

# Senator Brookhart Explodes Malicious Lies About Russia

By JAY LOVESTONE

U. S. Senator Smith W. Brookhart has returned from Soviet Russia. The Iowa Senator is now an ardent advocate of immediate, unreserved recognition of Soviet Russia and is out to explode all the lies being spread about the Workers' and Peasants' Republic by Gompers, Hughes, Easely, Walling and their ilk.

Having reached Berlin on his tour of investigation of the co-operative movement in Europe the Senator hit upon the idea of going to Soviet Russia. Here a correspondent of the Chicago Tribune painted such a horrible picture of Soviet Russia to Brookhart that he became very interested and arranged with the "Red" Ambassador in Berlin for an immediate entry.

## Wants to See the Farmers

Brookhart was especially interested in seeing what the Russian farmer is doing. Entering Russia by way of Poland he found that the Soviet frontier outposts did not at all look

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as bloody as pictured in our press. At the border he was met by the head of the American Relief Administration, a representative of the Jewish Relief and "Commissar somebody or other representing the Soviet Government."

"Being a farmer myself, I did not need an interpreter to tell me what the farmers of Russia were doing. I saw 2,000 miles of farm land, planted as well as in England, France and Germany, and more than in the United States. I reminded myself of the story of the Berlin correspondent who told me that the peasants would not plant. What is more, I saw these 2,000 miles of planted land from a stage (the window of a moving train) which gives the lie to all the tales of Soviet staging for effect."

Here the Senator took occasion to poke it hard into old Sam Gompers' ribs. Talking of his interpreters who were given him by the A. R. A., Brookhart said: "One of them was a woman whose husband was a Czarist general who fell in battle against the Bolsheviks. The second's husband was still in a Red prison. The third was a baker who, in the Czar's time, employed 3,500 people. Now his factory is in the hands of the State. It was with such interpreters that I undertook to see things as they were in Russia."

## Conditions Greatly Improved

"I saw Minsk, Moscow, Kieff. I saw a great number of peasants' houses under construction. All of them were superior to the old homes. The new buildings showed more advancement than was made in a thousand years under czarism. At first the peasants had welcomed the counter-revolutionary generals with bread and salt. But they had the landlords along with them. 'These landlords turned us out of our homes. The Soviets gave us our homes and educated us. Yudenich, Denikin, and Kolchak murdered us, took away our grain and seed and were responsible for the famine.' This is what the Russian farmers told me."

Senator Brookhart went on to say that the peasants told him that they could not understand how such a good country like the United States could get along without Soviets. They were especially bitter against the counter-revolutionists and punctured every lie he had heard about the Bolsheviks attacking religion.

## Describes Agricultural College

The Senator especially looked into agricultural conditions. "I visited the agricultural college near Petrograd in charge of Prof. Williams, an American, who had been there for 40 years. When the revolution came, most of the teachers in the school stood by the Soviet Government. There were 5,000 students here, although the school is equipped for only 2,500. In the library there were to be found

some of the latest scientific agricultural bulletins published in Iowa, Massachusetts and New York. The regular course is three years, but if a student fails he is given a chance to complete his course in five years. There are eleven such colleges with from two to three thousand students in each.

"Now let me contrast this picture for you with what I saw in some other countries. In Constantinople there is an agricultural college with 45 pupils; in Bucharest with 40; in Warsaw it is yet to be organized."

## Sees Real Development

"Here we see the real development of the real Russian common people. I went to see the grounds where the great Agricultural Exposition is to be held in Moscow in August. There are set aside for it 155 acres of ground better than even in Iowa. It has 14 acres of foreign exhibitors. A wonderful contrast is to be seen in the exhibits of the old and new houses. The latter are remarkably clean. While the peasants wait around for the Exposition they are given short courses in agriculture by the Soviet teachers especially sent there for this purpose."

## Production Increased

The Iowa Senator nailed the canards and lies spread by Gompers and his lickspittles about Russian industry. Speaking of his typical observations Brookhart said: "I saw four State Textile Factories. In one plant I found production better than before the Revolution. The goods turned out in these factories are as good as I saw anywhere. These mills made 3,000,000 gold rubles in net profits after meeting depreciation, etc. The four factories are getting 98 per cent production on a 44-hour week basis as compared with the 60-hour working week before the Revolution."

## Powerful Co-operative Movement

Brookhart had occasion to see the co-operative movement at work in England, France, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Poland and Soviet Russia. He was enthusiastic about the great progress and high degree of development reached by the Soviet co-operatives. The Senator met the manager of the Central Co-operative and was tremendously impressed with the efficiency of the management and operation.

"Thirty per cent of all the business in Russia is now being conducted by the Co-operatives. Measured in gold rubles their produce is worth six times that before the war. They expect to organize all the State industries within a few years with the approval of the Soviet Government. The Soviet Government has extensively helped the Co-operatives which are now flourishing to such an extent that they have over seven million active members."

Brookhart also said that he had talked matters over with Chicherin, Trotzky, and the Commissar of Agriculture. They told him that Russia is planning a thorough reorganization of industry along Co-operative lines.

## For Russian Recognition

In closing the Senator contrasted the orderly and steady improvement of conditions in Soviet Russia with those in some other European countries. Brookhart is strong for American recognition of Soviet Russia in the interests of our own farming masses as well as in the interests of the Russian farmers.