

# Foster Sees Labor Spurred Forward

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It is idle to talk of Russia being conquered from within by capitalism. When we recollect also that the workers have complete control of the State, the army, the courts, the press, the schools, etc., such talk becomes absurd.

Two great facts stand forth from the present situation in Russia; first, the "economic retreat" is over, with the result that the toiling masses are gradually but surely lifting themselves out of the devastating industrial crisis; and second, the workers are firmly in control of the victorious new society.

The breaking of the Russian industrial crisis, expressed in its fundamental aspect of profound betterment in the workers' standard of living, is of major importance, not only to Europe but to all the world. It must inevitably cause such a tremendous outburst of revolutionary spirit and effort as to shatter, if not entirely destroy, international cap-

italism. Since the end of the war things have gone steadily from bad to worse in all capitalist European countries. But the workers, horrible tho their conditions were, hesitated to rise and end the industrial system that was ruining them, because they feared an even worse fate if their revolution won.

Proletarian Russia, starving and apparently a gigantic failure, stood as a warning menace to any working class that dared to overthrow capitalism. The yellow leaders successfully preached the doctrine that the workers' society could come only by a gradual revolution from capitalism. It was fundamentally an anti-revolutionary situation.

But the dissolving of the Russian industrial crisis is rapidly giving the situation a positive and dynamic revolutionary character. Soon Russia, instead of being a horrible example and a deterrent to revolution, will be an inspiration to the workers and a powerful spur to have done with their economic masters.

All over capitalist Europe, as the industrial system disintegrates, the living standards of the workers are falling; while in Russia, with the new system evolving, the conditions of the workers are constantly bettering.

In Germany the real wages of the workers amount to only 25 per cent of their pre-war value, and still they fall; whereas, in Russia wages are already at 50 per cent of pre-war levels and are steadily increasing. This creates a decidedly revolutionary condition. When its import sinks into the minds of the workers, and this will not take long, their faith in the revolution will mount sky high and they will develop a determined offensive against capitalism.

Up till now the one factor wanting, to produce a really revolutionary situation in Europe, has been a demonstration by Russia that the revolution could be made a success. That demonstration is now just about at hand. The solving of the Russian industrial crisis sounds the death-knell of capitalism.