

The Growth of the Soviet Power in China

By CYRIL BRIGGS

IN China, there are already elements of both the new Soviet world and the old, dying capitalist world.

The Soviet world of social and national emancipation is rapidly growing at the expense of the dying world of capitalist exploitation and oppression. Already, the Soviet districts comprise together an area one-sixth of China and larger than France. In these districts where the revolutionary workers and peasants have overthrown the robber rule of the imperialists and their native landowner and banker allies, live over 90,000,000 people.

(that was one point on which the imperialists relished to have us fight the Bolsheviks).

To our surprise, when we got to a pig stable we found five former policemen and one army officer housed there by a kulak and his excellency, the pig himself. This gave me another shock and made me to think. We were not to clear the Ukraine of some troops but we were there to drive out the revolutionary workers and to plunder the country.

The kulak was glad to see us and gave us the pig free of charge. The policemen wanted us to give them our uniforms, they were afraid of staying in their outfit.

Smashed Wireless Outfit.

I then noticed that the motorman who was assigned to duty with me as the operator was slow in doing things. I took him into confidence and we talked things over. The result was that the transmitter went out of commission and we had to leave for Zmerinka in order that the 12th Austrian army had some communication with the other armies. In Zmerinka we proceeded in the same manner. This was the town of General Brusilow's headquarters. The transmitter was a permanent outfit and that was also not so hard to wreck. The condensers were soon put out of commission and the army had no way of communication because spare parts were not at hand.

In Odessa.

From here we proceeded to Odessa. It was terribly cold by this time and we were moving slowly on open cars. With our outfit was also moved bombing planes. We did not like that either, that bombing stuff, so we made a joke out of it by emptying the barrels containing benzine for this flying outfit. And as soon as we arrived at Odessa we celebrated that big explosion that took place outside of that city. Whole piles of ammunition were learning how to fly.

Then the city of Cherson was to be destroyed, according to the commandant of the Austrian general of the 59th Division, if the inhabitants did not deliver their hidden weapons within 48 hours time. He was going to bomb that city, but his fliers discovered that the gasoline tanks

In subsequent articles, we will give detailed facts of the tremendous improvements in the living conditions of the masses in the Soviet districts as compared to the miserable conditions forced upon the masses in that part of China still under Kuomintang militarist control. For the present, it is sufficient to quote the admissions of the enemy:

"Communism, because it is giving the Chinese masses better living conditions than any of their (!) governments, is spreading like wild-fire in China.

"In a little while, Communism was rooted. People could buy food for one-third what it cost them when bought from their war lord governors. The masses were allowed to govern themselves."

The above quotation is from an interview in the Hartford Daily Courant of February 21, 1932, with "Father" Ranagan, a missionary agent in China of United States imperialism.

Growth of Chinese Soviet Power

"The Soviet philosophy has permeated all of Central Asia," shriek the Japanese imperialists. And this dying wail of imperialism is further borne out by the conclusions of the "emergency conference" held in Shanghai on March 27 by diplomatic agents of the imperialist powers with their Kuomintang running dogs. The conference was called for "the purpose of surveying China's internal conditions." A Shanghai dispatch to the New York Times sadly admits that "the results of the survey arouse the gravest misgivings" among the imperialist brigands and their Kuomintang tools.

The conference was forced to admit the failure of the murderous attempts of the imperialists and their Kuomintang butchers to drown the revolutionary movement in blood. In spite of the joint attacks by imperialist gunboats and Kuomintang troops on the Chinese Soviet districts, the Chinese Soviets are admittedly growing in power and influence:

"Communists in the Yangtze Valley Basin admittedly are gaining strength despite regional military reverses."

The Chinese Workers Correspondence of February 19, 1932, reports the enlargement and consolidation of the Soviet District of the Hupeh Honan-Anhwei borders, following the defeat last November of the reactionary plots of the Third Party, the Reorganizationists and the Anti-Bolshevik clique. Several groups of the Chinese Red Army in this district are now operating near the important industrial and strategic city of Hankow. On December 21 last, they captured the town of Huang-an, in North Hupeh, disarming the whole Kuomintang 69th Division. They were reported to have captured on Jan. 5, the town of Huangpei, 20 miles from Hankow. On Jan. 16, a part of the Kuomintang 30th

Division which was sent to fight the Red Army mutinied. The Shanghai Eastern Times admitted on Feb. 14 that on that date the Red Army had an advance guard at Gushaohsu, only 7 miles from Hankow. The South segment of the Peiping-Hankow Railway has also become the partisan zone for the Red Army, with peasant partisan troops aiding the Red Army.

The 2d Army Corps of the Red Army under the command of Gen. Ho Lung, originally operating on the western borders of Hupeh Province, has moved eastward to join the 4th Army Corps from the Hupeh-Honan-Anhwei Soviet district. This Red Army group recently crushed the joint forces of the militia of Tienmen, Yingchen and Hanchuen (the forces of the local landlords and gentry). It then proceeded to the suburbs of Yingchen. The Kuomintang authorities in Hupeh sent the Kuomintang 4th Division, with bombing planes, against the advancing worker-peasant army, but a few days later the Shanghai Sinwenpao was forced to report that the Kuomintang troops were badly defeated, with one of the brigade commanders killed and over 1,000 rifles lost. The Shanghai Eastern Times also reported on Feb. 14 that Huanglinggi on the north bank of the Yangtze River, 15 miles west of the Wuhan cities, was captured by Gen. Ho Lung's Red Army group. Kinkow, on the opposite bank of the Yangtze River, was reported "endangered." Imperialist press dispatches have since admitted that the Kuomintang hold on the three cities of Wu-han is now menaced from all directions by the Red Army.

On January 20, a United Press dispatch was forced to admit the existence of a powerful Central Chinese Soviet Government and its threat to the imperialist looters and their Kuomintang tools:

"It seems that the Chinese Soviet Government is planning to capture Wu-han in 1932 and to make it her capital. Independent observers are inclined to agree, that such a development is possible. In fact, some go as far as to say that the Communist armies could capture Hankow at any time now without serious opposition. Whether they could hold the city indefinitely is another matter."

As the Chinese Workers Correspondence points out, the dispatch "means to say that the Kuomintang government is already not powerful enough to resist the capture of Wu-han by the Red troops, but that the imperialists would themselves attempt to wrest the city from the Red Army and revolutionary workers."

The imperialists, and notably the Japanese, have recently strengthened their fleets of gunboats and destroyers on the Yangtze River, and have poured fresh troops into the Wu-han cities.

(To be continued)