

TY. MORRIS HILLQUIT'S SPEECH AT BLOODY SUNDAY DEMONSTRATION.

Workingmen, Comrades:—The history of every great emancipatory movement presents one momentous episode which marks the transition from popular agitation to overt revolution, the turning point of the movement. The outbreak of the great French revolution was thus signalled by the storming of the Bastille, our war for Independence was announced by the musket shots of Bunker Hill, and our Civil War was precipitated by the batteries of Fort Sumter.

The great revolution in Russia was ushered in by Bloody Sunday.

On the twenty-second day of January, 1905, the workmen of St. Petersburg assembled to petition their government. They were ill clad, ill fed, and suffering. They were exploited, oppressed, and abused beyond human endurance, and their petition to the Tsar was a cry of despair, a prayer for help. As yet the Russian people had faith in their government, as yet the Russian government had an opportunity to reconcile the people.

The government did not seize its opportunity. With the savagery characteristic of the autocratic regime of Russia, the Tsar answered the peaceful appeal of his subjects with brutal, cowardly murder. The unarmed and trusting petitioners, men, women and children, were indiscriminately and ruthlessly shot down and slaughtered by the imperial troops.

The Russian government challenged the Russian people to combat, and the people took up the challenge with the grim determination to make it one of life or death.

Since that moment the vast Russian Empire has been convulsed from one end to the other with the never ceasing struggles of active revolution.

One stupendous labor strike followed the other. Armed risings occurred in the principal cities of the Empire. Finland reconquered its autonomy. Poland, the Baltic Provinces, and Caucasus are in a state of open insurrection. The army and navy are mutinous. The most servile and hated tools of autoeracy were executed amid the applause of the people, and the Tsar himself is virtually a prisoner, while the revolution marches on relentlessly and irresistibly.

Just now the movement has received a temporary set-back, and the reactionaries of all countries triumphantly proclaim the crushing of the Russian revolution.

In vain is their triumph. The Russian revolution is not dead. It is alive and throbbing in the hearts of the millions of Russian peasants who have heretofore been the mere beasts of burden for the profligate and degenerate nobility of their country; it is alive and throbbing in the hearts of the millions of Jews, Poles, Germans, Letts, and other nationalities who for centuries have been outraged by brutal autoeracy; it is burning in the hearts of Russia's workmen who for generations have been exploited and enslaved by their masters and their governments, and in the hearts of the liberty-loving men and women of all classes in Russia, whose every thought and emotion has been relentlessly stifled and crushed by the savage despotism of Russian autoeracy. The heroes on the barricades of Moscow were captured and killed, but Russia is still full of heroes ready to give their life blood for the cause of freedom and brotherhood. More risings will follow, more battles will be fought, more defeats will be suffered, but in the end

the revolution will triumph in Russia as it has triumphed whenever it represented a just cause and was supported by the enthusiastic mass of the people. The Russian revolution will terminate only with the fall of the degrading autocratic regime and the establishment of a free, democratic republic.

Some of our wise philosophers express the fear that the Russian people may not be prepared for the enjoyment of political liberties. Let them rest easy. The Russian workman who stakes his freedom, ay, his very life, in the struggle for liberty, is better fitted to be a free citizen of a free commonwealth than are many American workmen who, for a mess of pottage, annually sell their civic birthright to the enemies of their class.

There are moments in the life of the individual, moments of terrible trial and experience, which make the person age in one hour, and suddenly turn tender boys and girls into ripe men and women. There are such moments in the lives of nations, and Russia has just lived thru such a historical moment. The memorable Bloody Sunday and the events of the year following it have done more to educate the people of Russia to civic consciousness than decades of normal development could have effected. The people of Russia and above all the Russian proletariat, so recently the submissive slaves of Asiatic despotism, are to-day the foremost champions of political liberty and economic equality, and by their noble example they inspire the liberty-loving citizens of the entire civilized world.

This is the great historical significance of Bloody Sunday; this is why we, in common the Socialists of all other countries of the world, commemorate the first anniversary of that memorable day.

We are not assembled here for the sole purpose of remembering the victims of the outrages of January 22, 1905.

With the Roman poet we exclaim: "Vivos voco. Mortuos plango. Fulgura frango." We mourn the thousands of the best and noblest sons of Russia brutally slaughtered by the hangman on the throne of the Romanoffs; we send greetings and cheer to the legions of living fighting soldiers in the great struggle for Russian freedom, and we call upon all tyrants, oppressors and exploiters of mankind to take a warning example from the events in Russia. The people endure exploitation and oppression long and patiently, but they do not endure them forever. When the measure of their suffering is full, their pent-up wrath bursts forth like a powerful torrent destroying all artificial dams and irresistibly carrying everything before it. The meek and submissive sufferer becomes a raging giant, an avenging demon, and we to the powers that have unchained his fury by their blind brutality!

The people of Russia have arrived at this fateful stage; they have reached the limit of their endurance, and Russian autoeracy is doomed. May the day of its final collapse be hastened; and may the next anniversary of Bloody Sunday find a free democratic republic in Russia firmly established on the ruins of the blood-stained tsardom!

Down with all forms of tyranny and slavery!

Long live the revolutionary working class of Russia!

Long live International Socialism!

BRITISH SOCIALISTS' ELECTORAL MANIFESTO.

The following is the electoral manifesto at their command. The very growth

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