state of mind—a most unhealthy state of mind.

There is an American Bolshevism. It is on every hand, it speaks largely with a German accent, its adherents are defectives, defective as loyalists, defective in politics, defective in humanity, defective in a sense of justice.

The man who shouts “Down with government! Down with everything!” is a Bolshevik.

The man who burns crops, who destroys, is a Bolshevik.

The man who vilifies the name of our President; who by word or act tries to hamper our prosecution of the war in any manner; who foments strikes; who speaks against the Liberty Loan; who shouts “Death” to this or that, is a Bolshevik; for all these things are but the spirit of Bolshevism that is today infecting democracy with the virus of a vicious propaganda that has come across the seas and seeks to organize revolution against law, order and patriotism.

"SPEEDER-UP" RYAN

OUR NEW AIRCRAFT BOSS

By JOHN BRUCE MITCHELL

JOHN D. RYAN, the new Director of Aircraft Production for the Army, walked into his rather bare office on the ninth floor of the Munsey building in Washington unaccompanied by any "handle" to his name. He is neither a doctor of philosophy, literature or science. He is a plain, every-day man who has done big things in a big and vigorous way.

"John D. Ryan, S.H.", it might be written, the initials meaning "Smiling Hustler." A smile is always a winner. Hustle is another winner, but a smiling hustler is a double winner, and Mr. Ryan was never known to scowl. He works, talks, thinks with a smile.

"Who's Who" does not mention what the "D" in his name means, but from past performances his full name might be written John "Do" Ryan, because he has been doing things ever since he was a boy and went to work in his Uncle Ed Ryan's store in Hancock, Mich.

As soon as the announcement was made of his appointment there was the customary rush of interviewers to his office, and some of them managed to edge in between a couple of callers. When they gained access they found him "workative" rather than "talkative." When this difficulty is met the veteran interviewer falls back upon that old first aid, the Leading Question.

"With all the recent criticism of our aircraft progress," said one of the interviewers, "the pending investigations and the magnitude of the undertaking, I presume that it will be safe to say that a thorough study of what has been left undone and what must be done will be your first plan."