

For the Workers' and Farmers' Government, New Slogan of the Communist International

NOTE.—In this space each week "The Worker" publishes a new installment of a detailed report on the proceedings of the recently enlarged executive committee meeting of the Communist International. This week's article traces the development and interprets the slogan of "The Farmers' and Workers' Government." Next week's installment will deal with "Fascism, the Immediate Menace."

The situation in Europe demands that the workers prepare for struggle in the near future. Capitalism is in decay. The workers are being robbed and crushed. Fascism is rampant,

the bourgeoisie is determined to place the whole burden of the war debt and the "reconstruction of Europe" on the backs of the workers. The workers must prepare not merely to enter into the struggle, but to secure victory and assume power. Can the workers accomplish this task alone?

When the United Front tactic was announced at the Third Congress, it was not fully understood. When the slogan of the Workers' Government was taken up at the Fourth Congress, there were many voices against it. But events have proven that the slogan was a correct one. Even in the German party there were comrades who did not comprehend its meaning and who protested against its application. But Saxony has shown the merit of the idea: the slogan of the Workers' Government has forced the

Social-Democratic leaders into an uncomfortable position. They have had to yield to the force of the Social-Democratic workers, who perceive that the workers must be united against the bourgeoisie and that the natural expression of this United Front is a Workers' Government—for which now the best elements in the Social Democratic Party are co-operating with the Communist Party.

But there are the masses of the peasants who today are suffering the same pangs of hunger and the same oppression. They must be brought into the ranks of the fighters. The Workers' Government must gain their support. The Communists must arouse them against the system under which they are suffering. They must point out to the peasants and farmers that today they are exploited by the

capitalists and are under their political dominion. It is in the interests of the peasants and farmers to unite with the workers of the towns in the struggle for power. This struggle is not merely an election scramble for offices. It is a struggle that will enroll all the forces of the workers and farmers—a struggle to down the consolidated forces of the bourgeoisie.

This was the slogan issued by the Bolsheviks in 1905, which brought large masses of peasants into the fight for power. And it was the slogan which finally resulted in the formation of the Soviet Government. Is there any danger in the use of this slogan? No more danger than in the use of the slogan of the Workers' Government. Neither the Workers' Government nor the Workers' and Farmers' Government is a substitute

for the Proletarian Dictatorship. The Workers' and Farmers' Government is a natural extension of the idea of a workers' government—as a natural absorption and utilization of all elements in opposition to the rule of capital—a United Front of all workers, of all categories on farm and in the city.

The fight for the establishment of a Workers' and Farmers' Government will meet with the united opposition of the whole bourgeoisie. The struggle for power will begin—a struggle that will and cannot be confined to the parliamentary field. Saxony is revealing what the bourgeoisie and the bourgeoisie government will resort to, in order to nullify the efforts of the workers. The fascists are growing in power and the German federal government is wait-

ing for the favorable moment to send the Reichswehr (federal troops) into Saxony to disrupt the movement and the workers' coalition government. The idea will have to be extended in all Germany. The Social-Democratic leaders must take a stand. The struggle for power will begin—the dictatorship of the proletariat as the goal.

Will the peasants and farmers as a backward element not form an obstruction in the process of the revolution to the proletarian dictatorship? No, the workers are organized with the Communists as their most valiant and far-sighted vanguard. The farmers are not organized in the same way: they will accept the more militant leadership of the Communists, recognizing that a government together with the workers, WHO

WILL NOT EXPLOIT THEM, is far better than a government under the capitalists, whose power is based on the exploitation of workers and farmers alike.

In making his report on the new policy, which, after considerable discussion was accepted almost without dissent, Zinoviev stated that the Workers Party of America was the creator of the new slogan. Without any suggestion from the Communist International, but deriving the tactic from the very conditions under which the Communists of America have to work and the political and economic conditions obtaining within the country, the Workers Party realized that a government of the workers without the farmers would be impossible.